

ACI Initiates Partnership with SAGE Scholars to Help Families with Tuition Costs

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ACI is now working with SAGE Scholars, an organization that helps bridge the gap between students who want an affordable, private college education with colleges that will guarantee tuition discounts. To participate, there's no cost to the student, family or college, says Mick Weltman, ACI executive director.

"We think SAGE Scholars has the potential to help many students who want to attend ACI's member colleges and universities," Weltman says. "We are working directly with our members to encourage as many as possible to join SAGE Scholars, because this program can definitely help in their academic recruiting efforts."

Founded in 1995, Philadelphia-based SAGE Scholars is a unique, private college savings program. Member families earn "Tuition Rewards Points" by investing in preferred providers of dental, health and vision insurance, life insurance, retirement plans, college funding plans, fraternal organization memberships and other financial incentives. One Tuition Rewards Point equals \$1 in guaranteed scholarship funds at a SAGE Scholars member college or university. Tuition Rewards can be used to pay for up to one year's tuition at a SAGE Scholars member institution, says A.J. Healy, director of corporate marketing, SAGE Scholars.

"SAGE Scholars, and our Tuition Rewards program, are integral in helping families prepare for higher education at all stages of a child's life," Healy says. A key incentive for member colleges and universities to join is that they earn access SAGE Scholars' database of students, he explained. More than 400 private colleges and universities across the country, including 16 ACI members, are in the SAGE Scholars College Consortium. Healy says. About 90 percent of member institutions have earned U.S. News and World Report's "America's Best" ranking, he added.