

March 2009

**Re: Upcoming Declines in Variable Annuity Income
from the CREF and TIAA Real Estate Accounts**

Dear Participant:

In late April, you will receive a Confirmation Statement from TIAA-CREF about annual changes to your variable annuity income that take effect on May 1, 2009. These changes reflect the performance of the underlying College Retirement Equities Fund (CREF) Stock, Global Equities, Growth, Equity Index, Social Choice, Bond Market, Inflation-Linked Bond and Money Market Accounts, as well as the TIAA Real Estate Account.

Seventy-six percent of TIAA-CREF's variable annuities and mutual funds rated by Morningstar exceeded their category median over the three-year period ending December 31, 2008, and 72% exceeded their category median over the five-year period ending December 31, 2008.* But with the overall decline in financial markets, TIAA-CREF anticipates that individuals whose TIAA-CREF variable annuity income adjusts annually will see reductions in income with their May 1, 2009 payment.

As you may have seen recently in an e-mail from TIAA-CREF President and CEO Roger W. Ferguson, Jr., TIAA-CREF remains financially strong and stable, thanks to sober risk management and a long-term investment philosophy.

We know how difficult changes in your income can be. The enclosed questions and answers may help you take steps to anticipate their effects on your financial plan. If you have questions, please call our Telephone Counseling Center at **800 842-2776** from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (ET) Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (ET) Saturday. Our retirement specialists can help make sure you have a plan that works for you. I also encourage you to visit **tiaa-cref.org**, where you will find the latest information about changes to annuity income and how TIAA-CREF can help you make informed decisions about your financial future.

Sincerely,



Romano Richetta
Senior Vice President, Participant Services

(Please refer to important disclaimers on back.)

* The Morningstar median represents the midpoint of an index of comparable funds/accounts grouped by factors such as investment objective and asset class.

All TIAA-CREF investment products are subject to market and other risk factors. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

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