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## **BLACKHAWK BANK LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR AREA STUDENTS**

**ROCKFORD, IL (November 3, 2008)**—Blackhawk Bank announced a new scholarship program that will reward four area students for good grades. For every A on their report card, students may enter a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship that may be used for furthering their education.

The scholarships will be awarded to one student from each market that Blackhawk Bank serves: Rockford, Beloit, Roscoe/Machesney Park and Belvidere/Capron. Students, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, may bring their report card and social security card to the nearest Blackhawk Bank location to enter. Students may enter after every grading period of the 2008-2009 school year. The drawing for the scholarships will be held in June 2009.

The scholarship funds will then be placed in a 529 Plan or Education IRA at Blackhawk Bank for future use toward expenses at an accredited technical school or college. If a winner is a high-school senior, the funds will be issued to the school they are planning to attend.

The scholarship program is just one of many Blackhawk Bank initiatives that support students and teachers in the area. The bank conducts financial responsibility education through many outreach programs, including seminars for schools and youth groups and a specific teen checking account that includes instruction in accountability. Bank associates regularly volunteer at schools and conduct a successful annual school supply drive. Blackhawk Bank also offers financial support to youth-oriented programs by awarding grants.

Blackhawk operates eight banking centers in Beloit, WI; Roscoe, Machesney Park, Rockford, Belvidere and Capron, IL. For more information about the bank, log onto [www.blackhawkbank.com](http://www.blackhawkbank.com).

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