



BLACKHAWK BANK OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR AREA STUDENTS

September 4, 2009

Blackhawk Bank has announced the launch of its 2nd Annual 'A Team' Scholarship program. The bank will award four \$1,000 scholarships to area students who earn good grades at the close of the 2009/2010 school year.

Each grading period, every Report Card A+/A/A- entitles a student to enter for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship to be used for post high school education. Also, in support of local educators, Blackhawk Bank will award \$500 to the school that has largest number of student entries in the scholarship drawing.

The scholarships will be awarded to one student from each market that Blackhawk Bank serves:

- Rockford
- Beloit
- Roscoe/Machesney Park
- Belvidere/Capron

Students, accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, may bring their report card and social security card to the nearest Blackhawk Bank office to enter. The winners of the scholarships will be randomly drawn in June 2010.

Winners' funds are invested in a Blackhawk Bank Education IRA or a 529 College Plan through the investment centers located inside three of Blackhawk's offices. The funds may be used for future expenses at an accredited technical school or college. If a winner is a high school senior, the funds will be issued to the school he or she plans to attend. Students and their parents or legal guardians do not have to be Blackhawk Bank customers to enter.

The scholarship program is one of many Blackhawk Bank initiatives that support local students and teachers. The bank conducts financial education classes for youth and adults and is an annual sponsor of the Golden Apple Foundation of Boone and Winnebago County. The bank conducts an annual school supply drive and its associates routinely volunteer their help at local schools.

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.

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