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Press Release

Scholarship Contest Winner Awarded to Local Student

Carlinville, IL April 29, 2019 . . . The Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) Foundation for Community Banking has selected its 2019 Annual Scholarship Program winners.

Now in its 33rd year, the program offers \$21,000 to 24 high-school seniors via an essay-writing contest; \$500 is also awarded to the first-place winner's high school. This year, 88 CBAI member banks representing 235 students statewide, participated in the contest.

CNB Bank and Trust is very pleased to announce that Ryan Dunphy has been named the first-place winner for group 9; the bank sponsored Dunphy for the contest. He has been awarded a one-time \$1,000 to be used for higher education beginning next fall.

Attached is a copy of his winning essay.

Details will be available in September 2019 for the 2020 scholarship program.

CNB Bank & Trust has 19 locations to better serve its customers: Alton, Brighton, Carlinville, Carrollton, Chapin, Clayton-MO, Hillsboro, Jacksonville (3), Jerseyville, Litchfield, Oak Forest, Palos Heights, Pittsfield, Shipman, and Taylorville, Tinley Park, and Virden. In addition to a wide variety of traditional banking services, CNB also offers farm management, investment, and trust services. For more information about CNB and its unique community-centered approach to banking, visit www.cnbil.com.

About CBAI: Founded in 1974, CBAI is a professional trade association headquartered in Springfield, and represents approximately 320 Illinois community-oriented banks and thrifts.

About the CBAI Foundation for Community Banking: The Foundation was established by CBAI to professionally serve and support member financial institutions through every available channel, and to promote the community-banking philosophy.

Going into my senior year of high school, my knowledge of banks was limited to the evil banker of Deal or No Deal. With my research on banking complete, however, I can say with confidence that community banking is one of the most underrated benefactors of modern American society. After all, the places I remember most about my early youth could not exist without what community banking provides. My hometown comes from humble beginnings, and has relied on community funds since the day it was founded. From the local bakery I visited every Friday, to the parish I attended every Sunday, local funds funded the ventures that made my childhood shine.

The ambition of my hometown knows no bounds. While thousands of people have left Illinois for greener pastures since 2010, my city continues to grow and prosper through embracing its local charm. My town always looks to the future in terms of growth, and maintains its small town character by promoting local enterprise. However, as I have learned from my entrepreneurial neighbors, every startup needs a significant amount of capital. Despite the fact that local businesses are what sets my community apart from others, larger banks refuse to lend money to the vast majority of them. Today, community banks are the only lifeline available to the city sites that I have grown up with. It is through my hometown's local bank that entrepreneurs are able to kickstart their business, and provide great service to my town. The reinvestment my local bank has made in our shared community serves as an inspiration to entrepreneurs of today, and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

While community banking continues to help my town attract new residents, our local bank has done wonders for existing residents since the town was founded in 1892. The two school districts are the greatest employers in my community, and receive vital funding through the community banking system. Local banking goes beyond making my town look pretty; community banks invest directly in future generations to succeed. Furthermore, community banking also supports the local charities that assist the most vulnerable people in my community. Their generous involvement allows for these charities not only to operate at a higher level, but to also expand their marketing so that others can give to those in need. Community banks are the very heart of the American economy, and support our local communities when no one else will.