

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Virginia Bankers Association Education Foundation to Award \$26,000 to
2017 Bank Day Scholarship Program Essay Contest Winners**

Glen Allen – The Virginia Bankers Association (VBA) Education Foundation has announced the winners of the 2017 VBA Bank Day Scholarship Program. After spending a day shadowing at one of the 33 banks that participated across the Commonwealth, students were asked to write an essay about their experience for the opportunity to win a college scholarship. The following students had the winning regional essays and will receive \$2,500:

- Capitol Regional Winner: William Omberg, Douglas S. Freeman High School, Union Bank & Trust
- Central/Southside Regional Winner: Elizabeth Rice, Parry McCluer High School, Bank of Botetourt
- Hampton Roads/Eastern Shore Regional Winner: Virgil Thornton II, Hampton High School, Old Point National Bank
- Northern Virginia Regional Winner: Sierra Espeland, Colonial Forge High School, Burke & Herbert Bank
- Southwest Virginia Regional Winner: Camryn Cook, Castlewood High School, New Peoples Bank
- Valley Regional Winner: Skylar Wampler, Broadway High School, F&M Bank

The six regional winners will now be entered into the statewide essay contest. The winner of the statewide contest will receive an additional \$5,000, and receive \$7,500 total for their college education.

An additional six, \$1,000 honorable mention scholarships will be awarded, one in each of the regions. The following students were chosen as the honorable mention winners:

- Capitol Honorable Mention Winner: Madeline Enderle, Patrick Henry High School, Wells Fargo
- Central/Southside Honorable Mention Winner: Lauren Lawson, Appomattox County High School, The Farmers Bank of Appomattox
- Hampton Roads/Eastern Shore Honorable Mention Winner: Jordan Wideman, Hampton High School, Old Point National Bank
- Northern Virginia Honorable Mention Winner: Molly Avery, Fauquier High School, The Fauquier Bank

- Southwest Virginia Honorable Mention Winner: Hannah Jenkins, Tazewell High School, New Peoples Bank
- Valley Honorable Mention Winner: Chandler Showalter, Waynesboro High School, F&M Bank

“The VBA Bank Day Scholarship Program allows students to see firsthand the way banks operate and how they serve their communities,” said VBA President and CEO Bruce Whitehurst. “The twelve students who won scholarships through this program were chosen from the 402 students who participated in total. Their essays showed that the Bank Day experience helped them to gain an understanding of how banking works and how important it is to be equipped with effective money management skills. We are proud of these students’ achievements and wish them all the best as they begin their college careers.”

VBA Bank Day is a statewide effort sponsored by the VBA Education Foundation and the VBA Emerging Bank Leaders. Bank Day began when the third Tuesday in March was declared Bank Day by the Virginia General Assembly in 1991. The purpose of the day is to expose students to the banking industry and provide an opportunity for the students to learn about banking, financial services and the vital role banks play in their communities.

Visit www.vabankers.org to learn more about the VBA Bank Day Scholarship Program and other efforts to promote economic and financial education for Virginia’s students. To see pictures of the event and all the work that bankers do in their communities, please click [here](#).

About the Virginia Bankers Association

Established in 1893, the Virginia Bankers Association is the unified voice for commercial and savings banks in Virginia. The VBA maintains an active legislative advocacy program, provides training to bankers statewide, and provides a variety of products and service to help its member banks best serve their communities.

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