CBAI
Foundation
for
Community Banking
Scholarship Programs

CBAI FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY BANKING
2027 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM GUIDELINES

(STUDENT)

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901 Community Drive
Springfield, IL 62703-5184
217/529-2265
800/736-2224
FAX 217/585-8738
www.cbai.com

The CBAI Foundation for Community Banking provides monetary awards for top high-school seniors statewide. The total number of awards available this year by the Foundation is $21,000. These awards help deserving students highlight the importance of community banking to the local economy. **You could win up to $4,000 for higher education, and your school is eligible to win $500!**

Judges will select the top essays statewide written by high-school seniors who best capture the following theme: ***How has your local community bank impacted you or someone you know?***

Judges will be looking for an understanding of what a community bank is and its role in the local economy. The essay should emphasize the philosophy of community banking, but **MAKE NO REFERENCE TO A SPECIFIC BANK, BANKER, NOR CITY.**

Competition: The competition is open to Illinois high school seniors who are sponsored by a CBAI member bank; it is not based on financial need. Students must be U.S. citizens and residents of Illinois. ***Student bank employees, plus the immediate families of any bank's employees, board members, and CBAI employees are ineligible***. Students are asked to write a one-page essay on the theme, **(not to exceed one page in length);** double-spaced using the font Times New Roman with 10-12-point size. ***Do not submit your essay to more than one bank or you will be disqualified.***

Researching the Essay: Contestants will find that the most meaningful research about the subject will be gained from a tour of a local community bank and an interview with a bank officer.

Essays: An original and two copies of the essay, the Official Application, and the Background Information Forms are to be submitted to a designated high-school counselor, English teacher, or other designated person at the school (if applicable). If the local school is not involved, students should return these documents to the sponsoring bank. A special local committee will review all manuscripts and select the local contest winners, if applicable, and send as many essays to the CBAI Foundation for the statewide competition as the bank is allowed.

Essay Integrity: Essays must be written entirely by the student, without additional correction, grading or enhancement by any other party, including teachers and parents. Students may not collaborate with one another. Students may not view other students' work prior to submission. Use of the Wikipedia definition of a community bank will result in points being taken off. Violation of any of these rules will be cause for ineligibility of the essay.

Judging Criteria: Judges will use the following criteria to evaluate each essay: understanding of the community banking philosophy, accurate information, clear and concise sentences, logical organization, proper grammar, correct punctuation and spelling, and conclusion/summary.

***Deadline*: Essays must be received by the CBAI Foundation via the sponsoring bank by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2027, to be eligible for judging. Check with the local sponsoring bank for its preliminary judging deadline. Essays received by the CBAI Foundation after March 1 will not be accepted for judging. NOTE: Semi-finalists will be required to make a presentation of their submission to a community group of no fewer than five individuals; the purpose is to increase the understanding of our profession. Semi-finalists will also sign an Intent Form indicating they intend to continue their education at a college, university or accredited trade school.**

Scholarship Amounts: Monetary awards will be given in addition to any other grants or awards the student may receive and will be made directly to the winners. However, the winner must sign a statement that he/she will use the award to further his/her education. The monetary awards provided for the overall winner will be $1,000 per year for up to four years of higher education, with up to 11 additional awards of $1,000 and up to 12 second-place awards of $500 each, depending on the quality of the essays. A check for $500 will be presented to the overall winning student's school. Non-monetary "Honorable Mentions" may also be awarded.

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ESSAY ASSIGNMENT & CHECKLIST

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PLEASE WRITE A ONE-PAGE ESSAY ON THE FOLLOWING THEME:

How has your local community bank impacted you or someone you know?

(Length of the essay is not to exceed one page; double spaced, using Times New Roman font, and 10-12-point size.)

CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Complete the student application and background information form.
- ☐ Submit one page on the theme, (do not to exceed one page); double spaced, using Times New Roman font, and 10-12-point size.
- ☐ The names of a specific bank, banker, and/or city, are ***NOT*** in your essay.
- ☐ Your name is **NOT** on the essay, only on the Student Application & Background Information Form.
- ☐ You send ***TWO*** copies of the essay.

REMEMBER:

* Essays must be sponsored and submitted by only one CBAI member bank.
* You may not submit an essay to more than one bank or you will be disqualified.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Levette Shade at 217/529-2265 or by e-mail at levettes@cbai.com

CBAI Foundation for Community Banking
Scholarship Programs

CBAI FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY BANKING 2027 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

STUDENT APPLICATION

BANK DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: _____
(Date by which essay must be at Foundation Headquarters is 5 P.M. March 1, 2027)

Please complete the information requested below and affix this application to ***TWO*** copies of your essay. Return the application and copies of your essay to your high school counselor or English teacher (if applicable), or your local sponsoring community bank.

DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON EITHER COPY OF YOUR ESSAY!

****

Student's Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name of Parent(s) _____

Sponsoring Bank _____

Sponsoring Bank Contact/Title _____

Bank Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Note: You may not submit through more than one bank, or you will be disqualified.

IF APPLICABLE:

School Name _____

School Contact/Title _____

School Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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FOUNDATION USE ONLY

Manuscript # _____

Group # _____

Date Received _____

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STUDENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Personal Data

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please attach an essay as required by the scholarship instructions.

GPA as of most recent semester: _____

Special Awards & Other School Activities

Please list:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Community Service

Please describe:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Planned Educational Pursuits

Name of school: _____

Career Interest: _____

The information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this information and all supporting documents will be held in the strictest confidence by the CBAI Foundation for Community Banking. I further understand that all scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the aforementioned Foundation and that all decisions are final.

Signature: _____ Date: _____