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Contact:
Brooke Gardner, (217) 652-8405
brooke@macstrategiesgroup.com

Illinois Banks Recognized for Exceptional Community Service

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Bankers Association has recognized three banks for their exceptional service to Illinois communities. Busey Bank, CIBC Bank USA, and OSB Community Bank have been named as the 2022 Illinois Bank Community Service Award winners.

“Every year, we see countless instances of banks across the state going above and beyond to support the communities they serve. Following the unprecedented financial challenges of the pandemic, this support is more vital than ever before as communities recover and prosper,” said **Randy Hultgren, President and CEO of the Illinois Bankers Association**. “Busey Bank, CIBC Bank USA, and OSB Community Bank have continued Illinois banking’s tradition of excellence in community service. The Illinois Bankers Association is proud to spotlight these banks and their dedication to the people and places they serve.”

Busey Bank

The Busey Drives Generosity campaign encouraged staff and customers to collect and give a variety of donations to benefit local neighbors in need. The campaign included a sock drive for Poverty Awareness Month, a band-aid drive for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and a Book Drive for back-to-school.

Since 2020, Busey has partnered with Little Free Libraries to promote literacy across their communities. Following the book drive, Busey prioritized sustainable and accessible literacy in their communities. These efforts resulted in building and installing Little Free Libraries at 15 locations across 5 regions.

The annual Community Promise Month in April is dedicated to honoring employees’ passions, encouraging local involvement, and maximizing Busey Bank’s community impact. In 2021, Busey offered virtual and in-person community service opportunities for staff, such as autism acceptance webinars and a sensory-kit-build at each location. With an emphasis on World Autism Month, associates learned how to work with their community members with autism and actively serve them through different opportunities. The sensory kits packed by associates are currently offered at every location.

Through these community service efforts and more, Busey staff volunteered over 1,500 hours in April 2021, benefiting more than 260 different organizations. The Community Connection engagement program invited staff to learn from partnering nonprofits about community involvement opportunities. This program offered three virtual sessions and one Day of Action, where Busey partnered with ten local nonprofits to host a hands-on learning experience for associates to put their community connection skills into action. In 2021, over 113 associates attended the sessions, and 300 volunteer hours were recorded through this program.

CIBC Bank USA

CIBC Bank USA staff volunteer with community partners to provide financial expertise across a variety of business areas, including personal finance, small businesses, and credit. They provide financial literacy education to students and assist with the college application process including resume building. 615 professionals volunteered at 20

organizations for more than 1,300 hours. CIBC business professionals taught financial literacy using Junior Achievement curriculum in St. Louis, Chicago, and Wisconsin.

CIBC hosts an annual All-Team Event for employees to work with low-income schools and teach the Money Savvy Financial Literacy curriculum. This curriculum is also used by the bank in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club in Little Village and the Western Golf Association. CIBC professionals work through Chicago Scholars, Braven, High School Mentoring Program - Urban Alliance, and Big Brothers Big Sisters to assist students through professional development by hosting mock interviews, providing mentorship, assisting with college applications, resume writing, financial literacy, and much more.

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship held virtual sessions where youth presented a business idea and strategy for the bank staff's valuable feedback. Through Bethel New Life, Family Farmed, Sunshine Enterprises, Joseph Business School, and the Southwest Development Corp., volunteers taught business studies, reviewed business plans, and provided credit education. CIBC works with small businesses through SBDC at Build Bronzeville and the Women's Business Development Center. The staff works with Mujeres Latinas en Accion to provide support and entrepreneurial education for Latina women looking to start or expand their businesses.

OSB Community Bank

OSB Community Bank amplifies what a community bank can do, supporting local schools and demonstrating a commitment to their community.

For every new School Spirit Checking account opened, the bank donates \$10 to the school of the customer's choice. Last year, the bank donated \$7,400 to participating schools. To spark interest in banking careers, the bank invites several local high school students to participate in job shadowing at the bank and follows up on that commitment by participating in their annual job fair. OSB Community Bank also works with local schools on financial literacy education through Junior Achievement and supports agriculture education programs.

OSB Community Bank actively supports United Way programs through payroll deductions and annual fundraising campaigns. The bank participated in Eastern LaSalle County's Labor of Love event to repair homes of less fortunate individuals.

They have donated \$150,000 toward the new Ottawa and Morris YMCA facilities, held numerous free customer events including their annual picnic, hosted a free concert in the park featuring local talent and hosted the Senior Luncheon to educate elders about financial fraud and online security. Their spirit of giving wraps up each year through their donations to provide a generous Giving Tree, hosted by the Youth Services Bureau of Illinois Valley. In 2021, bank employee Jacey Hallowell and her team of volunteers collected over \$16,000 to provide gifts to more than 100 children.

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About the Illinois Bankers Association

The Illinois Bankers Association is the voice of Illinois' banking industry, dedicated to creating a positive business climate that benefits the entire banking industry and the communities they serve. Founded in 1891, the IBA brings together state and national banks and savings banks employing more than 105,000 people in nearly 4,500 offices across the state. The IBA is proud of its diverse membership, serving all sizes of financial institutions from the smallest community bank in the state to the largest national bank in the country.