



Town Center Bank announces a competition that enables Illinois high-school seniors to enter a statewide essay-writing contest. It is all part of a program sponsored by Illinois community banks and the CBAI Foundation for Community Banking to increase public awareness of locally owned banks and their contributions to the community.

Town Center Bank is a member of the Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI), which formed the Foundation in 1996. A monetary award in the amount of \$1,000 a year for up to four years of higher education will be given to the author of the best essay submitted to the CBAI Foundation by a participating Illinois high-school senior. Up to 11 additional first-place \$1,000 awards and 12 second- place \$500 awards are available throughout the state. An additional \$500 will be awarded to the high school of the overall winner.

Town Center Bank is also offering \$500.00 as a local award. The same essays sent to the state competition will be judged locally.

The bank is working with Lincoln-Way High School(s) to invite seniors to submit a one-page essay on the theme ***Why is a trusted partner such as a community bank so valuable to have during the global pandemic?***

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

Information on the contest is available at the bank and the school; essays must be submitted to the bank by February 26th, 2021. The bank will then submit selected essays to the CBAI Foundation to be eligible for statewide competition.

Based in Springfield, CBAI is a professional association that represents approximately 300 Illinois-chartered banks and thrifts throughout Illinois.