

**“Getting Into College” Seminar To Be Held November 4**  
***Town Center Bank helping with applications, financial aid process***

Frankfort & New Lenox, IL - The parents of students now beginning the college application process today quickly realize how very different that process is from their own experiences decades ago. Instead of online applications making these steps easier, it seems that the plethora of decisions that now need to be made can be positively overwhelming. Most parents do not know where to even begin to help their child.

Town Center Bank, a vibrant supporter of education within the community, does know where to begin. Shirley Pirko, Vice President, said, “As parents ourselves, we understand how frustrating the college application process can be. It can be especially difficult to help guide your own child.” On Thursday November 4, the Bank is hosting “Getting Into College”, a free seminar presented by Anne Hammond.

Hammond is a Certified College Counselor and has been helping students navigate the application and financial aid process for several years. “High school counselors just don’t have the resources for this anymore. They are taking care of about 500 students each in some cases and cannot walk each student individually through this complicated process.”

The first priority she will discuss is setting achievable goals. A student who has scored lower on the ACT but has sights set on very elite, selective universities needs to understand the reality of the situation. Hammond will demonstrate how there is no “one perfect fit” school for each student, but a wide variety of schools at which they can be successful and happy.

Hammond will explain the common online application, what steps to take for each individual school, and outline how organization, proper essay writing and timing are all key to a successful college application process. She will also review completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and point participants to scholarship opportunities.

Hammond has personally visited dozens of schools nationwide and has talked extensively with many college admissions counselors. She is involved with the Posse Foundation which identifies public high school students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes.

“Getting Into College” will be held at Town Center Bank’s New Lenox branch, 1938 E Lincoln Highway, on Thursday November 4 at 6:00 pm, and includes handouts and a question/answer session. The seminar is free to everyone in the community, but seating is limited so reservations are required. For more information and to register, call 815-806-7001 or 815-463-7002.

Pirko remarked, “Anne’s experience and willingness to share her knowledge is a perfect fit with Town Center Bank’s mission to put “community” first as a community bank. We are happy to be able to help all the students and parents in the areas we serve by bringing our neighbors this information.”

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