



## **Virginia Bankers Association Education Foundation Awards Graham High School Senior \$2,500 College Scholarship Awards \$26,000 Overall to High School Seniors Across Virginia**

The VBA Bank Day Scholarship Program began in 1991 when the third Tuesday in March was declared Bank Day in Virginia by the Virginia General Assembly. This year, Bank Day had more than 420 students participating with 19 banks across the Commonwealth. New Peoples Bank hosted students in person and virtually and provided resources and information, teaching the students about banking, financial services, career opportunities in the industry, and the vital role banks play in their communities. Throughout this program, students had access to a variety of resources provided by the VBA, including videos, articles, and podcasts covering industry topics such as banking fundamentals, understanding credit, careers in banking, banks' economic impact in Virginia, and how the industry stepped up and responded to their communities' challenges during the pandemic.

Students were asked to write an essay about their experience and fourteen scholarships (six regional, six honorable mentions, and one overall statewide) were awarded based on the merit of the essays.

Joe Tyson, a senior at Graham High School in Bluefield, VA was selected as this year's regional winner and received a \$2,500 scholarship from the VBA Education Foundation. Joe attended VBA Bank Day in person at our Bluefield location. He reflected on his time with New Peoples Bank in his essay titled *Community Banks: The Pillar of their Communities* by saying, "Almost every person I met during Bank Day stressed the importance of community volunteering. From the president of the entire bank to the teller at my local branch, every employee was proud of their commitment to giving back. Every year, the employees of the New Peoples Bank participate in the United Way food bank collection to distribute food to the less fortunate. Banks also are large sponsors of community events. My county's famous Crab Orchard Museum's corn maze is made possible through the support of the New Peoples Bank. In recent years, banks in the commonwealth have been working diligently to ensure the diversity, equity, and inclusion of the industry. Money has been invested into minority-owned businesses and bank branches are being opened in underserved neighborhoods. As a major employer, banks provide millions of jobs and keep members of a community employed." Joe will be attending Princeton University where he will major in Economics.

"VBA Bank Day is a highlight of our year and we are pleased to be a part of this wonderful program. We get the privilege of inviting graduating seniors from the southwest region of Virginia to New Peoples Bank to educate them on the importance of community banks. It is impactful to learn about the students' views of banking and how we can even better serve



them. Our winner, Joe, has made New Peoples Bank proud for his job well done, as well as the rest of the students who participated. We wish them well in the future.” said Todd Asbury, New Peoples Bank, President & CEO.

Click [here](#) for more information about the 2022 VBA Bank Day Scholarship Program winners.

Since 2012, the VBA Education Foundation has distributed \$244,000 in scholarship monies to 114 students, all while educating more than 3,400 participating students about the banking industry through the Bank Day program. The VBA Bank Day Scholarship Program will take place again next March.