FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2018

BANKERS AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS, MACBOOKS TO YOUNG NEBRASKANS

LA VISTA, NE – May 4, 2018 – The Nebraska Bankers Association (NBA) is pleased to announce the 2018 recipients of the Nebraska Bankers Educational Foundation (NBEF) William B. Brandt Memorial Scholarship Fund. The nine $2,000 scholarships have been awarded through a statewide scholarship program to assist students pursuing business-related degrees at state or private colleges in Nebraska. The scholarship winners and nominating bankers were recognized at the NBA Annual Convention held May 2-4 at the Embassy Suites in La Vista.

❖ Braxtyn M. DeGolyer, Dunbar, Nebraska Wesleyan University
   Nominated by Robert Brandt, Countryside Bank, Syracuse

❖ Evan C. Marshall, Seward, Nebraska Wesleyan University
   Nominated by Duane Miner, Cattle Bank & Trust, Seward

❖ Ashley L. Minnick, West Point, Wayne State College
   Nominated by David Steffensmeier, First Community Bank, Beemer

❖ Katelin L. O’Connor, Grand Island, Nebraska Wesleyan University
   Nominated by Tom Gdowski, Equitable Bank, Grand Island

❖ Lauren N. Schmidt, Deshler, Doane University
   Nominated by Linda Fangmeyer, Midwest Bank, Deshler

❖ Murphy E. Sears, Crete, Concordia University
   Nominated by Mariana Garcia, Union Bank & Trust Co., Crete

❖ Trace J. Strotheide, Chadron, Chadron State College
   Nominated by Clayton Riesen, Farmers State Bank, Chadron

❖ Colton E. Stull, Bridgeport, Creighton University
   Nominated by Christopher Kalkowski, First National Bank of Omaha, Omaha

❖ Andrew J. Wade, McCook, Bellevue University
   Nominated by Mark Graff, McCook National Bank, McCook

These scholarships have been awarded in memory of William B. Brandt, a long-time friend of the Nebraska banking industry. Brandt was a banker, state senator, and NBA general counsel. Students interested in applying for a Nebraska Bankers Educational Foundation Scholarship must have at least a college junior- or senior-level status with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and
must be pursuing a business-related degree at a state or privately funded Nebraska college or university (excluding the University of Nebraska). Students, parents, and educators can learn more about the scholarships by contacting Sheila Scheinost at the NBA at 402-474-1555 or sheila.scheinost@nebankers.org. Information is also available under Scholarships at www.nebankers.org. The next deadline to submit applications is January 31, 2019.

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**Engaging Youth in the Bank On Nebraska Challenge**

To connect with the next generation of Nebraskans, the NBA this year launched the Bank On Nebraska Challenge. This statewide competition challenged our state’s high school students to submit 60-second videos highlighting the important role Nebraska banks play in their communities, schools, and families. With 125 qualified entrants, nearly 35,000 visits to BankOnNE.com, and almost 12,000 votes, the campaign was highly successful at reaching today’s teens.

During the NBA Annual Convention, the following top five finalists received a MacBook and $529 to assist with future college expenses.

1) **Contestant:** Joseph Bieker  
   Teacher: Father David Oldham  
   School: Falls City Sacred Heart Catholic High School, Falls City  
   Bank: F&M Bank, Falls City

2) **Contestant:** Emma Bjork  
   Teacher: Tim Isaacs  
   School: SDA Public Schools, Syracuse  
   Bank: FirstBank of Nebraska, Syracuse

3) **Contestant:** Lydia Brown  
   Teacher: Sarah Harms  
   School: Norris High School, Firth  
   Bank: Adams State Bank, Adams

4) **Contestant:** Wyatt Ehlers  
   Teacher: Gina Pospichal  
   School: Chambers Public Schools, Chambers  
   Bank: Chambers State Bank, Chambers  
   Wyatt Ehlers received the most online votes for his video and received the grand prize of $2,000. As a result, Chambers Public Schools also received $2,000 in unrestricted funds. In addition, Ehlers took home the $1,000 funniest video award.

5) **Contestant:** Leigh Jahnke  
   Teacher: Stephanie Holdsworth  
   School: West Point Public Schools, West Point  
   Bank: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., West Point

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*The Nebraska Bankers Association (www.nebankers.org), founded in 1890, is the voice of Nebraska’s $72 billion banking industry, which is composed of small, regional, and large banks that together employ more than 14,000 people, safeguard nearly $59 billion in deposits, and extend more than $53 billion in loans, all within the state of Nebraska.*