



CBAI FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY BANKING 2026 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP (STUDENT) ESSAY ASSIGNMENT & CHECKLIST

2025-2026 Board of Directors

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Amy Thiede
Prairie Community Bank, Marengo

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Kraig Lounsberry
CBAI, Springfield

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Valerie Johnston
CBAI, Springfield

901 Community Drive
Springfield, IL 62703-5184
217/529-2265
800/736-2224
FAX 217/585-8738
www.cbai.com

PLEASE WRITE A ONE-PAGE ESSAY ON THE FOLLOWING THEME:

How has your local community bank impacted you or someone you know?

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

MAKE SURE:

You complete the student application and background information form.

You submit one page on the theme, (not to exceed one page in length); double spaced, using Times New Roman font, and 10-12-point size.

The names of a specific bank, banker, and/or city, are **NOT** in your essay.

Your name is **NOT** on the essay, only on the Student Application & Background Information Sheet.

You send **TWO** copies of the essay.

Include your e-mail address and cell phone number (if applicable).

Your submission should be made through a CBAI member bank.

You may not submit an essay to more than one bank or you will be disqualified.

ESSAYS MUST:

Be double-spaced.

Not exceed one page in length.

Be in Times New Roman font.

Be in 10-12-point size.

Be sponsored by only one CBAI member bank.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cortni Bartolomucci at 217/529-2265 or by e-mail cortnib@cbai.com.



CBAI FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY BANKING 2026 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OFFICIAL STUDENT APPLICATION

BANK DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

February 6, 2025

(Date by which essay must be at Foundation
Headquarters is 5 P.M. March 2, 2026)

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FOUNDATION USE ONLY

Manuscript # _____

Group # _____

Date Received _____

Questions? E-mail:
cortnib@cbai.com

Please complete the information requested below and affix this application to **TWO** copies of your essay. Return the application and copies of your essay to your high school counselor or English teacher (if applicable), or your local sponsoring community bank.

DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON EITHER COPY OF YOUR ESSAY!

Student's Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name of Parent(s) _____

Sponsoring Bank _____

Sponsoring Bank Contact/Title _____

Bank Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Note: You may not submit through more than one bank, or you will be disqualified.

IF APPLICABLE:

School Name _____

School Contact/Title _____

School Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____



CBAI FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY BANKING 2026 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Personal Data

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Questions? E-mail:
cortnib@cbai.com

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please attach an essay as required by the scholarship instructions.

GPA as of most recent semester: _____

Special Awards & Other School Activities

Please list:

Community Service

Please describe:

Planned Educational Pursuits

Name of school: _____

Career Interest: _____

The information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this information and all supporting documents will be held in the strictest confidence by the CBAI Foundation for Community Banking. I further understand that all scholarships are awarded at the discretion of the aforementioned Foundation and that all decisions are final.

Signature: _____ Date: _____