# (Insert date), 2016 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

 For More Information

 (Insert Bank Contact Name)

(Insert Bank Contact Phone Number)

# (Insert your bank’s name) Provides Funding for Scholarship Program

$180,000 in scholarship money awarded to South Dakota high school graduates

(Insert Bank City Name), SD -- In a continuing effort to retain our best and brightest students, the (insert your bank name and town) and the South Dakota Bankers Foundation have announced the 16th year of the high school scholarship program. Participating South Dakota banks have agreed to match Foundation funds to provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors in their local communities.

The recipients will all attend post-secondary South Dakota institutions of higher learning, and this year’s recipient of the $1,000 scholarship sponsored by the (insert your bank name and town) is (insert student’s name and town). (Insert student’s last name) plans to attend the (insert name of South Dakota college, university, vocational technical school or community college).

Established in 1982, the South Dakota Bankers Foundation was endowed by the South Dakota Bankers Association to provide scholarships, and special educational programs and awards to the secondary and post-secondary levels. In 2000, the industry took action to refocus its mission to provide an opportunity for even more visible consumer programming, including the expansion of the high school scholarship program. With the demand exceeding the available funds, a three-year fundraising campaign led by current Foundation Chair and former SD Secretary of State, Joyce Hazeltine, raised more than $900,000.

(Insert other specific information as directed by your bank’s marketing department. It is desirable that a picture be taken of the student and one of your bank officers to provide even greater marketing exposure.)

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**Note to participating bank: (remove this section before sending to media)**

Foundation requirements:

* Student must be a graduating high school senior who attends an accredited South Dakota

 college, university, vocational technical school, or community college on a full-time basis.

* Winners agree to have their names released to the media.
* Other eligibility requirements as determined by your bank.