



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage Bank & Trust Honors Youth Advisory Board Students

(April 24, 2019) — Heritage Bank & Trust honored the eighteen high school seniors that participated in their Youth Advisory Board on Wednesday, April 17 at their Columbia location. This is Heritage Bank & Trust's second year to have a Youth Advisory Board. The board was created in October of 2017 as a partnership with Maury County Public Schools, Agathos Classical School, Columbia Academy, and Zion Christian Academy.

Students were given the opportunity to apply for the Youth Advisory Board last fall and students from each school were chosen to participate in the program. The Bank held meetings every month, with the first meeting being held in September. Each high school in Maury County was represented on our board.

“This was a great partnership with the schools in our community,” says President and CEO Jim Robinson. “Giving back to the communities we serve is an important part of our mission and we are proud to have offered this opportunity for students in Maury County.”

Each month, the students learned something new. Topics included careers in banking, information about community banks, what it means to be on a business or nonprofit board, college savings tips and more.

All of the Youth Advisory Board students participated in a service project. The group helped the Mule Day Committee and Maury County Parks & Rec by picking up trash at Maury County Park after the Mule Day festivities. Keep Maury Beautiful donated supplies to the students as well.

Heritage Bank & Trust also offered a \$500 scholarship to one student. The students were given the opportunity to write an essay about what they learned while serving on the Youth Advisory Board. Juliana Neelley, a senior at Zion Christian Academy, won the scholarship contest. Neelley has plans to attend Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas this fall.

“Interacting with this group was a great way for us to understand the wants and needs of a younger generation,” says Marketing Director Claire Hill. “We shared knowledge with the students, but we gained so much information about their banking habits from interacting with them throughout the year. We were especially thrilled that every single high school in Maury County was represented.”

The bank also set up job shadowing opportunities for the students. Tori Elias and Juliana Neelley, seniors from Zion Christian Academy, job shadowed bank staff separate from our bank advisory board meetings.

Chief Risk Officer Shelli Golden, Human Resources Director Letha Chandler and Marketing Director Claire Hill led the program planning throughout the year.

Rising seniors are encouraged to apply for the Youth Advisory Board in the fall. Applications will be available with school guidance counselors and high school business teachers this August. The Bank will be creating a Youth Advisory Board in Lawrence County this fall as well.

Heritage Bank & Trust is a community bank with locations in Columbia, Mount Pleasant and Lawrenceburg. As of March 2019, Heritage Bank & Trust had total assets nearing \$170 million.

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