



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NBA Recognizes Banking Leaders

OMAHA, NE – April 28, 2006 – The Nebraska Bankers Association (NBA) honored several bankers for their leadership and contributions to the financial services industry during the association's Annual Convention, held April 26-28 at the Omaha Hilton Hotel and Qwest Center. The following awards were announced by NBA President George Beattie.

NBA Committee Chairmen

Committees play an important role in the strength and success of the NBA. Cited for their leadership as 2005-2006 NBA Committee Chairmen were:

- Lydell Woodbury, First Nebraska Bank (Stanton) – *Government Relations Committee Chairman*
- Randy Shelden, Cornerstone Bank, N.A. (York) – *BankPAC Committee Chairman*
- A.J. (Tony) Lesiak, First National Bank of Fullerton (Fullerton) – *Ag Committee Chairman*
- Dail Vetter, Cozad State Bank & Trust Co. (Cozad) – *Credit Committee Chairman*
- James Prange, Adams Bank & Trust (Ogallala) – *Executive Management Committee Chairman*
- Neil Stanley, First National of Nebraska Inc. (Omaha) – *Investment Committee Chairman*
- Jina Paul, Great Western Bank (Omaha) – *Marketing Committee Chairman*
- Scott Irwin, First National Technology Solutions (Omaha) – *Operations Committee Chairman*

The NBA also recognized the following individual for 25 years as a member of the NBA BankPAC Committee.

- Van Korell, AmFirst Bank, N.A. (McCook) – *BankPAC Committee, 1980-2005*

Personal Economics Program

The Personal Economics Program (PEP) is a volunteer program designed to teach consumers of all ages about personal finance, economics, and money management. Bankers give presentations to schools, civic clubs, and community organizations in an effort to teach financial responsibility. The following financial institutions were awarded plaques for their outstanding contributions to PEP.

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PEP Award of Excellence

These awards are presented to those financial institutions that have made a large number of financial and economic educational presentations in their communities while maintaining small class sizes.

- American Interstate Bank (Elkhorn)
- Platte Valley National Bank (Scottsbluff)
- Pinnacle Bank (Shelby)

PEP Award of Achievement

These awards are presented to those financial institutions that have made a large number of financial and economic educational presentations in their communities with larger class sizes.

- First State Bank & Trust Co. (Fremont)
- Platte Valley State Bank & Trust Co. (Kearney)
- Cornhusker Bank (Lincoln)
- Security First Bank (Rushville)

Get Smart About Credit Award

First Central Bank McCook and First Central Bank (Cambridge, Arapahoe & Edison) were presented awards in recognition of outstanding participation during Get Smart About Credit Day, which was held Oct. 20, 2005. These banks committed six employees to this event, reaching 438 students through 18 presentations in five area schools.

Nebraska Bankers Association Scholarships

NBA Scholarship to the Kansas/Nebraska Advanced School of Banking

- Grant Schmidt, Henderson State Bank (Henderson)

NBA/Prochnow Educational Foundation Scholarship to the Graduate School of Banking in Wisconsin

- Mark Blazek, Oak Creek Valley Bank (Valparaiso)

NBA Scholarship to the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado

- Kimberly Schroll, NebraskaLand National Bank (North Platte)

NBA Scholarship to the American Bankers Association Graduate School of Banking

- Jess Zeiss, First National Capital Markets (Omaha)

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Schools Of Banking Scholarships

The Schools of Banking, co-sponsored by the Kansas and Nebraska Bankers Associations, celebrated 40 years of service to the banking industry in 2005. The Schools of Banking's offerings are designed to meet the educational needs of bankers throughout the Midwest. The following scholarship recipients were recognized during the NBA Annual Convention.

Schools of Banking Scholarship to the Graduate School of Banking in Wisconsin

- Brian Andersen, Horizon Bank (Waverly)

Schools of Banking Scholarship to the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado

- James Arens, Commercial National Bank (Ainsworth)

Schools of Banking Scholarship to the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking in Dallas

- Jean Brown, Fremont National Bank & Trust Co. (Fremont)

The Nebraska Bankers Association (www.nebankers.org), founded in 1890, is a statewide association representing 254 of Nebraska's 255 commercial banks, 10 of the 16 savings and loan institutions in the state, and one trust company. The association constantly monitors the banking scene, watchful for new ideas and approaches to help Nebraska's financial institutions respond to an ever-changing environment. The NBA strives to anticipate and respond quickly to events that impact its members and the more than 16,000 men and women who work in Nebraska's financial institutions. Priorities include legislative representation, education, industry promotion and public relations, cost-saving products and services, and an array of other services designed to meet the needs of Nebraska's financial services industry.

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