**For Immediate Release**

[Date]

**For More Information:**

[Bank contact information]

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**[Bank Name] Contributes $10,000 Scholarship to [Community College Name] Student**

[City/County] – Beginning this fall, [bank name], the Virginia Bankers Association (VBA) Education Foundation and six additional Virginia banks will sponsor the Virginia Banking Fellows Program in partnership with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE). Now in its second year, the mission of this statewide program is to provide opportunities for deserving community college students to pursue their academic goals, strengthen their leadership skills, and learn more about the banking industry.

Thirteen students from nine Virginia community colleges have been designated as Virginia Banking Fellows and will each receive a $7,000 scholarship to support tuition, books, fees and other expenses related to their education. [Bank name] and the Virginia banking industry contributed an additional $3,000 per Fellow to cover educational elements and the administrative fees of the Program, for a total of $10,000 per Fellow and $130,000 in all. The Virginia Banking Fellows will be a cohort within the larger VFCCE Fellows Program, which was established in 2011 to help promising second-year students at Virginia’s community colleges.

For the 2023-2024 school year, [bank name] has committed $10,000 to sponsor a Fellow from [community college name]. Fellows participate in statewide leadership training and conferences, cultural opportunities and community service activities. Virginia Banking Fellows will also have the additional opportunity to participate in online banking industry training as well as a variety of banking industry networking and educational events throughout the year.

The Fellows program will launch mid-September at an orientation in Richmond and will run through May 2024. If you would like to schedule an interview with [bank name and bank leadership name and title] on this program or any of the bank’s financial literacy and economic education initiatives, contact [[bank](mailto:cowdom@vabankers.org?subject=Virginia%20Banking%20Fellows%20Program%20Media%20Inquiry%20) contact information].

*About [bank name]*

[Insert bank’s boiler plate]

*About Virginia Bankers Association Education Foundation*

The Virginia Bankers Association (VBA) formed the VBA Education Foundation in 2007 with funding from the majority of VBA member banks for the Walter Ayers Fund for Financial Education. The Foundation’s mission is to improve personal financial literacy and economic education in all public and private schools in the Commonwealth. The Foundation recognizes the importance of economic education and financial literacy in Virginia and supports the banking industry as a key participant in these areas. For more information, visit [www.vabankers.org/vba-education-foundation](http://www.vabankers.org/vba-education-foundation).

*About Virginia Foundation for Community College Education*

The Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE) mission: Building student success and the Commonwealth’s future by supporting Virginia’s Community Colleges. As the supporting arm of Virginia’s 23 community colleges, VFCCE broadens educational access and supports student success, securing funds and resources for statewide initiatives. For more information on the VFCCE, visit [www.vfcce.org](http://www.vfcce.org).

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