



*Friends you can bank on.*

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Legence Bank Receives BKD Award for Excellence and Innovation from the Community Bankers Association of Illinois**

Eldorado, IL—Legence Bank accepted the BKD Award for Excellence and Innovation presented by the Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) at CBAI's 2013 Annual Convention in Springfield, IL Sep. 28. Legence Bank was recognized for its Legence Bank University (LBU) program, which reaches out to teachers and children in kindergarten classes through young adults in high school and provides financial literacy continuing education for adults in the communities Legence serves.

CBAI, in conjunction with accounting firm BKD, LLP, presents the BKD Award each year, recognizing an exemplary, high-performing CBAI member bank that employs innovative ideas and customer service, premier corporate citizenship and demonstrates commitment to their employees, customers, shareholders and community. Now in its 16th year, the BKD Award showcases the best ideas among Illinois' community financial institutions. An independent panel of judges selects a bank to honor at the CBAI Annual Convention.

"Legence Bank and our LBU team are elated to receive the prestigious BKD Award and to be recognized by CBAI as both a top financial institution in the state and as a leader committed to the health, growth and future success of the communities we serve," said Kevin Beckemeyer, president and CEO of Legence Bank.

"Legence Bank demonstrates the key factors for success in today's banking environment: exemplary performance, community leadership and an entrepreneurial spirit. This year CBAI and the BKD Award for Excellence & Innovation recognize Legence and the Legence Bank University program for an

elevated corporate commitment and creative approach to community outreach and financial education,” said Andrea Cusick, senior vice president of communications, Community Bankers Association of Illinois.

Since the inception of LBU, Legence’s LBU financial education team increased the number of students reached from 200 during the 2011-2012 school year to 1,200 students during the 2012-2013 school year, or approximately 600 percent. LBU Team members include Olivia Bradley, retail business development; Arla Wasson, marketing assistant; Kelsey Williams, teller; Ginger Hampton, eBranch team leader and Legence mascots Lucky the Star and LuLu the Star, who help make personal finance and money management skills fun and accessible to and for parents, teachers and students.

Legence plans to establish additional partnerships and expand to school districts in the bank’s newly acquired branches in surrounding counties, and to reach more parents and their children, teachers and their students with financial literacy programs each year for at least the next five years. As the push for state and national financial literacy standards grows, the program will be evaluated for changing curricula content needs each year.

“No matter who we are or where we live, our financial hopes and goals are ultimately similar — to provide a better life for ourselves and our families,” said Beckemeyer. “Our goal every day is to increase understanding of saving, credit choices and money management, and, as a locally owned community bank we want to help individuals and families establish and maintain lifelong, healthy financial habits that also help our communities lay a foundation for stability and prosperity,” he added.

END

**PHOTOS AND CUTLINES FOLLOW ON PAGES 3 AND 4.**



Legence Bank University Team, left to right: Olivia Bradley, retail business development; Arla Wasson, marketing assistant; Kelsey Williams, teller and Ginger Hampton, eBranch team leader.



Legence Bank University Team members Kelsey Williams, teller; Arla Wasson, marketing assistant; Olivia Bradley, retail business development (seated); Ginger Hampton, eBranch team leader and Legence mascots Lucky the Star and LuLu the Star help make personal finance and money management skills fun and accessible to and for parents, teachers and students.