



***BancTrust Opportunity
Foundation
Scholarship***

***Applications due by
March 26, 2010***

***Application available at
www.firstbanktrust.com***



Administered by First Bank and Trust, s.b.





BACKGROUND

First Bank & Trust has provided financial services to east central Illinois for over 100 years. In keeping with a long tradition of community service, the Bank is making a significant commitment to the education of our young people by providing opportunities for scholarships to a university, college, trade or vocational school. In October 2002, the Bank established the BancTrust Opportunity Foundation for the purpose of administering these scholarships.

GOAL OF PROGRAM

- The BancTrust Opportunities Foundation. will award academic scholarships annually to deserving high school seniors in Champaign, Clark and Edgar counties in Illinois who continue their education at a university, college, trade or vocational school.
- Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$4,000 paid in installments of \$1,000 per year for up to four years of full-time enrollment per student. The award will be based on scholarship, participation in high school activities, community and religious involvement along with positive leadership qualities. Scholarship funds will be applied to tuition, books and fees only.
- Six scholarships totaling \$24,000 will be awarded in May 2010, as determined by a scholarship selection committee of the BancTrust Opportunity Foundation which will administer the applications and blind selection process.
- First Bank & Trust will have no participation in the selection process.



ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Eligible applicants include any high school senior attending school in Champaign, Clark or Edgar Counties in Illinois that meet the criteria set by the Scholarship Committee.

Applicants must have maintained a minimum of a “B” grade point average or better through the seventh semester of high school.

Applicants must plan to enroll full-time at an accredited two-or-four year college, university or trade/vocational school in the United States. Proof of enrollment will be required for release of scholarship payment after the award is announced.

Gender, race or financial need will not be criteria for selection.

The recipient will be selected on the basis of the following:

- 1.) Academic excellence and leadership in school activities.
- 2.) Leadership and exemplary character exhibited in community and religious activities.
- 3.) Applicants will be required to write a short essay stating how the scholarship will help them achieve their goals.
- 4.) Two letters of reference will be required.
- 5.) To continue to receive annual \$1,000 scholarship installments, recipients must supply proof in the form of an official school transcript of a “C” average, or better, while maintaining full-time student status and proof of continuing enrollment.



APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Application available at www.firstbanktrust.com

Applicants must submit a **typed** application form consisting of six parts:

- (1) Cover Sheet/Student Information
- (2) Academic Information/Transcripts (**single side copies only**)
- (3) School and Extracurricular Activities
- (4) Community Service, Work and/or Religious Involvement
- (5) Applicant's Statement
- (6) Two (2) Reference Letters must be provided in separate, sealed envelopes with the scholarship application. **Do not** have reference letters sent separately from the application.

Return completed application compiled in the above order to: First Bank, Attn: S. Handley, P.O. Box 880, Paris, IL 61944, **or** return to any First Bank location by **March 26, 2010**. Branch locations and hours are provided. **Applications must be postmarked or delivered by March 26, 2010.**

Note: Student's name should appear **only** on the cover sheet/student information page. Student identification numbers will be assigned by the Scholarship Committee to ensure the scholarship winners are selected anonymously based on their merits.

Also please note:

- Submission of a resume with the application is acceptable.
- Please **do not** bind, staple or add a cover to the application.
- Please **do not** submit a photo with your application.



RECIPIENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Recipients must provide their college acceptance letter and a photo.

To continue to receive annual \$1,000 scholarship installments, recipients must furnish an official transcript for proof of a "C" average or better grades while maintaining full-time student status and proof of continuing enrollment. Maximum renewal is for three (3) consecutive years. If justified, an exception may be granted due to an interruption in enrollment and the Scholarship Committee will review such situations on a case by case basis. In addition, if a student transfers to a different institution, they will still be eligible for the scholarship as long as the transfer is to an accredited two-or-four-year college, university, or trade/vocational school and as long as recipient notifies the Scholarship Committee of the transfer.

Recipients must also notify the Scholarship Committee of any withdrawal from an institution and keep the Committee informed of their current address and phone number(s).



SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS TIMELINE

2010

January 1

Applications can be obtained at www.firstbanktrust.com. or from your school's guidance office. Applications may also be available on your school's website.

March 26

Deadline for applications to be postmarked or received by First Bank. Scholarship Committee will review applications and choose finalists for personal interviews. The Scholarship Committee will choose the scholarship recipients following the interviews.

April 9

The Scholarship Committee will announce the recipients. Recipients and their high schools will be notified.

May

Recipients will be recognized at their respective school's award presentations.

August

First year award money is sent to recipient's designated college, university or trade/vocational school upon proof of enrollment.

June

(the following year)

Recipients will annually furnish the selection committee with proof of continuing enrollment and an official transcript in higher education to renew the award each year.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Sarah Handley at First Bank at 217.465.0263 or 800.228.6381 or email at: shandley@firstbanktrust.com.



ACADEMIC INFORMATION/TRANSCRIPTS

Student I.D. Number: _____
(To be assigned by the selection committee)

Grade Point Average: _____
(7th semester)

Percentile Ranking
in Class: _____

ACT Composite
Score: _____

SAT Composite
Score: _____

Please attach your official high school transcript for 3½ years to verify a grade point average of 3.0 or above (“B” average or better).

Please provide **single side** copies only.



APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

Student I.D. Number: _____
(To be assigned by selection committee)

Applicant: Please write a short essay below briefly describing how the award of this scholarship will help you achieve your goals in life.



REFERENCE LETTERS

Please submit **with your application**, two (2) reference letters, one (1) from a school official or teacher, and one (1) from a community leader, employer or religious affiliation, which addresses your leadership and character traits.

Each reference letter must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the reference's signature across the seal of the envelope. Please ask your references to leave the body of the letter **anonymous** as to your identity, i.e., provide the student's name in a reference line, and then do not use the student's name throughout the letter. **Do not** have reference letters sent separately from the application.

All reference letters will be edited to conceal the student's identity before presentation to the Scholarship Committee.

Good Luck



Bank Location

Hours

Paris Main Office	Lobby		
101 S. Central Avenue P.O. Box 880 Paris, IL 61944	<u>M- Th</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	8:30 am-4:00 pm	8:30 am-5:00 pm	8:30 am-12 noon
	Drive-Up		
	<u>M- Th</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	7:30 am-5:00 pm	7:30 am-6:00 pm	7:30 am-12 noon

Marshall	Lobby		
610 N. Michigan Avenue P.O. Box 245 Marshall, IL 62441	<u>M- Th</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	8:30 am-3:30 pm	8:30 am-5:00 pm	8:30am-12 noon
	Drive-Up		
	<u>M- Th</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	7:30 am-4:30 pm	7:30 am-6:00 pm	7:30 am-12 noon

Savoy	Lobby		
1251 Woodfield Drive P.O. Box 754 Savoy, IL 61874	<u>M- Th</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	8:30 am-4:30 pm	8:30 am-5:00 pm	9:00 am-12 noon
	Drive-Up		
	<u>M- Th</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	7:00 am-6:00 pm	7:00 am-7:00 pm	7:00 am-12 noon



Bank Location**Hours**

Rantoul 1500 E. Grove Avenue P.O. Box 999 Rantoul, IL 61866	Lobby	
	<u>Monday- Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	8:30 am-5:00 pm	8:00 am-12 noon
	Drive-Up	
	<u>Monday- Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	7:30 am-6:00 pm	7:30 am-12 noon

Martinsville 10 East Cumberland P.O. BOX 370 Martinsville, IL 62442	Lobby		
	<u>M- Th</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	8:00 am-4:00 pm	8:00 am-4:30 pm	8:00 am-12 noon
	Drive-Up		
	<u>M- Th</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	8:00 am-4:30 pm	8:00 am-5:30 pm	8:00 am-12 noon

Champaign 114 W. Church St. P.O. Box 18 Champaign, IL 61824	Lobby	
	<u>Monday- Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	8:30 am-5:00 pm	Closed
	Drive-Up	
	<u>Monday- Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	7:30 am-6:00 pm	8:00 am-12 noon

