

SNBT Receives Financial Education Honors, Continues Educating Teens about Credit



Diane Gromoske center, SNBT Personal Banker & Financial Education Coordinator and Jenni Dolata right, SNBT Customer Service Operations Manager; accepting the Financial Literacy Award from Paul Adamski left. President The Pineries Bank.

For the fourteenth consecutive year, the staff of The Stephenson National Bank & Trust (SNBT) has earned the Wisconsin Bankers
Association (WBA) award for their outstanding commitment financial education efforts in our communities. SNBT bankers received the *State Bankers Promoting Financial Literacy Award* for teaching over 700 individuals throughout the past year.

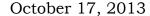
"Educating consumers of all ages about personal finance not only benefits individuals, but our communities as a whole," said Rose Oswald Poels, WBA president and CEO. "We commend these bankers for carrying out a long-standing industry commitment to improving financial literacy."

In an effort to continue the legacy of educating our area youth, SNBT will celebrate the eleventh annual National Get Smart About Credit Day on Thursday, October 17. On this day, employees from SNBT will visit over a dozen area high school classrooms in Marinette, Menominee, and Oconto Counties to educate students on responsible credit practices and the importance of keeping their identities safe.

"More and more research points to the fact that financial literacy leads to stronger national wealth; the earlier that message is learned, the sooner it can be put into practice," said Charlie Cappaert, SNBT Chief Lending Officer. "With the growing number of people using credit cards, now is a crucial time to educate young people before they encounter car loans and credit cards – not the other way around."

According to 2013 research conducted by EverFi, Inc. students believe they will be unprepared to handle their own finances post-graduation. The survey also demonstrated that students do not understand basic financial concepts; in fact, 83 percent would like financial education to be taught in school, yet only four states mandate such a course. www.everfi.com/about/news/press-releases

Bankers across Wisconsin are working to reverse this trend by bringing financial education to our youth. SNBT participates in other education initiatives





including: Teach Children to Save Day presentations for elementary and middle school students, hosting seminars, making various classroom presentations to students of all ages, hosting bank tours, sponsoring Newspaper in Education, and funding local scholarships. In the past year, the WBA program Bankers Promoting Financial Literacy gave over 1,700 personal finance presentations reaching almost 53,400 individuals.

The Stephenson National Bank & Trust is a 138-year old independent community bank with \$750 million in Bank, Mortgage, and Trust & Investment assets under management. Offices are located in Marinette and Oconto, Wis. and Menominee, Mich. with a Trust & Investment Office in Marquette, Mich. For more information about The Stephenson National Bank & Trust visit www.snbt.com.

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