



THE  
**STEPHENSON**  
National Bank & Trust

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: June 13, 2011

**Aftanas Earns CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Certification**

Paul Aftanas, Trust Officer at The Stephenson National Bank & Trust (SNBT) has earned the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification. This prestigious certification represents the gold standard for personal financial planning. It takes approximately three years to complete and consists of five separate exams culminating with a comprehensive final exam covering: the financial process, risk management, investments, tax planning and management, retirement and employee benefits, and estate planning.

“Paul’s commitment includes agreeing to a fiduciary standard of care that places his clients’ interests first,” said Greg Salmen, SNBT Senior Vice President and Trust Manager. “He has been trained to look at all aspects of a client’s needs. Through this comprehensive approach, he takes into account budgeting and saving, taxes, investments, insurance, and retirement planning. He uses his experience and judgment to carefully consider each individual’s situation, and then gives advice to best meets those goals.”

SNBT hired Aftanas in 2007 and he has almost 12 years of banking experience in Michigan and Wisconsin. A Menominee native, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University.

“I work closely with clients and their families to plan for their future financial needs, whether saving for retirement or leaving their legacy,” said Aftanas. “I’m here to help you meet your financial goals. Even if you believe your financial pieces are in place, it’s important to have those strategies reviewed on a regular basis. These reviews often show where a plan has shortcomings and how SNBT can help.”

Aftanas earned the latest in the continuing series of advanced credentials held by SNBT’s professional team. He is among the elite group of retirement experts who collectively hold 21 prestigious certifications – the largest collection of retirement credentials in the area – including the area’s only: ten Certified IRA Services Professionals (CISP) and six Certified Trust & Financial Advisors (CTFA).



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“It may seem like alphabet soup, but we have the largest group of retirement experts in our region, hands down,” explained Salmen. “People may ask why we place such an emphasis on credentials. It is because our commitment is to be the premier provider of trusted financial solutions, and that requires advanced knowledge in all areas of retirement and financial planning.”

Aftanas and his wife Kylene live in Menominee with their two children. His community service includes coaching for M&M Youth Hockey Association.

The Stephenson National Bank & Trust is a 136-year old independent community bank with assets of \$281 million and Trust and Investment Management assets in excess of one-third of a billion dollars. Offices are located in Marinette and Oconto, Wis. and Menominee, Mich. For more information about The Stephenson National Bank & Trust visit [www.snbt.com](http://www.snbt.com).

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