

Inside Benchmark

A snapshot of what's happening at Benchmark Community Bank

2nd Quarter 2018

Member FDIC

Benchmark awards \$6,000 in \$mart\$tart Scholarships

Six outstanding Southside Virginia high school seniors were chosen from a field of 65 applicants for the annual \$mart\$tart Community Commitment Scholarship presented by Benchmark Community Bank. The \$1,000 scholarship recognizes dedication to community and extracurricular service throughout a student's high school career.

This year's recipients are pictured here and include:

- Jackson Bosiger, Halifax County HS, headed to Virginia Tech for a major in Accounting/Computer Science;
- Kristin Duty, Kenston Forest, enrolled at Radford University to major in Physical Therapy;
- Sarah Edwards, Prince Edward County HS, bound for Lynchburg College to study Nursing;
- Kelsey Holloway, Brunswick Academy, attending Southside Virginia Community College to major in Radiology;
- April Newton, Bluestone HS, headed to Virginia Tech for a major in Commercial Building Construction; and
- Dajuan Walton, Nottoway HS, bound for Virginia Union University where he plans to major in Music to become a high school band director.



Launched in 2015 with three scholarships, the \$mart\$tart Community Commitment Scholarship program is named for Benchmark's youth money management program designed for ages 13-17.

The next round of \$mart\$tart Community Commitment Scholarships will open in early 2019. Pictured are clockwise from upper right: Lawrenceville Branch Manager Nicole Young with Kelsey Holloway; Clarksville Branch Manager Todd Jones with April Newton; Blackstone Branch Manager Susan Jenkins with Kristin Duty; Farmville Market Leader Cheryl Gee with Sarah Edwards; and Business Banker Ace Buchanan with Jax Bosiger.



Benchmark named to *American Banker*

Top 200 Community Banks for 2018

For the 12th consecutive year, Benchmark Bankshares, Inc. (BMBN), holding company for Benchmark Community Bank, has been named to *American Banker* magazine's Top 200 Community Banks list.

According to the publication, "Ranking is of bank holding companies, banks, and thrifts that had total assets of less than \$2 billion as of Dec. 31, 2017, and that are publicly traded or report financials to the SEC. Ranking is based on three-year average ROAE for 2015 to 2017." (Source: Capital Performance Group analysis of data provided by S&P Global Market Intelligence)

The announcement stated that 633 community banks met the criteria for the Top 200 list. Of the 11 Virginia banks named to the list, Benchmark, at #94, was one of three ranked in the top 100. Those that are named to the Top 200 list met required performance thresholds despite the fourth quarter 2017 corporate tax reform-related deferred tax asset write down that impacted many of the nation's financial institutions.

"We are quite pleased to again make the Top 200 Community Banks list," said President/CEO Jay Stafford. "It is an industry recognition that confirms what we are working hard every day to accomplish on behalf of our customers and shareholders."

Watch our next edition for coverage of our new Emporia branch Grand Opening!