

## A New President!



Incoming President Jay Stafford (l) is congratulated by CEO Mike Walker.

Benchmark has named Jay Stafford President of the bank. The official appointment was made by the Board of Directors on May 19. Stafford succeeds Mike Walker who will remain as CEO. Working with Walker, Stafford will expand his responsibilities and be actively involved in the future development of the bank.

CEO Walker stated, "I am confident that Jay Stafford is the right person to assume the role of Benchmark's president. That confidence comes from working with him for 28 years. I couldn't have asked for a better relationship."

On the future, President Stafford foretold, "I plan to keep the bank on the same path, embracing the same values and goals that have served us so well all these years and look forward to leading our employees and serving our customers and shareholders."

Benchmarkers throughout the organization were pleased with the board's decision to promote Stafford.

## Teller Capture Goes Live

A new system, called Teller Capture, was implemented on June 7. It allows transactions to be processed at the time they are presented by customers. A virtual ticket is created for each transaction. New eSignature pads at each teller window allow customers to finalize the transaction.

Teller Capture offers several advantages to the customer including less paperwork, ease of use, and flexibility.

There are even more benefits for the bank. When the front line went live, the Operations Center switched to a companion system that works hand-in-hand with Teller Capture. This seamless integration between the front line and back office operations provides increased accuracy, efficiency, and timeliness in processing accounts.



Project Leaders  
Tabitha Poore (l) and Nicole Martin

Project leaders Nicole Martin and Tabitha Poore applaud the team effort that made this a successful bank-wide transition. Poore is quick to point out, "It involved personnel from all levels within the bank. Lots of planning and work behind the scenes, plus training all around - just a tremendous effort across the board."

Martin is also adamant about recognizing customers, stating, "Any time change occurs there is a learning curve. Benchmark customers have been fantastic during this transition and we want to thank each and every one for their patience and understanding."

## Scholarship Winners All Smiles!



Tyler Hawks  
Lunenburg Co.



Magdeline Brown  
Mecklenburg Co.



Tiffany Clay  
Nottoway Co.



Madison Gilmore  
Nottoway Co.



Malik Jackson  
Halifax Co.



Anthony Rivas  
Brunswick Co.

Five Southside students were each awarded a \$1,000 StartSmart college scholarship for the 2016-17 school year. With more than 80 worthy students across the area applying, choosing the final recipients was not easy! Rivas received the Virginia Bankers Association \$1,000 award. Congratulations to all! Read more at [bcbonline.com/scholarship](http://bcbonline.com/scholarship).

## Emert Graduates with Honors



On June 9, LeAnne Emert, Senior Vice President for Retail Banking, graduated with distinction from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking.

Emert was one of only seven, out of a class of 60, to earn top honors. Each of the top graduates was awarded a scholarship for their institution to use towards future employee banking education.

Well done, LeAnne; your future looks great!