

Collegiate Sponsor Spotlight

Spencer Savings Bank

In the summer of 2015, Spencer Savings Bank (SSB), a community bank with community service in its DNA, opened a new branch at 200 Campus Town Circle at The College of New Jersey, Ewing Township, New Jersey. Proud of a longstanding 75 year commitment to the well-being of New Jersey, SSB believes that it makes sense not only to serve those on college campuses, but also to provide financial literacy education to those who are too young to be on a college campus.

Spencer has partnered with Everfi, Inc. to bring an award-winning financial literacy program to multiple high school and middle schools throughout New Jersey. Completing a curriculum spanning savings, interest, credit, budgeting and more, students learn the importance of financial planning for the future. The coursework, which is presented as a six-to-eight hour online program, is designed to provide students with the tools and knowledge needed in order to make smart financial decisions. Bank employees visit the classrooms during the year to engage with the students and return at the conclusion to congratulate the students and provide them with certificates of achievement.

“Spencer is very proud to have reached more than 1,400 students during the 2014-2015 academic year” commented Janel Bazih, Vice President and Marketing Manager of Spencer Savings Bank. “It is critical that students understand important aspects of personal finance, such as what a credit score means and how to save for college. This program is empowering them with the skills that will put them on the path to financial success.”



As part of National Financial Literacy Month, Spencer also participates in Teach-Children-to-Save-Day every April. A team of bank employees visit approximately five elementary schools each year to educate the younger students on important topics such as saving, budgeting, banking basics and why it's important to have a bank account. Spencer reaches approximately 500 students each year through this initiative.



A third way that Spencer Savings Bank has been supporting students is through its Scholarship Program. Every year, the bank awards scholarships to graduating middle school and high school students in the towns where Spencer has a branch presence. The bank's program is designed to recognize and encourage those with academic potential as they plan their future educational endeavors. Since the inception of the program in 2002,

more than \$300,000 has been awarded to students from the bank's service area. Spencer, now a 'resident' of Ewing Township, plans to include the high school and the middle school in Ewing in the program this year.

Spencer Savings Bank is widely recognized in the community for all that it does. In early March of 2016, Spencer was named a "Champion of Good Works" by the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) at its recent Chairman's Reception, saluting the generosity of the business community. The award was presented to the bank to commend it on its financial literacy initiatives and for making a difference in the community.

"Educating students through our financial literacy programs is a particularly gratifying and an appropriate way for Spencer to give back to the community," said Ms. Bazih. "A community that hopes to truly grow stronger needs to put an emphasis on education, and financial literacy should be a part of their students' learning experience."

"As a local bank, we have deep roots in the community. At Spencer, we've been helping New Jersey residents and businesses grow for more than 75 years – roots matter, because they mean experience and connection to the community. We have real insight into what makes our communities strong. Most importantly, we are committed to being there when you need us most. At Spencer, we're extremely proud of our long history because it means always being here when you need us – a promise that will continue for years to come. Our community is an amazing place to live and work, and we're honored to be a part of it," commented

José B. Guerrero, Chairman, President and CEO of Spencer Savings Bank.

