



For Immediate Release

## **Community Bank Awards Nearly \$16,000 For Good Grades In 2016**

**JOSEPH, OREGON** – August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The sixth year of Community Bank's Earn While You Learn Program has set an all-time high in cash awards paid to student-customers for their academic success. For the 2016 pay out period, 730 students in the Eastern Oregon and Southeast Washington area cashed in on their good grades. Community Bank's student customers earned a total of \$15,910!

Since the bank's program began in 2011 earnings have steadily increased. In the first year of the Bank's Earn While You Learn Program just five years ago, 190 students were paid \$3,895. A total of \$6,975 was paid to over 275 student-customers in 2012. A big increase occurred the following year with \$11,173 paid out in 2013; \$11,939 to 531 students in 2014. Last year \$12,581 went to 576 students. This year nearly \$16,000 brings the program's grand total of academic award money to \$62,473.

The program is designed to encourage students in their academic success by awarding Community Bank Youth Savings accounts customers for their good grades. During the months of June and July, all Community Bank branches accepted end-of-the-year report cards from students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. For every top grade in a main school subject (A-, A, A+ for middle and high school, and S+, E, etc. for grade school) that appeared on the report card, Community Bank deposited \$1 into their Community Bank Youth Savings Account.

The Earn While You Learn Program is an annual reward of \$1 per top grade, up to \$50 annually per student, with payments given for the whole school year in June and July.

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