New resources for North Dakotans planning for college announced – September 5, 2012

Bismarck – Bank of North Dakota announces two new efforts to help North Dakotans prepare for college: the College Planning Center and the Real DEAL Scholarship.

“The College Planning Center makes local resources and expertise readily available for parents who want to begin planning for their children’s higher education and for anyone who wants assistance in meeting their own higher education goals,” Gov. Dalrymple said.

The College Planning Center is a resource for North Dakotans who have questions about college preparation from cradle to career. Staff members have expertise that covers the spectrum of needs, from opening a College SAVE account for a newborn to completing college applications. Services include a user-friendly website located on Bank of North Dakota’s homepage and staff who are able to answer your questions when you call.

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem states, “Today’s technology that allows everyone to instantaneously share information sometimes makes it difficult to know who is a trusted resource for reliable and unbiased information. I encourage North Dakotans to take advantage of this local resource when they seek answers regarding higher education, whether it is finding money to attend college, determining a career path, or completing a FAFSA.”

The Real DEAL scholarship program is a new opportunity for the state’s high school seniors to obtain funding to attend North Dakota’s colleges. The scholarship guidelines focus on community and school involvement, and require that a student have a 2.5 GPA.

Forty-eight seniors from across the state will receive the Real DEAL scholarship during the upcoming school year. Recipients will be recognized in local newspapers and at local events.

“This is a unique scholarship opportunity for high school seniors,” shares Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “Providing positive recognition for today’s youth benefits them and their communities. It will be exciting to name new recipients every month and honor them in their local communities.”

North Dakotans can visit the College Planning Center at Bank of North Dakota, www.banknd.nd.gov or call 800.554.2717. The Real DEAL scholarship application is available for high school seniors on the College Planning Center website.

In the next year, approximately 9,000 babies will be born in our state, nearly 8,000 young adults will graduate from high school, and over 50,000 people will attend our state’s public and private universities.

Bank of North Dakota president Eric Hardmeyer states, “These programs provide information and support to a large percentage of North Dakotans, from middle school through grandparents. The Bank’s commitment to higher education is essential to develop leaders who support the economy of North Dakota.”

The only state-owned bank in the nation, BND is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota which consists of Gov. Jack Dalrymple as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

-30-