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**FIRST COUNTY BANK RICHARD E. TABER CITIZENSHIP AWARD**  
***APPLICATIONS NOW ONLINE***

**STAMFORD, Conn., February 17, 2015** — The 2015 First County Bank Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award application is now available online. High school seniors can see the information required and apply at **[www.firstcountybank.com/scholarship](http://www.firstcountybank.com/scholarship)**.

The Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award rewards high school seniors residing in lower Fairfield County who are the best overall citizens. Unlike many scholarships based on top academic achievement or athletic ability, this scholarship is weighted towards demonstrated leadership and caring for the community in which we live. The criteria for selection are best defined by the word, C.L.A.S.S. (Citizenship; Leadership; Academics; Service; Sportsmanship). Three \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors in our community, but they must apply before the deadline of April 30, 2015. Each recipient will receive a personalized certificate; a check for \$5,000 will be sent directly to the college of choice; a congratulatory advertisement with photo will appear in the local newspaper; and winners will be prominently displayed with a photo on the bank's website. The finalists will be notified by **the end of May**.

The award was named in honor of Richard E. Taber (Dick) who retired in 2011 from **First County Bank** as Chairman and CEO, and initiated the First County Bank Foundation which he championed during his 40 years at First County Bank. "We award these annual scholarships in Dick's honor, to ensure his legacy of community involvement will be commemorated," said Rey Giallongo, president of First County Bank Foundation, chairman and CEO of First County Bank. "As a community bank and

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nonprofit foundation, we recognize the importance of providing scholarships to deserving high school seniors, and we are proud to help civic-minded students start their college career,” added Giallongo.

### **Candidate Criteria**

The recipient of this award must be a high school senior who has been accepted to an accredited two- or four-year college or university. The recipient will be selected without regard to race, sex, religion or creed. Each candidate must:

- Be a current resident of Stamford, Greenwich, Norwalk, Darien, New Canaan or Westport
- Hold a “B” average or higher during their junior and senior years in high school and be able to provide an admission acceptance document from a two- or four-year college or university
- Be involved in the community
- Provide reference letters from two individuals not related to the candidate. We prefer one letter from each of the following:
  - High school teacher or counselor
  - Community leader/ volunteer program counselor
- Provide an official high school transcript
- Complete a brief essay (not to exceed 1,000 words) describing how the candidate best fits into the definition of “C.L.A.S.S.” (Citizenship; Leadership; Academics; Service; Sportsmanship)
- Complete the online application, available at [www.firstcountybank.com/scholarship](http://www.firstcountybank.com/scholarship)

Employees and directors of First County Bank and their affiliates, subsidiaries, agencies and their respective immediate families (spouse, children, parents and in-laws) are not eligible to apply for the Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award.

First County Bank Foundation officers will review the applications and make a recommendation to the foundation’s board of directors who will select the Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award recipients. The winning candidates will be notified by the end of May.

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First County Bank, headquartered in Stamford, Conn. for more than 160 years, is an independent mutual community bank with 15 branches in Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan, Norwalk and Westport offering deposit products, mortgages, trust and investments services, business banking services, nonprofit banking solutions, and online and mobile banking. First County Bank has more than 220 employees and assets in excess of \$1.4 billion. For additional information, please visit [www.firstcountybank.com](http://www.firstcountybank.com). Become a fan by clicking "Like" on the Bank's [Facebook](#) page. Follow it on [Twitter](#) or look for First County Bank on [LinkedIn](#).

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