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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Three High School Seniors Each Win \$5,000 Scholarships  
From Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award**

**STAMFORD, Conn., June 16, 2014** — Three high school seniors are recent recipients of the Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award administered by the First County Bank Foundation. This annual award honors high school students living in lower Fairfield County who consistently demonstrate good citizenship at school, at home and in the community. The program awards scholarships to three deserving students and is designed to recognize and encourage young people who are honest, hard-working, helpful and fair. Each year, the foundation accepts student applications from Jan. 1 to April 30. Winners are notified in May.

Each of the following students were awarded a \$5,000 scholarship from the First County Bank Foundation for being recognized as outstanding citizens in their communities: **Casey Bang from Staples High School in Westport** will attend Boston College where she will explore a variety of interests, **Claire Howlett from Westhill High School in Stamford** will attend Stanford University where she will major in Public Policy focusing on Human Rights and International Development with a minor in Statistics, **Lila Sferlazza from Norwalk High School in Norwalk** will attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where she will major in Architecture. The scholarship money will be applied toward their college education. The award is named after Richard E. Taber who retired as chairman and CEO of First County Bank in March 2011. It is in recognition of Taber's 40-plus-year career at the bank and innumerable contributions to the community through the First County Bank Foundation.



Bottom from left: **Casey Bang, Staples High School, Lila Sferlazza, Norwalk High School, and Claire Howlett, Westhill High School, are recipients of the Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award scholarship which is administered by First County Bank Foundation.** Top from left: **Richard E. Taber**, retired president of First County Bank Foundation and retired chairman & CEO of First County Bank; **Katherine Harris**, vice president of First County Bank Foundation and president & COO of First County Bank; **Reyno A. Giallongo, Jr.**, president of First County Foundation and chairman & CEO of First County Bank.

“The Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award provides scholarships to exceptional graduating high school seniors who exemplify good citizenship and service to our local communities,” said Rey Giallongo, chairman and CEO of First County Bank, and president of the foundation. “First County Bank Foundation values these character traits in others and demonstrates them through its support of nonprofit organizations providing community and economic development for children and families. We are excited to present scholarships to these amazing students knowing that we are supporting future leaders with a heart toward service.

“The achievements of these young adults in the realms of citizenship, leadership, academics, service and sportsmanship are being honored with this award,” said Richard Taber, a member of the board of directors at First County Bank. “I am very proud to have my name associated with three such generous and talented young adults.”



When asked about receiving the award, **Lila Sferlazza** said, "I got the call from Mr. Giallongo and I was so surprised and excited. It made me feel proud to be selected to get the scholarship and I'm pleased to have the award so I can help contribute to my tuition. This fall, I'll be studying architecture because I enjoy math and art, and this major combines both my interests. My future plans include joining an architecture firm or extending college to a 5 year program then starting my own architecture business." This fall Lila will be studying architecture at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

**Casey Bang**, who will attend Boston College Lynch School of Education in Massachusetts, said, "I received the call while watching TV and saw a call come in on the screen from First County Bank. I freaked out thinking they were rejecting me. I was very surprised when I heard from Mr. Giallongo that I was awarded a scholarship. I'm interested in studying psychology and plan to explore human services or counselling." Her mom added that she was, "very pleasantly surprised too. For Casey, community work has always come first and she has an internship at the Jewish Senior Center which she enjoys. Getting the scholarship from the First County Bank Foundation will help off-set the high cost of tuition. We are very appreciative that Casey was recognized in this way."

"When I got the call from First County Bank Foundation, I was so excited. I am truly honored and grateful. First County Bank means a lot to me and I am so thankful for this scholarship which will really help with the cost of attending Stanford University in California, which is so far away," said **Claire Howlett**. "I am interested in studying public policy, international relations and US and world politics."

The Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award does not seek to salute star scholastic or athletic performers, but 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. (**C**itizenship; **L**eadership; **A**cademics; **S**ervice; **S**portsmanship)

Each recipient receives a personalized certificate; a check for \$5,000 sent directly to the school of choice; a congratulatory advertisement will appear in the local newspaper, including a photo; and winners will be prominently displayed with a photo on First County Bank's website.



Established in 2001 in honor of the bank's 150th anniversary, the First County Bank Foundation was created to distribute funds annually to nonprofit organizations that support community and economic development for children and families. As a mutual bank with no shareholders, First County Bank considers contributions made by the foundation a means of paying dividends back to the local communities it serves.

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 investment services, business banking services and online banking. First County Bank has more than 220 employees and assets in excess of \$1.3 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 at <http://www.facebook.com/firstcountybank>. Follow the bank on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/firstcountybank> or look for First County Bank on LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/company/920207>.

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