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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Three High School Seniors Each Awarded \$5,000 Scholarships  
From Richard E. Taber Citizenship Award  
Administered by First County Bank Foundation**

**STAMFORD, Conn., June 29, 2015** — 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 January 1 to April 30. The recipients were notified in May. 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.

Each of the following students were chosen to receive a \$5,000 scholarship: **Tobias Orellana** from Greenwich High School will attend Eastern CT State University where he will major in Business, Finance and Accounting; **Thomas Rainone** from Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk will attend University of New Haven where he will major in Criminal Justice - Law Enforcement, **Emery Tedesco** from Trinity Catholic High School in Stamford will attend University of Delaware where she will major in Elementary Education.



Bottom from left: **Tobias Orellana, Greenwich High School, Emery Tedesco, Trinity Catholic High School, and Thomas Rainone, Brien McMahon 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; **Karen M. Kelly**, vice president of First County Bank Foundation and senior vice president & CMO 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 regard to their 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 altruistic and talented young adults.”

When asked about receiving the award, **Emery Tedesco** from Stamford said, “I got the call from Mr. Giallongo and I was really surprised and very happy. The award will help a lot with tuition. My goal is to be an elementary school teacher and I will be attending the University of Delaware.”

“**Tobias Orellana** from Greenwich said he received the early morning call from Mr. Giallongo and simply said ‘awesome’”. He went on to say, “The award is really important to help with college expenses.” He will be going to study Finance and Accounting at Eastern Connecticut State University.

“When I got the call from First County Bank Foundation, I was so excited. I am very grateful,” said **Thomas Rainone** from Norwalk. “This award really helps a lot with my plans to attend the University of New Haven to study to become a police officer. After that I’d like to possibly join the FBI – so this is a great first step.”

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 163 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 \$1.4 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 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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