

2024

Excellence & Innovation FORVIS Award

Presented by CBAI

For Member Banks of the Community Bankers Association of Illinois

Dear CBAI Member:

Community banks work hard to succeed in today's challenging environment. FORVIS and the Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) recognize your efforts. That's why we created the Excellence & Innovation FORVIS Award presented by CBAI. Now in its 26th year, the award honors the best ideas developed by Illinois community banks and thrifts.

Nominations should showcase how banks demonstrate key factors that contribute to their success in today's environment: exemplary performance, community leadership, and entrepreneurial spirit. We've chosen previous winners for their successful philanthropic efforts, targeted community improvement projects, or innovative products and creative marketing support.

The 2024 winner will be recognized as a community leader and top Illinois financial institution at CBAI's 50th Annual Convention & Expo and will receive \$1,000 to donate to the charity of its choice. We look forward to receiving your nomination!

Sincerely,



Gary Genenbacher, Partner
FORVIS



Kraig Lounsberry, President
Community Bankers Association of Illinois

FORVIS®



The Award

The 2024 Excellence & Innovation FORVIS Award presented by CBAI recognizes CBAI member banks that go above and beyond to demonstrate their commitment to their customers, employees, shareholders, and the community through innovative outreach programs.

Since 1999, CBAI and FORVIS have honored financial institutions for their efforts to build a healthy future for themselves and their communities by developing an innovative way to serve customers or enhance corporate citizenship. By giving this award, we strive to:

- Encourage CBAI members to improve their performance and contribute to the growth and success of their communities
- Generate new ideas and programs for customers, employees, shareholders, and the community
- Raise awareness of what's necessary for success

Previous Winners

2023

Beardstown Savings in Beardstown, IL, was the recipient of the 2023 Award for their community project, "Banking the WHOLE Community." With a very diverse community in a small, rural area, they were determined to bridge the gap between all ages, all backgrounds, and at all levels of banking. One of the strains of having a diverse community is working with a language barrier, and it was becoming increasingly difficult for both the bank customers and the bank staff to effectively communicate. With this barrier in mind, Beardstown Savings came up with the idea to partner with World Wide Tech Connections to offer a robust translation service to their customers. This service can be used on any mobile device, desktop, or phone. Thanks to this innovative idea, the bank has essentially eliminated the communication barrier for their current and prospective customers and built a system where any staff member can serve the customer.

2022

The First National Bank in Tremont and the village of New Holland worked together on a large project for the village of New Holland's downtown. The project consisted of a newly constructed bank building located on Route 10, relocating the current village offices, community center, and historical society, and the donation of a building in between the old bank building and the new bank location. The bank donated their old bank building to the village of New Holland, along with a \$20,000 grant they received from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, to help pay the remodeling costs of the project for the village. The donated building is the new home for the village offices, the New Holland Community Center, and the New Holland Historical Society. The village's previous location was too large a space for them and very costly to maintain. The former hardware store, located next to the former bank building, was also donated to the village by the New Holland Development Foundation for further downtown revitalization.

2021

Marquette Bank, Orland Park, was recognized as the 2021 award recipient for its program: "We're in this Together: Pandemic Response – Supporting Local Restaurants & Recognizing Essential Workers." With local restaurants hurting due to the pandemic closures and essential workers risking themselves to serve their communities, Marquette Bank purchased meals and gift cards for hospitals, police stations, and fire stations to support both local businesses and help hometown heroes in such difficult times. In all, the bank purchased more than \$98,000 of meals and gift cards from local restaurants. It also coordinated emergency pandemic funds for community partners and hosted six mobile drive-thru food pantries at its branch locations, which resulted in more than 6,000 30-pound boxes of food to feed local families in need.

2024 Award Ceremony

We will announce the winner during CBAI's 50th Annual Convention & Expo, which will be held September 19–21, 2024 in Springfield, Illinois. The winning institution will receive a \$1,000 prize to donate to the charity of its choice as well as an award symbolizing its innovation and excellence.

Deadline & Judges

Nominations must be received by Friday, May 31, 2024.
CBAI will choose a panel of judges to review entries and select a winner.



**Scan the QR code to
find the nomination form
and submit your support-
ing documents today!**

Eligibility

Any CBAI member bank or thrift can participate. The award honors institutions for developing innovative products or services or for serving the community while achieving financial success. Examples of potential nominees include:

- A new deposit product and marketing program for senior citizens that results in significant growth
- Internet-banking innovations that help local businesses flourish
- A community restoration program that re-establishes a thriving neighborhood or district

You do not need to be a client of FORVIS to enter.

Nominations will be judged by overall quality and initiative contribution. Any CBAI member bank or thrift member, shareholder, or customer may nominate an institution, and institutions are encouraged to nominate themselves. As many as three programs showcasing an institution's innovation or service excellence may be submitted.

Entries must include the completed nomination form and samples of representative promotional material, if applicable. Photographs, videos, and other media are encouraged, but not required.

For More Information

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forvis.com

Performance | Leadership | Philanthropy | Innovation | Community

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FORV/S®



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