



The 2020 Community Bankers School Has Been Postponed

For the last several months, CBAI has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. After careful consideration regarding the health and safety of our bankers, faculty and staff, CBAI has made the difficult decision to postpone the Community Bankers School and will reconvene in July 2021.

Since the inception of the School in 1987, time and time again, graduates reminisce about the lifelong friendships they make while working in teams on their lending case, the simulation or studying for their exams. This is what makes the Community Bankers School unique. Unfortunately, this is exactly why it's so difficult to hold the School during this unprecedented pandemic. It is essential to work in teams for these cases and simulation, yet social distancing requirements will undoubtedly impede interactions and the full learning experience which makes the School so special.

With Illinois holding in Phase 3 until at least June 26 and unsure if it will be moved into Phase 4 which limits gatherings to 50 people, we are unable to wait to make this decision to hold the School with the start date of July 12, 2020, rapidly approaching.

Finally, some students and faculty members have contacted CBAI in recent days to let us know they are unable to travel to attend the School due to travel bans instituted by their banks and firms. Other bankers are unable to attend due to additional work requirements at their bank such as PPP loans, mortgage refi's and working in split shifts due to the pandemic. With a weeklong School and instruction beginning at 8:00 a.m. and essentially ending at 8 p.m., going completely virtual for instruction for this type of program simply isn't viable.

The School will be rescheduled for July 11-16, 2021, at Illinois Wesleyan University. If you are a student currently registered for Class I or Class II, you will be emailed a separate correspondence.

Please know that this is not a decision that CBAI has taken lightly and we are deeply disappointed that we are unable to conduct the Community Bankers School in 2020. We look forward to being back at Illinois Wesleyan University and holding the School in 2021!