



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Axiom Bank® Makes \$300,000 Contribution to Step Up for Students

Donation will help about 50 K-12 scholars attend the Florida school of their choice

MAITLAND, FL (April 14, 2016) – Axiom Bank, a federally chartered community bank, today announced a first-time contribution of \$300,000 to the Step Up For Students Scholarship Program, providing educational options to financially-disadvantaged Florida schoolchildren.

Axiom Bank’s contribution will provide about 50 scholarships this year through the nonprofit organization that helps administer the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship. The program is funded by corporations through dollar-for-dollar tax credited donations.

“We are proud to invest in the education of Florida’s youth, knowing that we are helping to create a stronger community,” said Dan Davis, Axiom Bank president and CEO. “Families want choices, and we are pleased to support Step Up For Students as it helps financially disadvantaged children attend the schools that best meets their learning needs.”

Step Up For Students has awarded nearly 78,000 scholarships to low-income students for the 2015-16 school year, with tuition scholarships valued up to \$5,677 per student. More than 1,600 private schools participate in the scholarship program statewide. Scholars may choose a \$500 scholarship to offset the cost of transportation to an out-of-county public school.

“We are grateful to corporate partners like Axiom Bank who recognize the value of educational choice and who support our mission to ensure that all Florida students have access to learning environments that suit their individual needs,” said Doug Tuthill, Step Up For Students president. “We are thankful for Axiom Bank’s commitment to the communities they serve.”

About Axiom Bank

Axiom Bank, headquartered in Central Florida, is a federally chartered community bank that serves the financial needs of its customers through a wide range of financial products. Axiom Bank provides retail banking services, including checking, deposit, and money market accounts, through 20 branch locations, 19 of which are inside select Walmart Supercenters®. Axiom Bank also specializes in commercial loans for both real estate and business purposes, as well as treasury management and other merchant services. In addition to those services, Axiom Bank sponsors prepaid debit card programs offered by third-party program managers. As part of the company's commitment to exceed customers' expectations and deliver superior financial solutions, Axiom Bank is constantly working to expand the services and products they provide to the communities they serve.

For more information, visit: www.axiombanking.com. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

About Step Up For Students

Step Up For Students is a nonprofit organization that helps manage the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Students who qualify for free-or reduced-price lunch, or those who are homeless or in foster or out-of-home care, may qualify. Since 2001, Step Up has awarded nearly 480,000 scholarships.

Step Up also helps administer the state-funded Gardiner Scholarship, formerly known as Personal Learning Scholarship Accounts (PLSA), for Florida students with certain special needs. With the Gardiner Scholarship, recipients may use the funds for a variety of approved services including private tutoring, occupational therapy, instructional materials and other services.

For more information, visit: <http://www.StepUpForStudents.org>.

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