

For Immediate Release

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**State of Wisconsin Commends Fox Valley Savings Bank's
Financial Literacy Work with Students**

(FOND DU LAC)—The financial literacy efforts of Fox Valley Savings Bank recently were noted by the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions. Personal Economics Coordinator Monica Walk received a letter of congratulations for achieving the Wisconsin Bankers Association Financial Literacy Banker of the Year award.

“Financial Literacy is a life skill and gives people the tools they need to achieve their dreams. The work you do to provide financial literacy education in schools goes a long way toward making Wisconsin a better place to live and work,” said the letter co-signed by Department of Financial Institutions Secretary Peter Bildsten and Office of Financial Literacy Director David Mancl.

“We are very pleased to have Monica’s work acknowledged by the State of Wisconsin,” said Fox Valley Savings Bank President and CEO James Rothenbach, who also received a copy of the letter. “Monica knows how to interact with students across a wide range of ages, and she does an outstanding job of explaining economic concepts to children in ways that they can understand. Our aim is to collaborate with teachers to help students build good financial habits from an early age, and teacher feedback tells us we are doing this.”

Walk reports to FVSB Assistant Vice President for Marketing Kirsten Quam, who surveys teachers after classroom visits.

“We get such positive feedback about Monica’s work with students,” Quam said. “Teachers regularly report that she is a knowledgeable presenter and her materials are age-appropriate. And, we also receive comments like, ‘A real treasure,’ ‘I love the way she has our students engaged in the lesson,’ and ‘Monica’s ability to relate to children is what makes your program uniquely different.’ Monica is welcomed into many classrooms, and we believe she really is helping children understand the concepts of saving and careful spending.”

This is Walk’s fifth year providing financial literacy presentations in area classrooms as a public service on behalf of Fox Valley Savings Bank. The in-class lessons support Common Core Standards and are targeted to grade level, ranging from Kindergarten through Grade 8. The presentations are sponsored by Fox Valley Savings Bank, in partnership with the Wisconsin Bankers Association, at no cost to the school or district. Walk also participates in Junior Achievement lessons as a representative of the bank.

Walk previously earned the WBA top literacy award in 2010-11, and was among the organization’s top three honored literacy presenters in 2009-10 and 2011-12.

“I use my own training in education to ensure the lessons are dynamic, interactive and age-appropriate,” said Walk, who draws on a long career as a professional communicator and an M.Ed. degree in Curriculum and Instruction earned from Loyola University Chicago. “I appreciate the acknowledgement of my work by the state. But, it’s the teachers who invite me into their classrooms each year who really validate my work. I appreciate their trust and

confidence in our collaboration. And the students also let me know I am making a difference in their lives: the Kindergarteners I visited when I began teaching these classes are in fourth grade now, and so many of them remember me. They also remember the lessons and activities we did together in the past, and that helps us continue to build their skills and knowledge.”

Fox Valley Savings Bank has been providing Fond du Lac, Waupun and Oshkosh, WI, banking customers with quality services since 1934. Fox Valley Savings Bank is a local bank: This means quick, local decision-making and true community partnership. The bank continues to enhance and expand its banking services with nearly 80 years of strength in serving the mortgage and personal banking needs of its communities.

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