

# MARQUETTE BANK

## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*  
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## Marquette Bank Supports Local Financial Education Essay Contest

*Neighborhood bank offers incentives, encourages positive saving habits*

Orland Park, IL (September 21, 2009) – The recent economic downturn has highlighted the need for better financial literacy in America, particularly among youth who have the opportunity to start forming good financial habits at a young age. It is with this concern in mind that Marquette Bank, a locally-owned neighborhood bank, has offered to lend their support to X’ernona Woods, author of *Save That Penny For A Sunny Day*.

To promote smart savings habits among Chicago youth, Woods is organizing the “Save Now or Pay Later” essay contest open to all Chicago Public School students grades five through eight. To enter the contest, students submit essays on the importance of learning financial literacy now, instead of waiting until they are an adult. Essays can be sent directly to X’ernona Woods (xernona@gmail.com) who will review each essay and select winners. The contest opened August 24 and will run through October 31, 2009.

Four contest winners – one from each grade level – will be notified through their school and awarded a \$50 prize, thanks to contributions by local sponsors. To encourage saving their prize money, Marquette Bank is offering a special opportunity to contest winners. Winning students can open a new Marquette Bank YoungMarq Savings Account and when they deposit their \$50 prize money, the Bank will match the deposit up to \$50. Marquette Bank is also extending the \$50 Savings Match offer to all local students who enter the contest. Participating students will be sent a \$50 Savings Certificate redeemable at any Marquette Bank branch.

“We’re thrilled to be working with X’ernona Woods on the ‘Save Now or Pay Later’ essay contest,” said Betty Kosky-Harn, Executive Vice President of Retail Banking. “As a neighborhood bank, we feel strongly about spreading financial literacy and promoting the early adoption of smart savings habits among local students.”

Marquette Bank will host an award presentation on Saturday, November 11, 2009, at 11 A.M., at the Evergreen Park branch, 9335 South Kedzie Ave. for the winners of the contest.

Secretary of State, Jesse White will be on hand to speak and congratulate each of the four contest winners. The public and members of the media are welcome to attend.

For more information about Marquette Bank visit: [www.emarquettebank.com](http://www.emarquettebank.com).

### ***About X’ernona Woods***

X’ernona Woods is an educator, counselor and author dedicated to educating youth in entrepreneurship, finances and budgeting. Ms. Woods is based in Chicago and has presented at the following professional conferences: Chicago’s Federal Reserve Money Smart Week; 2009 Presenter for Global Alliance of Teachers Economics Annual Conference; National Black Women Expo Presenter of “Save That Penny For A Sunny”; Presenter for Mayor Daley’s Spring Book Conference 2008; National Black Women Expo 2009 Conference and performed local financial literacy workshops at schools and libraries.

### ***About Marquette Bank:***

Marquette National Corporation is a \$1.6 billion diversified financial holding company for Marquette Bank. Marquette Bank has been a locally-operated bank providing personalized banking service since 1945. Marquette Bank is a full-service, customer-focused neighborhood bank that serves the financial needs of Chicagoland communities, offering an extensive line of financial products including retail banking, mortgages, trust and business banking, free Online Bill Pay and free Automated Telephone Banking. Marquette Bank’s retail branches are located in Chicago, Aurora, Bolingbrook, Bridgeview, Evergreen Park, Hickory Hills, Lemont, New Lenox, Oak Lawn, Oak Forest, Orland Park, Romeoville and Summit, Illinois. Marquette Bank customers have convenient free access to almost 40,000 Allpoint and Starsf ATMs.

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