



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 5, 2013

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## **CONSUMERS NATIONAL PLEDGES \$25,000 TO KENT STATE UNIVERSITY'S RURAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM**

*Minerva, Ohio*—Consumers National Bank announced today that it has pledged \$25,000 toward Kent State University's Rural Scholar Program—a college access program designed to assist first-generation college-bound students from Columbiana County—according to President and CEO Ralph J. Lober, II, at Consumers.

“Consumers is pleased to support the Lisbon students’ participation in the Rural Scholars Program. It is an exceptional educational plan that matches our interest in education and our goal to make a difference in the communities we serve. The Rural Scholar Program will allow more young people and families across Columbiana County to identify with the opportunities available through higher education. The Kent State University Administration, faculty, and students are excited about and committed to this program. We share their enthusiasm and commitment and hope that the bank’s involvement will spur additional community awareness and support for the Rural Scholars Program,” said Lober.

Dr. Stephen Nameth, dean of the Columbiana County campuses, expressed his appreciation for the financial support of Consumers National Bank, noting that whole communities will benefit. “The impact of this contribution will be felt for years to come. As these students reach their potential and achieve their goals, their families and our communities will be the benefactors,” he said. “Kent State University is committed to these students and we want to see them grow into successful professionals. Knowing that Consumers shares this vision means so much and helps validate this program.”

This is the first year that Lisbon students have participated, largely because of additional financial support from the community, particularly Consumers National Bank. “Consumers’ generous contribution means that more than half of Columbiana County school districts are now able to offer their students participation in the Rural Scholars program,” program coordinator Wendy Pfrenger noted. “This additional funding ensures that we will be able to offer the students a greater range of quality workshops and ongoing support from their college mentors. We are so grateful.”

Kent State University's Rural Scholars Program offers first-generation college-bound students from Columbiana County a college access program designed to give them and their families the knowledge, rigorous academic exposure, and social support they will need to succeed at a world-class university. The program’s goal is for every student who participates to complete post-secondary education with the credentials necessary to succeed in his or her career.

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Consumers National Bank is an independent community bank that provides a comprehensive line of banking and other investment services to business and personal customers through its main office in Minerva, and branches in Alliance, Canton, Carrollton, East Canton, Hanoverton, Hartville, Lisbon, Louisville, Malvern, Salem, and Waynesburg, Ohio. More information about Consumers National Bank can be accessed online at [www.ConsumersBank.com](http://www.ConsumersBank.com). Member FDIC.

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Photo ID: (Front, from left): Beth Beverly, mentor; Lisbon students Kylee Culler, Hannah DeLand, Tori Mayer and Morgan Briand; Mike Miller, mentor; (Back, from left): Melody Allison, Lisbon Schools counselor; Wendy Pfrenger, Rural Scholars program coordinator; Raph Lober, Consumers National Bank president and CEO; Vicki Hall, Consumers AVP, Business Development Officer; Dawn Chepke, Consumers Manager & Loan Officer-Lisbon; Laurie McClellan, Consumers Chairman of the Board; Steve Nameth, dean of Kent State at Salem and East Liverpool; and Joe Siefke, Lisbon Schools principal.

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