



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: James Companion
Ph: 304.639.1238
Email: james@ssmlc.com

FIRST COMMONWEALTH® TO FUND TEN SCHOLARSHIPS BENEFITING WESTERN AND CENTRAL PA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Indiana, PA (November 26, 2009) – **First Commonwealth** is pleased to announce the launch of its second annual scholarship program for western and central Pennsylvania high school seniors scheduled to graduate in 2010. The **First Commonwealth “Time to be First” Athletic Scholarship**, has been established in conjunction with the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) as a means of recognizing and rewarding the good work of those well-rounded students. The scholarship program, co-sponsored by **Trib Total Media**, recognizes student-athletes demonstrating success in the classroom, the community and in their athletic endeavors.

Altogether, First Commonwealth will award ten (10) \$1,000 scholarships to area student-athletes. The contest is open to all area seniors who are participating in any athletic program. The scholarships will be awarded to those student-athletes who best describe why it is *their* time to be first – first at college, first in community involvement and first in athletics.

The First Commonwealth “Time to be First” Scholarship Program is an extension of the company’s commitment to supporting community high schools and their students, which includes being the Official Financial Institution of the WPIAL and sponsorship of many individual high schools in the region.

“First Commonwealth is a hometown bank with a passion for our communities and the people we serve throughout western & central PA. Sponsoring the area's outstanding student athletes and their high school athletic programs is an outstanding fit,” said Mike Price, President – First Commonwealth Bank. “We are proud to be a part of this dynamic scholarship program, especially during these tough economic times. We look forward to a long partnership with the WPIAL.”

A committee of First Commonwealth executives and community members will select the 10 “Time to be First” Scholarship winners. All applications will be judged on creativity, originality, and the overall story, as described by the student in a 500-word essay.

Interested candidates should go to www.fcbanking.com or www.WPIAL.com for an application. The deadline for entries is April 2, 2010. The “Time to be First” Scholarship winners will be notified on May 28, 2010.

ABOUT FIRST COMMONWEALTH

First Commonwealth Financial Corporation is a \$6.5 billion bank holding company headquartered in Indiana, PA. It operates 115 retail branch offices in 15 counties in western and central Pennsylvania through First Commonwealth Bank, a Pennsylvania chartered bank and trust company. Financial services and insurance products are also provided through First Commonwealth Insurance Agency and First Commonwealth Financial Advisors, Inc.