



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FIRSTTRUST BANK OFFERS \$70,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS DURING ITS 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SAMUEL A. GREEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

*Scholarships Awarded for Exceptional Videos and Written Essays*

**CONSHOHOCKEN, PA, (February 11, 2008)** – Firsttrust Bank announced today a call for written and video essays for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program. Each year Firsttrust Bank awards \$70,000 to local high school seniors for their creative response to the essay topic, “How my college education will help me to cultivate prosperity in my community.” In the spirit of Firsttrust Founder Samuel A. Green, the scholarship program encourages students to pursue their education and fulfill their life dreams.

“Every year I am impressed with the level of creativity applied to each video and written essay,” said Richard J. Green, CEO of Firsttrust Bank. “Last year we added the highly successful video essay category to contemporize our competition and we look forward to continuing this aspect of the contest again this year. Attracting applicants from more than 300 area schools, our essay competition is designed for students to make their voices heard in their community and to lessen the financial burden of paying for a four-year college education.”

Last year’s grand prize written essay by Maria Kaufman of Philadelphia, detailed the daily escalation of violence in her hometown so she drew on her aspiration to pursue a career in medicine that would ultimately help her local community. Claudia Leung, Voorhees, NJ, was awarded the first-ever top honor for her video essay about time spent in Katrina-devastated Louisiana, and the lack of social services for troubled children.

For this year’s contest, students must submit a hard copy of their written essay or a video script to Firsttrust Bank to be considered. Submissions will be judged in one of two categories: written essay or video presentation. There will be two grand prize scholarships for \$10,000 each; one for essay submission and the other for video submission. Additional scholarships will be awarded in the following tiers in each category: second place, \$5,000; third place, \$5,000; fourth place, 15 winners of \$1,000 scholarships.

**Applying for the Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program**

*Video Submission:* Students may submit a short video between three and five minutes using a script no longer than 250 words. Students may choose to record a dramatic interpretation of their essay using a camera phone or video camera. To submit a video, upload files to [www.FirsttrustSAGscholarship.com](http://www.FirsttrustSAGscholarship.com).

*Written Essay Submission:* Students may submit a hard copy of their essay in 250 words or less at any Firsttrust branch or may mail submissions to Firsttrust SAG Scholarship Program, 15 East Ridge Pike, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Conshohocken, PA 19428.

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Only one essay will be judged per student in either the written or video category. Students may not be considered for a scholarship in more than one category.

All high school seniors are eligible to use a Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program Scholarship towards a four-year college or university.

All applications must be received by March 15, 2008, and scholarship winners will be announced by May 1, 2008.

Applications are available at all Firstrust community banking locations or may be downloaded at [www.firstrust.com](http://www.firstrust.com).

In addition to utilizing a Samuel A. Green Scholarship, Firstrust also offers the following alternative options to pay for college: Federal Keystone Best Stafford Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan, Federal Keystone PLUS Loan, The Astrive® Alliance™ Student Loan, Firstrust Home Equity Loan and Lines of Credit or Firstrust Unsecured Personal Term Loans and Lines of Credit.

### **About The Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program**

The Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program was named in loving memory of Firstrust Founder Samuel A. Green, who was a staunch believer in encouraging young people to pursue their education and fulfill their life dreams. In the spirit of his legacy, the Program has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to more than 900 students. Last year's scholarship winners were chosen from more than 300 applicants from the region. To learn more about the Samuel A. Green Scholarship Program, please visit [www.firstrust.com/scholarship](http://www.firstrust.com/scholarship).

### **About Firstrust Bank**

Founded in 1934 and currently in its third generation of ownership, Firstrust is a privately-held bank with assets of \$2.2 billion. Firstrust is a Small Business Administration (SBA) preferred lender, and provides both retail and commercial services through its 25 banking offices located in Bucks, Burlington, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. Continuing to meet the needs of its customers, Firstrust offers a wide variety of deposit products, consumer and business loan options, commercial real estate mortgages and cash-management products. For more information, visit [www.firstrust.com](http://www.firstrust.com) or call 800-220-BANK (2265).

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