

Charter One announces TruFit Good Citizen Scholarships™

Applications for college scholarships rewarding community service due by Sept. 16

Scholarship program offers financial assistance in time for second semester

SOUTHFIELD, MI – Charter One today announced a call for applications for its TruFit Good Citizen Scholarship™ program offering scholarships up to \$7,500 to students whose volunteer efforts have made a difference in their communities. The program is open to high school seniors and current college students attending or planning to attend a federally accredited four-year college.

“We created this scholarship program as a way to reward those students who have invested their time and energy in making their communities better places to live,” Sandy Pierce, President, Charter One, Michigan. “As a bank that provides student loans to thousands of students across the country every year and whose colleagues have made community service one of our core values, we are excited by this opportunity to offer college scholarships to students who share our commitment to local communities.”

Twenty scholarships totaling \$50,000 will be awarded to students who reside in or plan to attend college. One winner will receive \$7,500; four winners each will receive \$5,000; and 15 winners each will receive \$1,500.

Applicants are asked to write an essay of no more than 500 words or to tape a 90-second video explaining the responsibility and leadership skills they have exhibited through their community service experience. For full details and to apply, go to www.charterone.com/scholarship. **The application deadline is September 16, 2011 and winners will be announced in November 2011.** Charter One chose this timing for the TruFit Good Citizen Scholarship in part to help students who may find themselves with funding gaps leading into the second semester.

As part of its commitment to helping students finance their education, Charter One recently announced that its TruFit Student Loan® product now is available with a new fixed rate, giving students peace of mind in knowing how much their monthly payments will be when they start to repay their loans. There are no origination fees associated with the loan and interest rates are as low as 6.75 percent APR. Although students have the ability to qualify solely, they are encouraged to apply with a qualified cosigner to increase their chances of receiving the lowest interest rate possible.

Charter One customers also are eligible for cash rewards and other incentives as they save money for college through the bank’s CollegeSaver and GoalTrack Savings programs. In addition, college students are eligible for other rewards and special benefits through the bank’s Student Money Bundle program.

For more information about these and other Charter One programs, go to www.charteronebank.com.