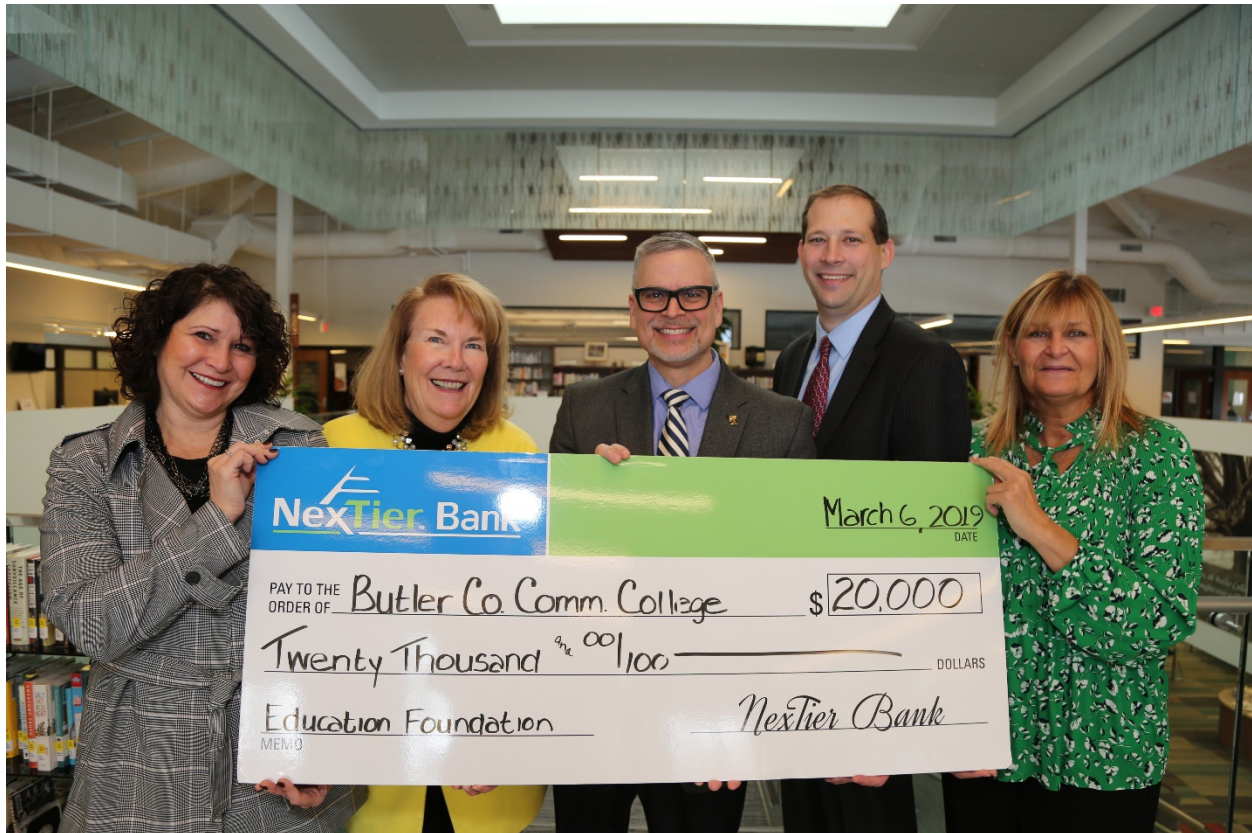


NexTier's \$20K gift to BC3 to aid programs for pupils, high school students

March 19, 2019



NexTier Bank on March 6 gifted \$20,000 to the Butler County Community College Education Foundation. Pictured in the Heaton Family Learning Commons on BC3's main campus in Butler Township are, from left, Maria W. Amoruso, NexTier Bank's chief marketing officer; Ruth Purcell, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation; Dr. Nick Neupauer, president of BC3; Clem Rosenberger, president and CEO of NexTier Bank; and Carol Achezinski, chair of the BC3 Education Foundation board of directors.

(Butler, PA) NexTier Bank's \$20,000 gift to the Butler County Community College Education Foundation will benefit BC3's College Within the High School and College Pathways programs, and BC3's Center for Economic Education, which promotes the understanding of economic concepts through education in grades K-12.

"We are proud to support the BC3 Education Foundation," said Maria W. Amoruso, NexTier Bank's chief marketing officer. "We value the partnership we have with BC3 and appreciate the programs they offer to help improve and enrich our local communities. BC3 is helping to prepare our youth for personal success and to be productive and contributing members of society."

NexTier's gift – made through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program – will help to fund BC3's College Within the High School program, which is specifically designed for college-bound high school students who have demonstrated a strong academic performance by the end of their freshman year.

More than 425 students this spring are enrolled in nearly 50 classes at 21 sites in seven counties, according to Erin Cioffi, BC3's assistant director of high school programming. More than 75 high school sophomores through seniors are taking BC3 courses either in face-to-face classes or online this spring through BC3's College Pathways program, Cioffi said.

BC3's College Within the High School opportunity is important, said Dr. Nick Neupauer, BC3's president, because it “allows high school students to earn college credits while in their respective high schools. This donation from NextTier will assist those students as well as help us to continue to offer such an important program. NextTier has been a longtime partner with the college. This most recent gift is an incredible continuation of that support.”

BC3's Center for Economic Education administers Stock Market Games that introduce pupils to financial literacy. Students participating in the game receive a hypothetical \$100,000, make buy-and-trade decisions and track how those decisions would have played out in the markets had they been real.

More than 880 students on 297 teams in 21 school districts from five counties are playing BC3's 10-week spring Stock Market Game, according to David Huseman, director of BC3's Center for Economic Education and a professor of humanities and social sciences.

Students participating in the Stock Market Game “learn not only about economics and about how capitalism works, but also how to work as a team,” said Ruth Purcell, executive director of the BC3 Education Foundation. “They get a hypothetical \$100,000 and they have to invest it. They have to do teamwork. They have to reach agreements. There are all sorts of benefits in addition to learning about economics.”

NexTier Bank and BC3, Amoruso said, “have a long history of working together to improve our communities and provide opportunities for our youth to gain important financial literacy and life skills. We appreciate the commitment that BC3 has made to not only continue, but grow these programs.”

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program provides tax credits to eligible businesses that contribute financially to a scholarship, to educational improvement or to a pre-kindergarten scholarship organization.