

Beal Bank

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Students to Begin Receiving Beal Bank Scholarships Awarded in 1998

1998 “Odyssey of the Mind” world champions from Plano’s Brinker Elementary reunite before college

Plano, TX— In June 1998 a team of seven 4th-graders from Brinker Elementary School in the Plano (TX) Independent School District were crowned world champions of “Odyssey of the Mind,” an international academic program designed to encourage team-building and creative problem-solving. To honor the dedication and success of those students, Beal Bank, at a 1998 reception in the Bank’s lobby, awarded a \$5,000 scholarship trust to each student, to be used upon high school graduation to help fund a college education.

Eight short years later, the members of the Brinker Elementary Odyssey of the Mind team – (*from left in accompanying then-and-now photos*) Mike Graham, Jackie Koch, Peter Chen, Chelsea Goldstein, Anna Gorman, Reilly Milton, and Drew Higbee – have graduated from high school and are eligible to begin drawing on their scholarships. On May 9, at a Brinker Elementary Reunion, the OM team assembled once more with Molly Curl, Senior Vice President of Beal Bank. “When these kids won the Odyssey of the Mind competition, our founder, Andy Beal, a strong supporter of excellence in science and mathematics, was pleased to be able to support them with scholarships,” Ms. Curl noted.

The key developmental aspects of Odyssey of the Mind are being creative and working as a team. Team member Jackie Koch said, “OM taught me creativity and teamwork and thinking outside the box to solve a problem. It also taught me that combining my ideas with others’ can lead to an even better solution.” Ms. Koch’s mother, Raye Koch, echoed her daughter’s comments, emphasizing, “The skills Odyssey of the Mind taught the students will benefit them in their lives and careers. Jackie is applying her Beal Bank scholarship to attend Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, where her course of studies will tie

in well with the physics and engineering principles that she learned during the Odyssey of the Mind competition.”

Ms. Curl of Beal Bank concluded that, “The chance to see the Odyssey of the Mind team once again, this time as successful young adults about to embark on the next phase of their academic growth, only intensifies Beal Bank’s commitment to area youth and academic achievement in science and mathematics.”

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About Beal Bank: Beal Bank, headquartered in Plano, Texas, with deposit branches in Texas and California, was founded in 1988 and is a state-chartered savings bank designated as a wholesale bank. With a well-earned reputation as a stable, strongly capitalized financial institution, the Bank provides high rates on certificates of deposits. Through affiliates CSG Investments, Inc., Loan Acquisition Corporation, and Beal Mortgage Services, Beal Bank is active in commercial real estate acquisition and development; individual loan and loan portfolio acquisition; and financing and funding loans and participations in loans secured by tangible assets in such industries as real estate; gaming and lodging; energy, power and gas; manufacturing; timber; and transportation and distribution. As of March 31, 2006, the Bank had assets of more than \$2.1 billion. The Bank’s “tier one” capital, or net worth, is approximately 33% of assets, or more than five times the FDIC standard of 5% for a well-capitalized bank. Beal Bank is a member of the FDIC and is an Equal Housing Lender.