Customers Bank Awards Scholarships in Memory of Dr. Leon H. Sullivan of Philadelphia’s Zion Baptist Church

Wyomissing, Pa. (October 20, 2014) – Customers Bank has created and announced the first five recipients of its major scholarship program in memory of Dr. Leon H. Sullivan of Philadelphia’s Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

A total of $100,000 has been placed in the Dr. Leon H. Sullivan Scholarship Fund, said Richard Ehst, Customers Bank President and Chief Operating Officer. The fund will support the awarding of $25,000 in scholarships annually over the next four years to students who have attended Zion Baptist Church.

“Dr. Sullivan had a global impact as a civil rights leader and social activist, and served as an inspiration to thousands,” noted Ehst. “As pastor of Zion Baptist Church from 1950 to 1988, he left a lasting impression on his congregation. We hope this scholarship in his name will also have a lasting impression on those youths who receive the awards.”

The first five recipients are:

- Jewell Adams, a graduate of Central High School, Philadelphia, who is studying psychology at Alabama’s Tuskegee University;
- Amber Mole, a graduate of The Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts, who is studying business management student at Point Park University, Pittsburgh, Pa.;
- Shauna Powell, a graduate of the Academy at Palumbo, Philadelphia, who is studying business at Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C.;
- Dior Smith-Boyer, a graduate of Philadelphia’s Multi-Cultural Academy Charter School, who is studying international business at Temple University; and
- Nicholas Trawick, a graduate of Philadelphia’s Girard Academic Music Program, who is a senior at Philadelphia’s University of the Arts

A special scholarship committee assisted in the selection of the recipients and will monitor the ongoing awards program. In addition to Ehst, members of the committee are:

- Varsovia Fernandez, President & CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce;
- Tracey Joel Hunter Hayes, Representative of Zion Baptist Church;
- Roddrick E. Lynch, Customers Bank Senior Vice President/Director of CRA, Fair and Responsible Banking;
- Mike Quick, former professional football player with the Philadelphia Eagles; and
- Wendell Whitlock, owner of Progress Plaza in Philadelphia
Ehst pointed out that scholarship applicants are required to meet certain qualifications. They include:

- Be a member of Zion Baptist Church;
- Embody the spirit of Dr. Sullivan;
- Be a legal U.S. resident
- Be between the ages of 15 and 25
- Carry a minimum 3.0 GPA in college or high school at the time of application
- Must have the following basic skills and knowledge: communication, mathematics, science and civic knowledge
- Must be enrolled at an accredited post-secondary education institution during the academic year following their high school graduation, or enrolled at a private high school during the academic year following middle school completion

The following are short bios for the 2014 recipients of the Dr. Leon H. Sullivan Scholarship Award.

**Jewell Adams**
Jewell Adams is a 2014 graduate of Central High School in Philadelphia, Pa. A Philadelphia native, Adams now studies psychology at Alabama’s Tuskegee University, to which she received a full scholarship. Adams has been a member of Girl Scouts of the USA since the age of five, and is actively involved in her community, whether through serving meals at 300 Ministries’ soup kitchen, or through peer tutoring at her high school. “I strongly believe that if we have the power to help others it is our duty to do just that,” wrote Adams in her scholarship application essay. According to Linda Lane, Adams’ Girl Scout leader, ”Jewell is an intelligent, capable, and personable young lady who is always admired and respected by her peers.”

**Amber Mole**
Amber Mole graduated as a straight-A student from The Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts, Philadelphia, Pa., in the spring of 2014. She now lives in Pittsburgh, Pa. and studies business management at Point Park University. Mole chose her major because she wishes to “address the level of poverty by providing financial counseling and tax support to underprivileged individuals in [her] community.” Mole is an avid dancer—she both participated in her high school’s dance company and volunteered as a children’s dance assistant. LaDeva Davis, the Director of the Dance Department at Mole’s high school, describes Mole as a “beacon of light even in the darkest of moments, speaking words of commitment and encouragement to all who cross her path.”

**Shauna Powell**
Shauna Powell attended high school at the Academy at Palumbo in Philadelphia, Pa. She has begun her freshman year at Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C., where she plans to study business. Powell hopes to “finish college and move on to do great things with [her] life in order to thank the people who helped get [her] here.” Powell was part of her school publication’s editorial staff, and was a member of the rock band club. She has also dedicated substantial time to volunteering, both through Girls Scouts of the USA and through preparing packaged meals with the Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance (MANNA). Dr. Latoyia K. Bailey, Powell’s English teacher, describes her as “mature, reliable, and personable.”

**Dior Smith-Boyer**
Dior Smith-Boyer is a freshman studying international business at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. She graduated from Philadelphia’s Multi-Cultural Academy Charter School in the spring of 2014, where she excelled in a diverse range of courses.
Smith-Boyer was an active member of her high school community, and was the salutatorian of her graduating class. Cathy Costello, a teacher and student records clerk at the high school, calls Smith-Boyer “one of the most helpful, dependable members of the school community.” Smith-Boyer hopes to “create networks and bridges to other countries, not just to benefit ourselves, but the world in general.”

**Nicholas Trawick**
Nicholas Trawick graduated from Philadelphia’s Girard Academic Music Program in 2011. He is now a senior at Philadelphia, Pa.’s University of the Arts, where he serves as both a tour guide and mentor. He was a member of the Keystone State Boychoir, Philadelphia, throughout middle- and high school, and has since remained active as a volunteer. Trawick’s ultimate goal is to become a high school music teacher to “serve as a mentor” and to “reach students from all walks of life.” According to Elizabeth Radigonda, one of Trawick’s professors, “Nicholas practices many of Rev. Sullivan’s values, especially those of truth, compassion, and humility.”

**About Customers Bancorp, Inc. and Customers Bank**
Customers Bancorp, Inc. is a bank holding company in Wyomissing, Pa., engaged in banking and related businesses through its subsidiary, Customers Bank. Customers Bank is a community-based, full-service bank with assets of more than $5.6 billion. A member of the Federal Reserve System and deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), Customers Bank is an equal housing lender that provides a full range of banking services to small- and medium-sized businesses, professionals, individuals and families through offices in Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Jersey. Committed to fostering customer loyalty, Customers Bank uses a High Tech/High Touch strategy that includes use of industry-leading technology to provide customers better access to their money, as well as a continually expanding portfolio of loans to small businesses, multi-family projects, mortgage companies and consumers. BankMobile, a division of Customers Bank, is a purely mobile banking platform scheduled to launch in 2014.

Customers Bancorp, Inc. is listed on the NASDAQ exchange under the symbol CUBI. Additional information about Customers Bancorp, Inc. can be found on the company’s website, www.customersbank.com.

**Photo:** Nicholas Trawick’s guardian accepts the Leon H. Sullivan Award, from selection committee members Wendell Whitlock, Varsovia Fernandez and Rodderick E. Lynch at a ceremony held Sunday morning at Zion Baptist Church.