

June 15, 2005

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City National Bank to Award \$30,000 in Literacy Grants to OC Educators

Applications due end of August; 30 recipients will be announced in September

IRVINE, Calif. – What could an Orange County educator with \$1,000 do for their students? We'll soon find out. City National Bank, which continues to expand its commitment to serve Orange County, today launched a grant program that will provide a series of \$1,000 grants to teachers and other education professionals in Orange County schools.

Coinciding with City National's 30th anniversary in Orange County, the bank will make 30 grants totaling \$30,000 to selected educators who facilitate creative and effective literacy-based projects. Grant applications have been sent to 513 public schools in Orange County and will be awarded in September. Any full-time teacher, librarian, administrator or school media specialist at an Orange County K-12 school is eligible to submit an application, which is due back to City National by August 31, 2005.

Grant applications also are available to download at www.readingisthewayup.org, to pick up at any of City National's five Orange County banking offices, or by calling (213) 833-4727. The grants will be administered through City National's Reading Is The Way Up[®] program.

"We are investing a significant amount in Orange County this year, both through our corporate philanthropy and through our branch expansion," said Tom Rogers, senior vice president and manager, Orange County Region commercial and private banking services. "We think this is one of the best kind of investments we can make. This grant program is a terrific way to put money directly into classrooms. The 30 deserving educators who receive grants will be able to spend the money however they think will most improve student literacy, without any of the funds going to administrative overhead."

Awards can be used for books, videos, CDs, DVDs or computer software or hardware – any project as long as the recipient can show that the funds will support literacy. Applicants are encouraged to be creative. Grant funds must be expended and projects completed by March 31, 2006.

This is the first time City National has solicited grant applications. The grant program will be rolled out statewide later this year, available to all schools in communities in which City National Bank serves. The bank is rolling out the program first in Orange County to celebrate its 30th anniversary in the county, and to support its growing commitment there.

City National to award \$30,000 directly to educators

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In March, City National announced the addition of three new branches in Newport Beach, Anaheim and at its South Orange County office in the Irvine Spectrum. The expansion will enable City National to serve clients from seven Orange County locations, including one full-service regional center near John Wayne Airport in Irvine.

The Anaheim office is expected to open in July 2005 while the Newport Beach office is slated to open in August 2005. In February, the bank opened a new branch at its Irvine Spectrum office.

All three locations will offer a full range of financial services, including commercial, private, business trust and investment, international banking and cash management. Today, City National operates branches in Irvine, La Palma and Los Alamitos, plus its regional center in Irvine and its north Orange County commercial banking center in La Palma.

About City National

City National Corporation (NYSE: CYN) is a financial services company with \$13.9 billion in total assets. Its wholly owned subsidiary, City National Bank, is the second largest independent bank headquartered in California. As California's Premier Private and Business Bank[®], City National provides banking, investment and trust services through 52 offices, including 12 full-service regional centers, in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area and New York City.

City National is ranked among America's top companies in *Forbes* magazine's "Super 500" list. It also is one of the nation's top wealth managers, according to *Barron's* magazine. The company and its affiliates manage more than \$16 billion of client trust and investment assets. Assets under management or administration amount to nearly \$36 billion.

For more information about City National, visit the company's Website at cnb.com.

About Reading Is The Way Up[®]

Seeking to better the education of California's future leaders, City National in April 2002 launched a multi-faceted initiative to restock the state's school library system. Since then, the bank has:

- Donated more than 15,000 books to California public school libraries
- Contributed \$1.2 million to support education, including an initial contribution of \$100,000 to buy about 5,000 books for public school libraries through a program set up by the Governor's Book Fund and the California State Library Foundation
- Supported colleagues through its "Volunteer Reading Program" who have donated hundreds of hours reading to schoolchildren in classrooms

The bank also has created the Reading Is The Way Up Fund, a 501(c)(3) administered by the California Community Foundation, as a funding resource to purchase books for school libraries in California. For more information, visit www.readingisthewayup.org.

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