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Inaugural Banking Boot Camp Draws Top College Talent to Four Major Banks, Culminates Today

(Hartford, Conn. | May 19, 2017) Twenty-three college students from schools across Connecticut and the northeast will complete a five-day immersive experience in the world of banking today, emerging with enhanced soft skills, expanded personal and professional networks and broadened internship and full-time employment prospects.

Banking Boot Camp is a workforce development and talent recruitment/retention effort of Connecticut Insurance and Financial Services (CT IFS), a business association of 32 insurance and financial services companies in Connecticut. Banking Boot Camp was created to inspire college students towards career paths in banking, especially as the industry seeks young, innovative talent to drive new technology and forms of customer engagement.

“Banking Boot Camp is more than just a glimpse of what’s inside a bank,” said Susan Winkler, CT IFS Executive Director. “It’s a deep dive into the careers, people and professional growth opportunities that define financial services. We’re excited to bring this experience to the next generation of Connecticut bankers.”

The program formally launched Monday, May 15th following more than a year of planning with leaders from the Host Bank Sponsors – Bank of America, KeyBank, People’s United Bank and Webster Bank – and partners – Connecticut Department of Banking and Connecticut Bankers Association. Students commenced each morning at the Department of Banking before spending program-rich days at each Host Bank in downtown Hartford. Students met senior leaders, gained tangible insight into the financial services industry and heard from local professionals on why they love their work.

“My hope is that Boot Camp participants leave the program with a better sense of the multitude of exciting career opportunities in banking,” said John K. Jepson, Jr., Vice President Senior Business Banker at KeyBank.

Each bank defined a theme to explore during the program, to ensure students would gain a high-level understanding of the industry's many facets and areas of opportunity. People's United Bank focused Day One programming on retail banking; Webster Bank provided insight into commercial banking and credit on Day Two. KeyBank, host on Day Three of Boot Camp, guided students through real estate banking. Bank of America hosted students on Day Four for a wealth management intensive.

"We are thrilled to participate in Banking Boot Camp," said Kevin Cunningham, Market President, Connecticut and Specialized Industries and Canada Credit Products Executive, Bank of America. "This has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase career opportunities, invest in our workforce here in Hartford, and help build a more economically sustainable community."

CT IFS, the Host Bank Sponsors and program partners concluded Banking Boot Camp with a formal luncheon at The Society Room of Hartford, providing the students another chance to network with leaders and other professionals they met throughout the week, as well as each other. The students spent Day Five with CT IFS for a soft skills workshop focused on resume building and mastering the 'elevator pitch.' The inaugural student cohort was comprised of students from each year of undergraduate study, with approximately 50 percent attending a college or university outside Connecticut.

"This experience in the financial industry will take you beyond the classroom," said Commissioner Jorge L. Perez, Connecticut Department of Banking. "Hopefully this will be the beginning of your journey to a future career in the financial sector or regulatory arena."

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Connecticut Insurance and Financial Services (CT IFS), formed in 2003, is a statewide initiative of the MetroHartford Alliance comprised of 32 member companies in Connecticut's insurance and financial services sector. CT IFS' Board of Directors engages around a shared vision: to create competitive advantages in business attraction and retention, to sustain recruitment and education of a trained workforce and to increase public awareness of the industry's critical economic importance. More at www.connecticutIFS.com.