



Chrissy Hughes and Elizabeth Bramble, Bank of Lancaster employees who supervise the “Go For the Gold” student bank at Northumberland Middle and High Schools, were on hand the last day of school to reward the top savers. Featured are (l to r) Debbie Devivi, Middle School Assistant Principal; Chrissy Hughes and Elizabeth Bramble; and second place Top Saver for the school year Devonte Mitchell. First place Top Saver Travell Payne was not available for the photo.

## **Bank of Lancaster Recognizes “Go For the Gold” Top Savers**

Go For the Gold Bank, a partnership between Bank of Lancaster and Northumberland High and Middle Schools, just concluded its second year of operation. The school bank made history in Northumberland County when it opened; it is the first educational endeavor of this nature in the County and only the second school bank in the Northern Neck.

The program was designed to address financial literacy standards of learning, and the school bank is staffed and run by the students with supervision from Bank of Lancaster personnel. The banking partnership provides a model where students actively participate as bank managers, tellers and marketing agents.

Periodically throughout the year Bank of Lancaster rewards the top savers. The recognition is for the number of deposits made, not the dollar amount of the deposits. The top savers for the school year were Travell Payne, first place winner, and Devonte Mitchell, second place winner.

Hazel Farmer, the Bank’s Senior Vice President and Consumer Education Director, stated “as community bankers, we want to help young people understand the difference between a want and a need. If we can help them

understand about personal money management, we can help them have a more financially secure tomorrow. Statistics provided to us through both the American and Virginia Bankers Association, and other organizations such as the Virginia Council on Economic Education and the Jumpstart Coalition, show that if a child learns to save at an early age, learns that discipline of saving a portion of their allowance, birthday money, Christmas money, that child is more likely to further their education and even own a home when they become an adult. Through Go For the Gold Bank, we want to increase awareness because the more informed these young people are, the better choices they will make. Go For the Gold Bank is a big step in setting Northumberland Middle and High School students on the path to a brighter future.”