CSBS today announced it has published this year’s Journal of Community Bank Case Studies, which showcases the work of the top three student teams in the 2020 Community Bank Case Study Competition.

This year’s competition asked students to partner with a local bank to examine compliance challenges, associated time and costs of the Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering law requirements as well as identify potential regulatory reforms.

This is the sixth year of the annual competition, which is open to undergraduate students in all fields of study as an opportunity to gain valuable first-hand knowledge of the banking industry.

The first-place team from Mississippi State University included Juan Benavides, Liam Benson, Byron McClendon, Jake Mlsna and Kirk Wright. Matthew Whitledge served as the faculty advisor, and Citizens National Bank, based in Meridian, Miss., was the team’s community bank partner.

As first place winners, in addition to being published in the CSBS Journal of Community Bank Case Studies, each team member received a $1,000 scholarship and will present this week at the Community Banking in the 21st Century Research and Policy Conference, sponsored by the CSBS, Federal Reserve Board of Governors and the FDIC.

A team from James Madison University placed second. The students are Manushree Bhatt, Homer Eliades, Henry Haas, Daniel Horowitz and Alexis Kakar. Carl Larsson served as faculty advisor, and F&M Bank, based in Timberville, Va., was the bank partner.
A team from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania placed third. Team members are Seungho Lee, Anthony Mastroianni, Abi Welch and Sarah Hart. Atika Benaddi served as faculty advisor and Xiaoxuan Ji and Xia Zhou served as co-advisors. Citizens & Northern Bank, based in Wellsboro, Pa., was the bank partner.

In addition to their work being published in the Journal of Community Bank Case Studies, students on the second-place team each received a $500 CSBS scholarship, and those on the third-place team each received a $250 CSBS scholarship.

CSBS announced the winners on June 18. The CSBS 2021 Community Bank Case Study Competition is now open for entries and asks students to look at community bank response to the pandemic and racial inequality.

For more information on the Community Bank Case Study Competition, visit https://www.csbs.org/bankcasestudy.