

Business of the Year Nominee:

**First State
Community Bank**



At First State Community Bank we grow stronger communities by helping people and organizations achieve and protect financial success. We build personal relationships, identify needs, and offer meaningful advice, products and services that help people and organizations become more financially successful, while maintaining strong shareholder value. Employees strive daily to provide our corporate values *Professionalism, Service, Adaptability, Accountability, Courage, Initiative, and Resilience*. We are proud to serve Sullivan and the surrounding communities.

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Success Starts Here. 

1. Major achievements through professional projects with which you or your organization have been involved, including dates and positions held.

- In 2023, FSCB partnered with Mastercard Debit Card Company to host Grand Giveaways! Certain debit card usage was required but qualifying persons were entered into a drawing to win once in a lifetime experiences. Including trips to the Super Bowl, a NASCAR experience, a Spa Day, a trip to St. Louis Cardinals game, the grand prize winner was awarded \$50,000. This was a fun event for both customers & employees.

-First State Community Bank also offers both a First State Insurance Agency that offers home/auto/life/health/business and First State Financial Management that offers stocks/bonds/mutual funds.

-First State Community Bank has an internal business services department that enables customers to have big bank services at a local community bank, including ACH Services, Merchant Services, Commercial Credit Card, Positive Pay-Check Verification, Wire Transfers, and a full-service online banking platform.

2. Community and civic affiliations, accomplishments, and leadership positions held.

-At First State Community Bank in Sullivan, we are fortunate to have an IMPACT Initiative Program. This program allows us to give back to non-profit organizations in our community. In past years we have supported the Life House Youth Center, Meramec Community Mission, Hope Ranch of Missouri and many more. In 2023, we had the privilege to give \$1000 and make baskets full of hygiene and writing supplies to donate to Spiritual Solutions. We also had the honor to give back to Grace United Methodist Church through \$3500 to assist with the Back-Pack Program for Sullivan school students, their homeless ministry, and the food pantry.

-Throughout 2023, FSCB employees and families could be found buying t-shirts to fundraisers, playing in cornhole tournaments, purchasing livestock at the local fair, playing through sponsorship in golf tournaments, donating to numerous events such as Trivia Nights, Mouse races, Chamber Banquet, school yearbooks, Shop with a Cop Program, 5K's, Hosting Santa at Christmas, Participating in the Chamber Spooktacular, Mission Food Drive/Annual Online Auction. Also, FSCB can be found on the field coaching or sponsoring local youth sports.

3. Awards, recognition, for honors received.

-First State Community Bank was ranked Forbes 2021 Best-In-State Bank for the state of Missouri. This distinguished honor recognized FSCB as a leader in our industry and a trusted partner in our local communities.

-Our employees are devoted to serving and giving back to our communities, many of our employees have or are serving on various committees and boards including the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Scenic Regional Library, United Way, our churches, Missouri Baptist Sullivan Hospital, Sullivan Fire Protection District Board, Meramec Regional Development Commission, Lifeline Pregnancy Center and many more.

4. Please describe your feelings about the importance of making Sullivan a beautiful place to live, work and visit, citing any role models and motivating factors.

-Like any great Midwestern origin story, ours starts with local businesspeople. The ones who founded First State Community Bank were part of the tight-knit community in Farmington, a prosperous town nestled in the plains of Southeast Missouri.

-Since we opened our doors back in 1954, we've grown a lot, but we remain true to our roots. We believe in helping our local economy grow and thrive. We believe in giving back. And we believe that when it comes to banking, people should always come first.

-First State Community Bank looks up to our founder William "Bill" Cooper. At the early age of 23, William H. Cooper began turning his childhood vision into a reality, by purchasing his first gas station from his father. It was the oil business that taught him early lessons about being a true entrepreneur. Although his success in the oil business played an important role in his career, his love for the banking industry became his full-time focus.

-Bill's journey into banking began in 1964 when he became director of what was known then as First State Bank of Farmington. Utilizing his natural entrepreneurial instincts, Bill quickly established a solid foundation in community banking. Through Bill's visionary leadership, the once small community bank on the corner of Columbia Street and H Highway has developed into a multi-faceted financial mainstay in Eastern, Southeastern and Central Missouri. Serving the state with over 60 locations, Bill's vision and leadership have led to astounding success for many of his employees or "family members".

We are thankful to live in a community that trust us to help them achieve & protect financial success. We hope to continue to serve the Sullivan and surrounding communities for numerous years to come. We strive daily to make Sullivan a better place to live, work and play.



















