



**BANK
OF THE
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**Bakersfield High School Virtual Enterprise Program
Awarded \$2,000 Sierra Grant**

Porterville, CA — Bank of the Sierra is pleased to announce a Sierra Grant in the amount of \$2,000 has been awarded to Bakersfield High School Virtual Enterprise Program. The Virtual Enterprise Program provides students an opportunity to manage their own corporation in a virtual world. The students have won the State Business Plan Championship for the last 2 years and the National Business Plan Championship in New York in 2009. Funds will be used to purchase computer hardware and software so that the students can continue competing at a higher level.

“We feel it is important that students have an opportunity to learn business planning skills, for this reason, we felt a Sierra Grant was well-deserved,” said Jim Holly, President and CEO of Bank of the Sierra.

About The Sierra Grant Program

The Sierra Grant Program is designed to improve the quality of life for the families, especially the children, who reflect the diversity within Bank of the Sierra branch communities. The Sierra Grant Program is focused on three areas: community services, park preservation, and education. Anyone involved in a non-profit program that is interested in a Sierra Grant can pick up an instructional brochure at any Bank of the Sierra branch, or visit the bank web site at www.bankofthesierra.com.

About Bank of the Sierra

With over \$1.3 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra is the largest independently owned community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley’s Heartland. The bank serves 15 different communities with 25 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

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