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### **Summit State Bank Receives National Community Bank Award for Nonprofit Leadership**

Santa Rosa, CA – (March 6, 2012) – Summit State Bank (NASDAQ: SSBI) received recognition nationally for exemplifying leadership in its support of local nonprofits. The American Bankers Association honored Summit State Bank with the *Community Bank Award for Fundraising for Foundations and Local Groups*.

The ABA selection committee awarded 10 community banks from a field of nearly 200 nominations based on the innovation, creativity and effectiveness of the bank's approach to making a difference in its community. Summit State Bank was the only community bank in California to receive this award. Winners were announced at the National Conference for Community Bankers on February 21, 2012.

While Summit State Bank actively supports more than 80 nonprofit groups throughout Sonoma County with its *Nonprofit Partner Program*, this award focused on Summit State Bank's fundraising initiatives to support Elsie Allen High School drama students. Summit successfully worked with the school to raise funds to send nine students on a life-changing trip to perform on an international stage at the Edinburgh Theater Festival Scotland.

"The Summit State Bank team – staff and board members - is extremely honored to receive this prestigious recognition. Being a community bank, we are committed, above all, to do for the greater good of the community. Finding creative ways to reinvest in our community is an integral part of our culture and why we are performing well in this economy. Everything we do starts with supporting our community, and to receive this award just serves as a reminder that anyone can really make a difference by simply listening to what our community needs and finding a way to fulfill that need," says Tom Duryea, President and CEO of Summit State Bank.

The ABA Community Bank Awards program was established in 2005 to commend community banks' exceptional charitable achievements.

Summit State Bank has total assets of \$388 million and total equity of \$61 million at December 31, 2011. Headquartered in Sonoma County, the Bank provides diverse financial products and services throughout Sonoma, Napa, San Francisco, and Marin Counties. Summit State Bank is a Premier Performing Bank, earning the highest Findley Reports designation of all Sonoma County-based banks. Summit State Bank received the 2012 Community Bank Award from the

American Bankers Association. In addition, Summit State Bank received the Gold Medal award for Best Business Bank from the Northbay Biz Magazine and has also been recognized as one of the North Bay's Best Places to Work by the North Bay Business Journal. Summit State Bank's stock is traded on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol SSBI. Further information can be found at [www.summitstatebank.com](http://www.summitstatebank.com).

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