



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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The Independent Community Banker of South Dakota and the South Dakota Division of Banking are joining forces to assist in an ongoing nationwide community bank research project sponsored jointly by the Conference of State Banking Supervisors (CSBS) and the Federal Reserve System.

In May of 2013, a similar series of Town Hall Meetings and requested participation in an electronic survey before the roundtables was completed. “We are looking to follow a similar format this year but with more precise questions which will generate more precise answers”, said Bret Afdahl, Director of the South Dakota Division of Banking.

Significant interest was generated by the Community Banking Research Conference held in St. Louis last fall. In particular, the academic community has become much more engaged in this process and is directly involved in developing the questions for this year’s Town Hall Meetings and for a nationwide electronic survey that will precede the Town Hall Meetings. This involvement by the academics is important because they are better equipped to craft questions that will produce statistically valid results which are then useable in research papers. These peer reviewed research papers in the end what we need to shape public policy in the area of financial regulation.

Town Hall Meetings will be held in Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Rapid City and Ft. Pierre between May 12 and 16. Details on the meetings are included below:

City	Date	Time	Location	Address
Aberdeen	May 12	1:00 PM	Dacotah Bank	308 S. Main St.
Sioux Falls	May 14	9:00 AM	One American Bank	515 S. Minnesota Ave.
Mitchell	May 14	2:00 PM	CorTrust Bank NA	100 E Havens
Rapid City	May 15	10:00 AM MT	Dacotah Bank	125 Main St.
Ft. Pierre	May 16	9:00 AM CT	Dakota Prairie Bank	1204 Yellowstone St.

RSVP’s can be completed online at www.icbsd.com/townhall.

This study is not simply an academic exercise. Responses from community bankers will help guide the development of legislative recommendations which CSBS, state regulators and banking trade associations can use to engage key members of Congress. This information will help encourage their support of legislation that will improve the outlook for community banks across this country. A great deal of momentum was gained following last year’s efforts and many lessons were learned by working more closely with the academic community. As a result of those lessons learned, this year’s Town Hall Meetings will lead to more precise data points that can aid in the development and completion of research projects currently underway.