The OBA Education Foundation convened for its inaugural board meeting March 18, setting the stage for what will prove to be an energetic endeavor. The board of directors is made up of nine motivated and experienced individuals, including:

- Stuart Allen, President & CEO, Allen Trust Company
- Rich Brown, Senior Vice President, Bank of America
- Bruce Bryant, Director, Citizens Bank
- Dan Hempy, President, Pacific Continental Bank
- Chris Karlin, SVP - Government Banking, U.S. Bank
- George Koffler, Director, Bank of Eastern Oregon
- Linda Navarro, President & CEO, OBA
- Debra Ringold, Dean & JELD-WEN Professor of Free Enterprise, Willamette University MBA
- Lark Wysham, Retired Chief Financial Officer, Citizens Bank

The foundation will seek to explore and enhance educational opportunities for individuals in areas of banking, public and private finance, financial literacy, business, financial planning and other related subjects.

According to the foundation’s bylaws, “The corporation shall endeavor to accomplish this purpose engaging in activities such as raising and expending monies to:

- Finance courses, curricula, scholarships and/or grants to advance the study of banking, finance and related subjects;
- Promote courses of study in financial literacy;
- Sponsor and otherwise support continuing education programs for bankers and other persons engaged in the financial services industry and for members of the general public in the areas of financial literacy, financial planning, banking, finance and related subjects.”

The Board recognizes the importance of providing education to individuals within the banking industry, as well as those in the community. During their upcoming meetings, the board will discuss and build upon current initiatives that support financial education in meaningful, accessible ways.

The next meeting of the OBA Education Foundation board of directors is scheduled for June 28.

For more information on the Foundation, contact OBA Education and Communications Coordinator Allison Herr at (503) 576-4115 or aherr@oregonbankers.com.