

**Heartland BancCorp Announces:  
Increased 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2005 Earnings,  
20 Percent Increase in Quarterly Cash Dividend and  
Addition of a New Director**

**For Immediate Release:**

*Contact: Tiney M. McComb – Chairman, President & CEO*

**April 28, 2005 – 12:00 noon**

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Tiney M. McComb, Chairman, President & CEO of Heartland BancCorp, parent company of Heartland Bank, today reported net income of \$977 thousand for the three months ended March 31, 2005, up 5% from the \$928 thousand reported for the first quarter of 2004. On a diluted earnings per share basis, the Corporation earned \$.60 for the three months ended March 31, 2005 compared to \$.57 for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2004. Factors contributing to the increase in earnings included strong loan growth, continued asset quality, higher net interest income, and a reduction of non-interest or operating expense resulting in improved operating efficiency.

Net interest income was \$3.5 million for the quarter, up from \$3.4 million for the first quarter 2004. The increase in net interest income was primarily due to a 12% increase in interest income reflecting the 14% year-over-year growth in the loan portfolio. For the first quarter of 2005, non-interest or operating expense totaled \$2.8 million, down \$106 thousand or 4% compared to the same period in 2004.

Total assets outstanding increased 9% to \$388 million, an increase of \$31 million from \$356 million at March 31, 2004. Net loans increased by \$35 million to \$287 million at March 31, 2005, up 14% compared to net loans of \$252 million at March 31, 2004. Deposits increased \$30 million during the past year to \$346 million at March 31, 2005. Total shareholders' equity grew to \$31.5 million or \$19.72 per share, an increase of 7% from \$29.5 million or \$18.47 per share, at March 31, 2004.

McComb stated, "As a result of our continued growth and profitability, I am pleased to announce that our directors increased our quarterly cash dividend 20%." During its April meeting, the Board of Directors of Heartland BancCorp declared a 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2005 cash dividend of 17.17 cents per share to shareholders of record June 25, 2005, payable July 10, 2005. This most recent increase to our quarterly cash dividend extends a series of 6 quarterly dividend increases begun in late 2003 that has resulted in a 91% increase to our quarterly cash dividends.

As previously announced, we enthusiastically anticipate the groundbreaking and construction of our newest banking office on Stygler Road in west Gahanna. This new Gahanna office will extend an added convenience to our Gahanna customers and those residences not previously served by a banking facility in this area. The opening of this office will promote our customer focused banking services to commercial and individual customers. The opening of this, our 10<sup>th</sup> full service banking office in central Ohio, is evidence of our commitment to offer a high standard of personalized customer service with local decision making and investment of our deposit dollars within and for the benefit of the communities we serve.

I am further pleased to announce the addition of a local business and community leader as a new member of our Board of Directors. Joining our Board is Mr. William R. Heifner, a resident of Gahanna, Ohio, and founder of Renier Construction. It is my pleasure to welcome this outstanding individual to our Board. I am confident Bill's leadership will contribute to the continued growth and prosperity of Heartland BancCorp.

In closing, on behalf of our directors and valued employees, I would like to thank you for being our shareholders as well as our customers.

Heartland Bank provides a complete line of loan and deposit products from short to long term and are accessible from any of our banking offices and ATMs, as well as from home or office using Heartland's telephone banking at 416-BANK or Internet banking at [www.heartlandbank.com](http://www.heartlandbank.com).

Heartland BancCorp is a registered Ohio bank holding company and the parent of Heartland Bank, which operates nine full-service banking offices. Alternative investment services are provided through Great American Advisors Inc. Heartland Bank is a member of the Federal Reserve, a member of the FDIC and an Equal Housing Lender. Heartland BancCorp is currently quoted on the over-the-counter (OTC) Bulletin Board Service under the symbol HLAN.

[HEARTLAND BANCCORP EARNINGS PROFILE ATTACHED]

**Heartland BancCorp**  
**Earnings Profile**  
**First Quarter and Year To Date**  
**March 31, 2005 and 2004**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
Net Interest Income <small>(after provision)</small>	\$3,376,115	\$3,298,100
Non Interest Income	826,771	970,115
Net Income	977,212	927,574
Basic Earnings Per Share	\$0.61	\$0.58
Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$0.60	\$0.57