



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Announces Staff Additions to Manatee Avenue Banking Center

January 5, 2009 – (Bradenton, Florida) - Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida has announced a new addition to the Gateway Bank staff.

Sandra L. Klimek has joined the company as Teller. She joins Gateway from her previous position as Teller at Wachovia Bank. Sandra has also held positions such as Mortgage Loan Originator and Financial Services Representative at various banks.

The Manatee Avenue Banking Center is located at the intersection of Manatee Avenue West and 21 Street West, at 2100 Manatee Avenue West. Consumer Banking is managed by Group Vice President Cindy Denison. Commercial Banking is led by Manatee County Area Executive, W. Roy Owen.

About Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida: Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida is an independent community bank serving business and consumer banking customers in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

The Manatee Avenue Banking Center is the second Gateway Bank location in Southwest Florida. It is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street West and Manatee Avenue West. Gateway Bank operates a full service banking location in the Center Pointe Plaza at 2033 Main Street in downtown Sarasota, one block east of South Washington Boulevard. The bank will open a third location at 6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road and University Parkway in March 2009.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The Board of Directors includes: Charles J. Bartlett – Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen and Ginsburg, PA; Dr. Gary K. Bockhold – Center for Sight; Dr. P.T. “Bud” Fleuchaus – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; David J. Grain – Grain Capital, LLC; David K. Maholias – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; Shaun P. Merriman – Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida; Gavin W. Meshad – JWM Management, Inc.; Katherine K. Moulton – The Colony Beach & Tennis Resort; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction Inc.; and Jan E. Smith – Jan Smith and Company.

Further information regarding Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida may be obtained by contacting Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO at 941-306-0105.