



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Maintains Prestigious 4-Star Rating from BauerFinancial for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2010**

March 8, 2011 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida announced today that the bank has maintained its 4-star rating from Coral Gables-based BauerFinancial ([www.bauerfinancial.com](http://www.bauerfinancial.com)), an independent ratings firm. BauerFinancial announces bank ratings on a quarterly basis. Established in 2008, Gateway Bank received its first rating for the second quarter of 2010, and has maintained its 4-star rating for three consecutive quarters.

“We’re very pleased with Gateway’s performance in this challenging economy,” said Merriman. “We have money to lend, and our excellent performance in the most recent Bauer ratings underscores our commitment to quality.”

Bauer began rating financial institutions in 1983 and analyzes the health of a bank based on capital levels, profits, loan delinquencies, repossessed assets, reserves, regulatory compliance and asset quality. Banks are designated ratings ranging from zero to five stars based on the analysis. Gateway is one of only two 4-star rated banks in Manatee County, and one of two banks in Sarasota County rated 4-star or better.

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

Gateway Bank operates three full service banking locations. The main office is located at 1100 South Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. The University Parkway banking center is located at

6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road, and the Manatee Avenue Banking Center is located on the northwest corner of 21<sup>st</sup> Street West and Manatee Avenue West.

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; 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; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; and David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction Inc.

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