



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Shaun P. Merriman
941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Names Cindy S. Denison Group Vice President

June 9, 2008 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida announced the appointment of Cindy S. Denison as Group Vice President and Banking Center Team Leader for the independent community bank. In this capacity, she heads the retail banking effort for Gateway Bank.

She joins the company from Whitney Bank in Bradenton where she held the position of Vice President and Branch Manager. Prior to joining Whitney Bank in 2005, she held the position of Vice President and Office Manager at Wachovia National Bank, also in Bradenton. She brings twenty four years retail banking experience to Gateway Bank, including fifteen years with Barnett Bank of Manatee County.

A Manatee County native, Denison is a graduate of Southeast High School and furthered her education at Manatee Community College, earning her AA in Business Administration.

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

Gateway Bank operates a full service banking location in the Center Pointe Professional Center at 2033 Main Street in downtown Sarasota, one block east of South Washington Boulevard. Two additional bank locations are scheduled to open during 2008. This summer the second Gateway Bank location will open at 2100 Manatee Avenue West in downtown Bradenton. The bank will open a third location at 6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road on University Parkway this fall.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The founding 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; 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.

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