



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Names Susan H. Kruse Vice President

July 14, 2010 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida announced today Susan H. Kruse has joined the company as Vice President and Banking Center Manager. She heads the recently LEED-certified banking center located at the intersection of University Parkway and Lockwood Ridge Road. Ms. Kruse joins Gateway Bank from her previous position as Branch Manager with Regions Bank in Sarasota. Prior to joining Regions in 2009, she held the position of Regional Manager with Coast Bank/First Bank for four years. She began her banking career in 1980 with Barnett Bank as Branch Manager.

Ms. Kruse is active in the Sarasota/Bradenton community, serving as a board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Manatee County. She is a member of the Manatee Women's Council of Realtors, and is on the fundraising committee of the United Way of Manatee County's Women's Leadership Initiative. Ms. Kruse is also the treasurer-elect for the Island Kiwanis Club of Anna Maria Island.

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 21st 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; 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.