



## PRESS RELEASE

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

### **Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Names Alicia Z. Wheeler Banking Center Manager**

June 12, 2008 – (Sarasota, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida announced the appointment of Alicia Z. Wheeler as Banking Center Manager at the Downtown Sarasota location of the independent community bank in organization.

Ms. Wheeler brings over 25 years of management experience to the Gateway organization. She recently joined Gateway from SunTrust Bank in Sarasota, where she most recently held the position of Client Support Specialist in the Private Wealth Management Group. While at SunTrust, she also held the positions of Teller Supervisor and Senior Personal Banker.

***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 include: 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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