FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2010

Contact: Megan Bobiak, BankFIRST
407-629-8466 Ext 13186

Bateman-Kleffel Named BankFIRST Executive Vice President

Winter Park, Florida – (January 8, 2010) – Julie Kleffel, Senior Vice President and Commercial Sales Leader, BankFIRST, was recently promoted to the role of Executive Vice President and Commercial Sales Leader. In this capacity, she will be responsible for coordinating and directing the total sales effort of the organization, including all Central Florida Area Presidents and Client Relationship Managers. Kleffel also serves as Area President of the BankFIRST Winter Garden Financial Center Location.

"We are extremely pleased to congratulate Julie on this noteworthy accomplishment," commented Donald J. McGowan, BankFIRST President and CEO. "Julie is a proven leader, and her combined background in sales and commercial lending, coupled with her personal achievements, solidifies her position as a trusted member of our Executive Management team."

Kleffel has been employed by BankFIRST for over 9 years, and has over 14 years of banking experience. She was previously employed by AmSouth as a Vice President for New Business Development. She is actively involved in several community organizations, including serving as an Executive Director and the immediate Past Chairman for the West Orange County Chamber of Commerce, as well as the past Treasurer and Human Resources Chairman for the organization. She also serves as an Executive Director and President for the West Orange Committee One Hundred and One, as well as the past Vice President and Treasurer for the organization. In addition, Kleffel is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Roper YMCA and serves as a Member of the Oakland Park Foundation Board. She has been an active Junior Achievement volunteer for many years.

A graduate of the ABA Graduate Commercial Lending School, Kleffel has also received the prestigious "Certified Lender Business Banker" designation from the Institute of Certified Bankers. She completed her professional education by graduating with Honors from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in 2009.

About BankFIRST

Since it's founding in 1989 as a state-chartered, federally insured commercial bank, BankFIRST has grown its assets to over $600 million. Situated in Central Florida, BankFIRST has ten branch offices located in Orange, Seminole, Lake and Brevard Counties, and has approximately 140 employees. The bank has been the recipient of numerous awards, including: "Best Community Bank in Central Florida" by the readers of the Orlando Business Journal in 2006 and 2009, "Best Bank in Seminole County" in 2008 and 2009, "#1 Small Business Lender in Florida", "2009 Business Achievement Award for Civic and Community Efforts" by the Lake Eustis Chamber of Commerce, and "#1 Community Bank SBA Lender in Florida".

For more information on BankFIRST, visit www.bankfirst.com.