



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2014

Contact: Megan Bobiak
(407)-629-8466 x13186
mbobiak@bankfirst.com

BankFIRST Promotes Joseph M. DeSousa to Regional President, Seminole and Volusia Counties



Winter Park, Florida – (January 23, 2014) – Julie Kleffel, BankFIRST Executive Vice President and Commercial Sales Leader, announced today that industry veteran and BankFIRST Area President, Joseph M. DeSousa has been promoted to Regional President, Seminole and Volusia Counties. A long-time resident of Central Florida, DeSousa brings nearly 23 years of commercial and consumer banking experience to the role. He previously served as the BankFIRST Sanford Area President from 2000 – 2005, and rejoined the bank in March 2011. “Joe’s expertise in relationship and client

development and commercial lending is extensive and we are tremendously excited to announce his promotion, where he will oversee 4 branch offices in two contiguous counties. His past achievements with the bank are indicative of the value he will continue to bring to the markets he serves,” Kleffel said.

DeSousa’s management experience began in 1998 at AmSouth Bank, where he was instrumental in leading his Orlando branch office in all facets of new business development and consumer lending. Following his tenure with AmSouth, DeSousa was named BankFIRST Sanford Area President in December 2000, where he went on to earn the prestigious “Chairman’s Award” as the Top Lender for 2004, exemplifying his strong leadership, relationship building, mentoring and team building abilities. Prior to rejoining BankFIRST as Area President of the bank’s Sanford location, he held the position of Market President, Volusia County, for First Southern Bank (formerly First Commercial Bank of Florida), and Managing Partner/Financial Advisor for Virtus Financial Partners.

- more -

garnered additional expertise in the area of mergers and conversions. Throughout his career, he has maintained a reputation of excellence in project and relationship management, and received his Certified Cash Manager (CCM) designation from the Association of Financial Professionals in 1995.

“BankFIRST has demonstrated a strong commitment to meeting the needs of business clients. I am looking forward to partnering Business Solutions with our bankers and communities across all markets we serve to help businesses grow and prosper,” Marilley commented.

A graduate of the State University of New York at Oswego, Oswego, NY, Marilley received Bachelor Degrees in Economics and Philosophy in 1986. He is extremely committed to the community-at-large, and has been actively involved in a number of activities, including: the Manufacturer’s Association of Central Florida (2006-2009), Orlando Chamber of Commerce (2007-2009), National Association of Real Estate Property Managers (2008-2009), Winter Park Chamber of Commerce (2006-2007), Junior Achievement (1984-2004), Special Olympics (1990-2005), and the Association of Financial Professionals (1993-present).

About BankFIRST

Since its founding in 1989 as a state-chartered, federally insured commercial bank, BankFIRST has grown its assets to over \$670 million. Situated in Central Florida, BankFIRST has twelve branch offices located in Orange, Seminole, Lake, Brevard, and Volusia Counties, and has approximately 150 employees. BankFIRST provides commercial banking services, including real estate, construction and commercial loans, primarily to individuals and small and medium-sized businesses.

BankFIRST 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, “2009 Business Achievement Award for Civic and Community Efforts” by the Lake Eustis Chamber of Commerce, US Small Business Administration’s “#1 Community Bank SBA Lender” designation in the North Florida District, and the “#1 Small Business Lender in Florida”. For more information on BankFIRST, visit www.bankfirst.com.

###