



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BANKFIRST BREAKS GROUND AT OVIEDO-WINTER SPRINGS LOCATION -  
SITE OF FINEST BRANCH BANKING FACILITY IN CENTRAL FLORIDA**

**Oviedo, Florida** – (February 3, 2010) – On Thursday, January 28, 2010, BankFIRST President and CEO, Donald J. McGowan, announced the groundbreaking of the bank's newest Financial Center Location at Aloma Walk in Oviedo. According to McGowan, "When BankFIRST relocates to the Oviedo market from its current location in Goldenrod later this year, the new office is poised to become the finest branch banking facility in Central Florida."

This change of address, from 5025 Old Howell Branch Road, to 2839 Clayton Crossing Way, provides better access for BankFIRST clients from SR 417 (The Greenway) and Aloma Avenue, and positions the bank within easy access to a new Publix supermarket location.

During the celebratory groundbreaking ceremony, Chairman of the Board, James T. Barnes, Jr., joined McGowan, along with the bank's Corporate and Local Board of Directors, various community dignitaries, clients and friends to share in publicly announcing the relocation. McGowan commented that, "The iconic branch office design was in the works for more than a year. Its progressive technology will provide faster, more efficient and highly accurate transactions through the use of "Intelligent Deposit" ATMs and cash recyclers, allowing our personnel more individual time with customers."

In addition to the numerous state-of-the-art services soon to be offered at the Oviedo-Winter Springs location, BankFIRST has welcomed Vice President / Client Relationship Manager, Sharon Thornton, to the organization. Thornton joined the bank in November 2009, and currently resides at the Goldenrod Financial Center. She will assist with the relocation efforts later this summer, and brings over 25 years of financial services experience to the BankFIRST team.

"I am extremely pleased to assist in introducing BankFIRST to the Oviedo community. We are excited to have secured our location in Oviedo-Winter Springs, and look forward to the enhanced overall level of service we will provide to our clients at this new location," Thornton said.

The BankFIRST Oviedo-Winter Springs location is slated to open in late July / early August 2010.

## **About BankFIRST**

Since its 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 120 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](http://www.bankfirst.com).