



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BANKFIRST NAMES PAUL IHRIG NEW VICE PRESIDENT /
SBA DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Winter Park, Florida – (August 18, 2009) – Donald J. McGowan, President and CEO of BankFIRST, has announced that Paul Ihrig was named Vice President / SBA Department Manager. A seasoned, veteran SBA lender in the financial services industry, Ihrig brings more than 20 years of lending experience to the organization. "I will continue to use my years of SBA experience to expand this area as a key line of business for the bank," Ihrig said.

"Paul's unparalleled expertise in SBA and commercial lending is far-reaching and we are extremely excited that he is a member of our team," McGowan said.

Ihrig began his career in banking in 1984, where he was employed with Southeast Bank, N.A., Orlando and Miami. Most recently, Ihrig served as Vice President / Senior Business Development Officer at Banco Popular North America, Altamonte Springs. Since the inception of his lending career, he has served in consumer lending roles with a specific focus in the areas of consumer, SBA, commercial, installment and commercial real estate.

Ihrig has completed extensive training in the financial services industry, including Commercial Lender Training with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Commercial Credit Training with Southeast Bank, N.A., and multiple banking and credit courses at the American Institute of Banking.

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He is a graduate of the State University of New York, College at Fredonia, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with a Double Major for B.A. in Economics.

Ihrig's professional affiliations include: CCIM Central Florida District, Member; Central Florida Commercial Association of Realtors, Member; Business Brokers of Florida; Continuing Member – The Medallion Club, Heart of Florida United Way; Orlando Science Center, Active Member 1984 - present; WMFE / PBS, Active Member 1984 - present; The Mustard Seed of Central Florida – Past Board Member and continuing supporter. He is also a Florida Licensed Mortgage Broker.

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 Apopka, Clermont, Eustis, Goldenrod, Sanford, Winter Garden, Winter Park, Melbourne, Viera / Suntree and Titusville and has approximately 140 employees. At the foundation of the bank's growth and reputation in the marketplace is its President and Chief Executive Officer, Donald J. McGowan and Chairman, James T. Barnes, Jr., supported by a senior management team comprised of native and long-time Central Floridians with substantial local banking experience. BankFIRST's Board of Directors includes the leading Central Florida business, educational and civic leaders.

BankFIRST is a Preferred Lender (PLP) and has received numerous awards and recognition from the U.S. Small Business Administration, including recently being named "#1 Small Business Lender in Florida" as ranked by the Office of Advocacy from call reports from all Florida banks. For more information on BankFIRST, visit www.bankfirst.com.

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