

# **NEWS RELEASE**

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**President and CEO**

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## **COMMUNITY FIRST BANK NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**SENECA, SC**—Community First Bank has named a new executive management team, including President and CEO Richard D. Burleson, Jr. of State Road, NC, Chief Financial Officer William B. West of Anderson and Chief Credit Officer Victor K. Grout of Greer.

Burleson and West assumed their current duties on January 5, awaiting final regulatory approval, which was received in late March. Burleson previously served for 18 months as the bank's interim Chief Credit Officer. West has been with the bank since 2012, working part-time as Projects and Communications Coordinator. Grout joins Community First from Greer State Bank, where he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer.

Burleson brings with him extensive experience in the financial industry. His career includes 16 years in community banking, focusing on commercial lending, business development and loan compliance. In 2008, he founded Crossroads Credit and Portfolio Management, LLC, which provides a variety of services to financial institutions, including interim executive management, third-party loan review, regulatory consulting, special asset management and credit administration. He is a graduate of Appalachian State University.

West's banking career spans nearly 40 years, beginning with four years as a bank examiner for the Comptroller of the Currency. Since 1980, he has served in increasingly responsible positions in banks in the Columbia, Anderson and Easley markets. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University.

Grout has been in banking since 1979, both in North Carolina and South Carolina, and brings a well-rounded banking background. A Furman University graduate, he has held numerous senior management and executive positions in the banks with which he has worked.

“I believe we now have a strong team in place,” said Burlison. “With the help of our exceptional group of employees, we have already begun the restructuring of our bank and look forward to a bright future for Community First and an even better banking experience for our customers.”

Opened in 1990, Oconee County-based Community First operates four full-service offices in Oconee County and three in Anderson County.

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