

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Richard D. Burleson  
President and CEO  
864-886-0206**

### **SC-BASED COMMUNITY FIRST BANK TO OPEN CHARLOTTE LOAN PRODUCTION OFFICE, HIRES STUART HESTER AS REGIONAL EXECUTIVE**

**SENECA, SC**—Seneca, SC-based Community First Bank has announced the opening of a Loan Production Office (LPO) in Charlotte, NC. Charlotte commercial banker Stuart Hester has been hired as Senior Vice President and Regional Executive Officer to head the operation.

The office will open June 15 in the Midtown Centre Office Building at 1300 Baxter Street. The Charlotte location will be the bank's second LPO in North Carolina and the third in the area after Concord and Fort Mill. Hester will cover Charlotte and the surrounding area, focusing on establishing and building new commercial banking relationships.

"Stuart's skills and experience make him the consummate commercial banker," said Community First President and CEO Richard D. Burleson. "We couldn't be more pleased to find someone of his caliber to represent us in this important market."

Hester's experience in the financial industry spans more than 28 years, including the past 21 years as a commercial banker in the Charlotte market. He holds a degree in business administration from Elon University. He currently serves as a board member for Carolina Business Capital in Charlotte and as a trustee for Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, VA.

Community First currently operates seven full-service banking offices and four loan production offices, three in Upstate South Carolina and one in North Carolina.

# # #