

NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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INVESTAR BANK OFFICIALLY OPENS FIRST NORTHSHORE BRANCH TO PROVIDE HIGH-TOUCH, PERSONAL COMMUNITY BANKING

NEW ORLEANS – <u>Investar Bank</u> today officially opened its first northshore branch – which is also its second New Orleans-area location – at 2929 Highway 190 in Mandeville with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for customers, prospects and community leaders.

The 4,000-square-foot Mandeville location features four drive-up lanes, one of which is dedicated to commercial clients; a drive-up ATM; safe deposit boxes; 11 parking spaces; four teller windows; and a consultative customer-service area. Five associates serve clients at the location.

The bank's commitment to providing high-touch, personal community-banking service for individuals and businesses was reinforced even further when the bank opened its Metairie office at 500 Veterans Blvd. earlier this month.

Both locations provide consumer, small-business, mortgage and commercial banking.

"The northshore is a vibrant community that expects banks to know customers and to understand their needs," said Stephen E. Wessel, the bank's New Orleans regional president. "Investar understands how to do just that, because we were founded right here in southeast Louisiana, and we make decisions here, where our customers live and work. We welcome everyone to experience what we like to call 'Banking the Way It's Meant to Be."

Joining Wessel are Kevin J. Dobson, chief lending officer, and Michelle Senat, branch manager.

The bank, which is growing quickly in southeast Louisiana, expects to open its first branch in the Lafayette region in September, pending regulatory approval. In addition to the Lafayette branch and the new Veterans and Mandeville branches, Investar will expand further with the acquisition of First Community Bank, subject to shareholder approval and expected to close May 1 with one branch in Hammond and another in Mandeville. As a result, Investar will have a total of 10 branches throughout the Interstate 10/12 corridor serving businesses and individuals with high-touch, local community banking. Other offices are in Baton Rouge, Denham Springs, Port Allen and Prairieville.

<u>Investar Bank</u>, which had total assets of \$400 million at March 31, 2013, provides comprehensive products and services for <u>businesses and individuals</u>. The bank is considered well-capitalized for regulatory purposes, with a Tier 1 Capital Ratio of 11.55%.