

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Premier Bank and Ingle Mortgage become mortgage partners**

**TALLAHASSEE, FL** – *February 27, 2009*: Carrie Hess, President and CEO of Ingle Mortgage, announced that her firm is joining Premier Bank; the transition will begin Monday, March 2, 2009. Ingle Mortgage has consistently been one of the area’s largest residential mortgage lenders and Premier Bank has maintained a long standing commitment to local builders, as well as residential borrowers.

“Ingle has a reputation for professional excellence and customer service that matches up well with our mission statement,” said Matt Brown, President and CEO of Premier Bank. “At a time in our economy and our nation when consumers and small business owners point to Wall Street excesses and seek help on the local level, Premier Bank is committed to finding solutions. The dynamic Premier Bank/Ingle Mortgage combination will provide the opportunity for our locally owned community bank to triple its home loan offerings in Leon and Gadsden County.”

Ms. Hess stated that although she had not been seeking a sale of her business, she is pleased with the end result for her company and the community. Hess will assume the role of Senior Residential Lending Manager and hold a senior role in the bank’s management team. Penny Franklin, who built Premier Bank’s mortgage business over the last 5 years, had previously announced a sabbatical for 6-9 months of travel that has been planned for some time.

“We are approaching our transition in a way that will boost our customer service. On Monday, we’ll hit the ground together- with great energy, capabilities, and an eye on growing

market share significantly. Our mission is to provide a one-stop resource for local residents in a pleasant and effective manner,” stated Hess. Hess and Premier Bank Executive Vice President, Jack Kane, will focus on combined efforts to meet housing and business needs for Tallahassee.

#### **ABOUT PREMIER BANK**

Premier Bank is a \$429 million locally owned community bank that was founded in 1995 by a group of local business professionals. Premier Bank is headquartered in Tallahassee, FL with six locations in northern Florida; five in Tallahassee and one in Quincy. Premier Bank is a state-chartered, full-service commercial bank.

#### **ABOUT INGLE MORTGAGE**

Founded in 1986 by Tom Ingle, Ingle Mortgage has built its company into a highly reputable mortgage business in the community. Ingle Mortgage locally owned and operated and is headquartered in Tallahassee, FL.

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