

Commerce Street Capital, LLC Supports Educational Efforts of SW Graduate School of Banking with Four Scholarships

DALLAS, TX (July 15, 2009) Commerce Street Capital, LLC, (CSC), a Dallas-based investment banking firm that focuses on financial institutions, is proud to support the SW Graduate School of Banking (SWGSB) at Southern Methodist University by providing \$10,000 for four merit-based scholarships, of \$2,500 each, to student recipients. The grant for the scholarships was funded by CSC, in honor of Chairman James B. Gardner, SWGSB Class VI.

"It's important to recognize those who strive to improve their knowledge of banking," stated Gardner. "I consider my time at SWGSB as a student and 13 years as an instructor invaluable in my career." SWGSB, established in 1957, has risen as one of the top banking educational institutions in the U.S., and is a professional school for bank officers, regulators, and others holding management positions in the financial services industry. SWGSB Merit Scholarships are awarded without regard to financial need; they are scholarships applied directly to the participant's tuition. All students who attend SWGSB are reviewed automatically for scholarship eligibility. Scholarships are based primarily on merit, although sometimes leadership criteria are also considered.

The **James B. Gardner Scholarship** is the most prestigious scholarship available to SWGSB students. The scholarship was also awarded in 2006, 2007 and 2008, making this its fourth year. It is given to up to two returning junior students and up to three graduating seniors. Recipients are current SWGSB students in good standing and must graduate from SWGSB. This year's four recipients, announced and presented by CSC's Founder William D. "Tex" Gross were:

- SENIORS - **Robert S. Shypitka**, Vice President/Retail Sales Manager of Banner Bank in Spokane Valley, Wash. and **Troy R. Vander Stouwe**, Manager Ag Banking Group, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls in Sioux Falls, S.D.
- JUNIORS - **Jeffery Smullen**, Senior Audit Specialist, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in Arlington, Va. and **Chris Stringer**, Senior Vice President of SNB Bank of Dallas, Frisco, TX.



Robert Shypitka received scholarship from Tex Gross



Chris Stringer accepted scholarship from Tex Gross

President and CEO of the SWGSB Foundation Dr. S. Scott MacDonald commented: "Through the generosity and support of our friends at Commerce Street Capital – Tex Gross, Jim Gardner, Dory Wiley and others – we have been able to realize this dream of merit scholarships for SWGSB's top performers. These annual gifts have sent the message to the industry that SWGSB is the first name in leadership development, with substantial rewards for a commitment to excellence."

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Commerce Street Capital, LLC, is a privately held investment banking firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas, that focuses on serving financial institutions across the United States through three lines of business: investment banking; bank development; and fund management. For more than 20 years the firm's leaders have built their reputations as leading investment bankers, financial advisors and investors in community banks across the United States. For more information, visit www.commercestreetcapital.com. Commerce Street Capital, LLC is a Member of FINRA/SIPC.

Those interested in attending the SW Graduate School of Banking—or in learning more about the school and other SWGSB Foundation programs—may write, call, or e-mail: SWGSB, SMU Box 214, Dallas, Texas, 75275; (214) 768-2991; info@swgsb.org. The SWGSB/SMU web site is www.swgsb.org.

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