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North Carolina Housing Finance Agency

#### FIRST SOUTH BANK HONORED FOR WORK WITH FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

WASHINGTON, NC—First South Bank was honored today by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency for its commitment to serve first-time homebuyers.

Bank president and CEO Thomas Vann pledged that all first-time homebuyers who apply for mortgages at First South Bank will be informed about the housing finance agency's below-market-rate mortgages and down payment assistance. First South Bank originates these mortgages in partnership with the Agency.

"First South Bank has helped more than 125 Eastern Carolina families use the agency's low-interest mortgages since 2000," said A. Robert Kucab, executive director. "We know that the staff has a strong commitment to assisting first-time buyers. First South Bank is a valued partner for us and an important resource for these homebuyers."

With a current interest rate of 5.875 percent, the N.C. Housing Finance Agency's mortgages are authorized by Congress to benefit first-time homebuyers of low and moderate income. The Agency sells tax-exempt bonds to finance the 30-year, fixed rate mortgages, which it offers statewide through participating banks and mortgage companies. Down payment assistance up to \$5,000 is available to qualifying families.

In Beaufort County, homebuyers qualify for the mortgages if their income does not exceed \$60,000 for households of three or more, \$52,000 for two-person households or \$50,000 for one-person households. Maximum incomes for down-payment assistance are \$34,950 for four-person families, \$31,450 for three-person families, \$27,950 for two persons, and \$24,450 for one-person households.

Established in 1902, First South Bank operates branches in Chocowinity, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Greenville, Kill Devil Hills, Kinston, Lumberton, New Bern, Rocky Mount, Tarboro, and Washington, where its headquarters is located.