



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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SBA Honors New Preferred Lender

Appleton: American National Bank was honored Thursday, February 9, 2006 by the U.S. Small Business Administration for attaining Preferred Lender status with SBA. In a ceremony at American National Bank, SBA District Director Eric Ness and Lead Business Development Specialist Jim Simelton presented a plaque to American National Bank's President David Blohm, Vice President of Business Banking Lon Rupnow and other business lending officers.

The Preferred Lenders Program (PLP) is another step in SBA's process of "streamlining" the procedures necessary to provide financial assistance to the small business community. Under PLP, SBA delegates loan approval, closing, and most servicing and liquidation authority and responsibility to these carefully selected lenders. American National Bank is one of SBA's most active and expert lenders that qualifies them as a preferred lender.

People who know you by name, loan decisions made on the spot by the bank's loan officers, responsive, customer-oriented services, and local ownership makes American National Bank Fox Cities a hometown tradition. Specializing in small business banking, American National has helped create opportunities for small business owners to achieve their dreams. By offering flexible, responsive and relationship-oriented financial services, American National Bank Fox Cities has established itself as a consistent source of financial resources for businesses and people throughout the Fox Cities.

"American National Bank Fox Cities was founded thirteen years ago to serve the financial needs of businesses in the area." Said Bank President David Blohm. "We value our working relationship with the SBA and are pleased to be honored with their Preferred Lender status."

SBA's Eric Ness said, "We are extremely proud to recognize American National Bank as a preferred lender and look forward to a long and rewarding association."

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available
at SBA's Web site: www.sba.gov and Wisconsin's SBA Website: www.sba.gov/wi*

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