

# Bank of Granite

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Bank of Granite's Statesville office now open**

Statesville, N.C. — Doors opened last week on Bank of Granite's downtown Statesville lending office with veteran bankers Gayle W. Harris and Donna M. Harris (no relation). "We couldn't be happier about opening Bank of Granite's first office in Iredell County," said Senior Vice President Gayle Harris. "Donna and I have been in banking here for many years. We're so excited about leading the newest community bank in Statesville."

Initially specializing in commercial loans, the Statesville office will become a full-service bank pending approval from the North Carolina Commissioner of Banks, which is expected early next month. FDIC approval has already been granted.

The office is located at 207 South Center Street in the former Butler's Shoes store. After extensive remodeling, the office now boasts a new paint scheme and floor covering, as well as a lobby area and three office spaces. The street-front display cases house a changing array of bank information. Once the office becomes a full-service bank, the television monitor in the case will display up-to-date information about products and services, including special CD rates.

In addition to commercial loans, as a full-service office, Bank of Granite will offer consumer, personal, home equity, and SBA loans. Mortgages will be available through subsidiary Granite Mortgage later this year. A variety of personal and business checking accounts will also be available. Other services include several savings accounts, retirement savings, such as IRAs and fixed annuities, and business services.

"I'm really looking forward to offering full banking services to the folks here in Iredell County," said Donna Harris, assistant vice president. "We're in the process of looking at staffing right now so we'll be ready to hit the ground running when we get final regulatory approval to go full service."

The opening of the bank's 22<sup>nd</sup> office marks its entrance in the Iredell County market. "I've always said it's all about people," said Bank of Granite Chairman and CEO Charles Snipes. "We are so fortunate to have two of the best bankers in Statesville to lead our office here."

Gayle Harris has more than 30 years of banking experience in the Foothills region of North Carolina. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at East Carolina University. He also received a degree from the Graduate School of Bank Administration at the University of Virginia.

Currently a board member for Mitchell Community College Endowment of Excellence, Mr. Harris is also a member of Broad Street United Methodist Church and volunteers for the United Way and March of Dimes. He has served on a number of boards in the past including Greater Statesville Chamber of Commerce, Teen Health, Elder Center in Iredell County, as well as past chairman for Alexander County Chamber of Commerce and Alexander Community Hospital. Mr. Harris and his wife, Denise, live in Statesville, and have four children: Ashley Hardin, 27; Lauren Harris, 24; and 19-year-old twins Wesley and Meredith Harris.

Donna Harris comes to Bank of Granite with more than 35 years of banking experience in North Carolina. After graduating from Statesville High School, Mrs. Harris began in banking as a teller and has steadily advanced throughout her career.

Mrs. Harris is a member of Clearvision Baptist Church in Statesville and has been involved in the United Way and March of Dimes. She and her husband, Timothy, live in Taylorsville, N.C. She has two stepdaughters: Alysha, 30, and Shayna, 33; and three step-grandchildren: Raven, 12, Benjamin, 1; and Camryn, born last month.

Bank of Granite and Granite Mortgage are subsidiaries of Bank of Granite Corporation whose stock trades on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "GRAN". In addition to the Statesville lending office, the bank operates 21 full-service banking offices in Burke, Caldwell, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Watauga, and Wilkes counties. Granite Mortgage, headquartered in Winston-Salem, originates home mortgages in these counties and in Fayetteville, Greensboro, and Salisbury, N.C.

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In front of the newly remodeled downtown office space, Gayle Harris and Donna Harris opened Bank of Granite's newest office for business last week.