

Bank of Granite

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Bank of Granite Sends Four to North Carolina School of Banking

Four Bank of Granite employees recently attended the 70th session of the North Carolina School of Banking: Kelly H. Farr, commercial lender, Hickory office; Victoria (Vicki) A. Lovett, Conover office manager; Adam M. Wingler, commercial lender, Morganton office; and Tamela M. Sigmon, training generalist, Hickory office.

“Bank of Granite is proud to send members of our team to attend such a highly respected institution,” said bank chairman and chief executive officer Charles M. Snipes. “Being able to provide these opportunities to our employees is a major part of Bank of Granite’s philosophy. The knowledge they gain not only benefits them, but also every one of our customers.”

Farr, a graduate of the four-year School of Banking program, completed his final year, which provided a senior management perspective to participants. Farr said, “We participated in a bank simulation with many variables, and we made all the decisions. We were able to see how each decision effected the bank as a whole.”

Farr received a Bachelor of Science in Economics from East Carolina University. He has more than eight years of banking experience and has been with Bank of Granite for six years. He is the treasurer of the Rotary Club of Granite Falls, serves on the board of Catawba Valley Community College Foundation, and the Education Foundation Board for Catawba County Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Lorie, live in Granite Falls with their three children: Lindsey, 5; Andrew, 2; and Lauren, 1.

Lovett completed year three of the program, which concentrated on decision

making, investments, asset liability, advanced commercial lending, performance measurement and management, and self-assessment. “We took all the pieces we learned the first two years and put it together to actually run a simulated bank,” said Lovett. “The whole process is a great learning experience.”

Lovett attended Erskine College in Due West, S.C. She’s been in banking for more than 16 years and with Bank of Granite for nearly 10 years. She is chairman of the board for the Shuford YMCA, is a member of the Rotary Club of Catawba Valley, and a 2001 graduate of Leadership Catawba. She and her husband, James (J.B.), live in Hickory. They have two grown children, Jay and Celia, and two grandchildren. They are members of First Presbyterian Church in Newton.

Wingler’s second year program focused on government relations, finance, money and banking, managerial accounting, conflict management, sales and customer service, and motivation and delegation. “We built on the knowledge we gained in the first year,” said Wingler. “It’s a great experience to network with other bankers and learn aspects of banking that can typically only be gained with long-term experience.”

Wingler received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Appalachian State University in 2002 where he majored in finance and banking. He joined Bank of Granite upon graduation and was recently promoted to assistant vice president. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Morganton, a volunteer with Meals on Wheels, and has been involved with the Chamber of Commerce and March of Dimes. He and his wife, Kamie, live in Hudson and are expecting their first child in January. They are active members of Whitnel Pentecostal Holiness Church.

Sigmon completed her first year at the school and received instruction in many aspects of banking that include accounting, sales, lending, financial

management, marketing, compliance, and team building. “It was a great opportunity to meet and talk with peers who experience some of the same issues I do,” said Sigmon. “We were able to learn from each other and hear other solutions to common concerns.”

Sigmon has been in banking for 20 years and joined Bank of Granite in 2003. She received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from University of North Carolina Charlotte where she majored in marketing. Sigmon lives in Denver and is the assistant treasure at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Lincolnton.

The North Carolina School of Banking, which is affiliated with the North Carolina Bankers Association, is the oldest state association banking school in the nation. A weeklong session is held every year in late summer at the William and Ida Friday Continuing Education Center at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Bank of Granite and Granite Mortgage are subsidiaries of Bank of Granite Corporation whose stock is traded on NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol “GRAN.” The bank operates 22 full-service banking offices in Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Forsyth, Iredell, 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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