

Bank of Granite

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 13, 2008

Keener Joins Bank of Granite in Downtown Hickory

Michelle P. Keener has joined Bank of Granite as assistant vice president and office manager of the bank's downtown Hickory office located at 25 Third St. N.W. Senior Vice President and Hickory Regional Executive W. C. "Corky" Upchurch made the announcement. "We are so glad to have Michelle join our Bank of Granite family. Her experience and knowledge of the banking industry will be invaluable in overseeing the day-to-day operations of our downtown Hickory office," said Upchurch. "She is a great addition to our team."

A native of Brewerton, N.Y., Keener graduated from State University of New York (SUNY) Delhi located in the Catskill Mountains. She moved to the Hickory area with her family in 1985. Keener began her banking career in 1969 and has spent the past 23 years serving the greater Hickory area.

"Coming to Bank of Granite has been a great experience," said Keener. "I am continuing to learn and grow in my new position and I just love my coworkers and customers. It's the perfect fit for me here."

Keener is developing relationships with the Women's Resource Center and plans to devote time and efforts to that organization. She has two sons; Seth, age 34, a coach at Fred T. Foard High School, and Zachary, age 30, employed by Hendrick Motors of Hickory. She also has three grandchildren, Riley, age seven, and Annie and Jacob, both one.

“Our downtown Hickory office is one of the busiest in the Catawba region,” said Upchurch. “Michelle’s leadership will keep the focus on providing the best service experience possible for our customers.”



Michelle P. Keener

Bank of Granite and Granite Mortgage are subsidiaries of Bank of Granite Corporation, whose stock is traded on The 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, and a lending office in Guilford County. Granite Mortgage, headquartered in Winston-Salem, originates home mortgages in these counties and in Fayetteville and Salisbury, N.C.

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