

# Bank of Granite

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Bank of Granite Receives SBA Small Business Export Lender Award**

Bank of Granite has received the Small Business Export Lender of the Year award from the Small Business Administration (SBA). The announcement was made by the bank's President and CEO, Charles Snipes and Greg Edwards, Senior Vice President at the Wilkesboro office. Snipes said, "Greg has really done an outstanding job with export lending. His efforts and enthusiasm have made a tremendous impact helping western North Carolina business export their products."

The award was presented on April 27 at the SBA Business Expo in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with National Small Business Week. Bank of Granite was one of only two banks to receive the distinction. The other winner was Wilshire State Bank in Los Angeles, Calif.

Bank of Granite has supported eight-week export training classes conducted at Wilkes Community College and taught by the Carolinas Export Assistance Center. The training and the bank's willingness to consider new markets has brought over \$6 million in export sales to western North Carolina companies, supported by SBA lending.

The SBA Office of Advocacy ranked the Bank of Granite as the top business-friendly bank in North Carolina. "We're so proud of this honor," said Greg Edwards. "It's very gratifying to see companies growing and prospering in the global marketplace as a result of the training Bank of Granite helped bring to the region."

Bank of Granite Corporation is the parent company of Bank of Granite and Granite Mortgage, Inc. The bank operates 21 full service banking offices in Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Forsyth, Mecklenburg, Watauga and Wilkes Counties. Granite Mortgage, headquartered in Winston-Salem, originates home mortgages in these areas, as well as, in Hilton Head, S.C.

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*For further information, please contact:*

Karen Clark-Caruso, *Public Relations & Marketing Director*

PO Box 578 • Hickory, NC 28603 • Ph: 828-345-6863 • Fax: 828-345-6859  
[kcaruso@bankofgranite.com](mailto:kcaruso@bankofgranite.com) • [www.bankofgranite.com](http://www.bankofgranite.com)