

Thomas Bouchette Named to BDC Board



Thomas Bouchette, President and Chief Operating Officer of The Citizens Bank, has joined the Board of Directors of Business Development Corporation (BDC).

The 33-year banking veteran re-joined the Florence-based bank in 2015 as Executive Vice President and Chief Banking Officer and became President and COO earlier this year.

Bouchette began his banking career as a lending officer for the Pee Dee Farm Credit Banks in 1986. He then worked at SCN/Wachovia Bank before serving The Citizens Bank as EVP and Chief Credit Officer from 1997 to 1999.

In 2000, Bouchette became the Organizer, President/CEO and Director of SunBank and Sun Bancshares in Murrells Inlet and held this position until 2005 when the bank was sold to SCBT. He then

became Regional President and EVP for SCBT from 2005 to 2010 and South Carolina President and EVP for BNC Bank from 2010 to 2015.

Bouchette attended Williamsburg High School and Horry-Georgetown Technical College and is a graduate of numerous credit analysis and financial management courses, including Farm Credit and Clemson University's Agricultural Lending School.

"Tommy brings a wealth of experience from his years of banking across the Pee Dee and Grand Strand areas of South Carolina. BDC is delighted to have him join our Board of Directors," said Peter G. Shand, BDC President and CEO.

"BDC has built a record of bringing together community bankers from across the state to help effectively lend to businesses of all sizes and circumstances. Tommy is going to be an integral part of continuing that legacy," said Edwin O. Lesley, Chairman and CEO of BDC.

BDC is a non-bank commercial lending company specializing in the U.S. Small Business Administration's 7(a) loan guaranty program and the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI).

Created by the South Carolina Legislature in 1958 to help foster economic development and job creation, the BDC Board includes many of the state's leading community and commercial bankers and the organization is certified to lend across seven Southeastern states.