

## James B. Gardner Scholarship Awards \$10,000 to SW Graduate School of Banking Students

**DALLAS (June 10, 2011)** — Commerce Street Capital, LLC (“CSC”) continued its support of the SW Graduate School of Banking (“SWGSB”) at Southern Methodist University with \$10,000 in scholarships. Offered yearly since 2006, the James B. Gardner Scholarship/Commerce Street Capital is the most prestigious scholarship available to SWGSB students.

The merit-based scholarships were given to four students (two returning juniors and two graduating seniors) at a ceremony event held June 9. The \$2,500 grant provided to each student was funded by CSC, in honor of James. B. Gardner, current chairman of the firm and proud SWGSB Class VI alum who also dedicated 13 years as instructor.

“It is an honor to provide these scholarships to four deserving individuals who have taken the initiative to advance their knowledge in banking,” stated Gardner. Dory Wiley, President and CEO of CSC, was pleased to congratulate each of this year’s recipients at the event:

- Jon Beverly – Vista Bank Texas, Houston, Texas
- Jon Holmes – The Valley State Bank, Derby, Kansas
- Luke Longhofer – First Financial Bank, Abilene, Texas
- Leslie Sulenta – International Business Strategies Ltd., Zagreb, Croatia



Beverly and Wiley



Holmes and Wiley



Longhofer and Wiley

“One of our missions is to reward SWGSB/SMU’s high achievers with merit-based scholarships,” said Scott MacDonald, President and CEO of SW Graduate School of Banking Foundation. “It’s a way of ‘paying for performance.’” Tex Gross, Dory Wiley and their outstanding team at Commerce Street Capital embraced our vision early on and have been incredibly generous in realizing this dream, year after year. The response has been tremendous. Indeed, their contribution has helped set us apart among the country’s top graduate schools of banking, and we are most grateful.”



Sulenta and Wiley

SWGSB is considered one of the top banking educational institutions in the U.S. and is a professional school for bank officers, regulators and others holding management positions in the financial services industry. Scholarships are based primarily on merit, though sometimes leadership criteria are also considered. All students who attend SWGSB are reviewed automatically for scholarship eligibility.

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**About Commerce Street Capital**

Commerce Street Capital, LLC ("CSC") is a private investment banking firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Founded in October 2007 and led by veterans of the banking industry, CSC specializes in investment banking services (mergers and acquisitions, valuations and regulatory issue advising) and bank development (on-site consulting and management of capital raising, market assessments, application development, board of director placement). The firm provides tailored solutions for all or part of a financial institution's business lifecycle. For more information, visit [www.commercestreetcapital.com](http://www.commercestreetcapital.com) or call 214-545-6800. Commerce Street Capital is a member of FINRA/SIPC.

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