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P R E S S R E L E A S E

I.T. EXECUTIVES FROM SUPERCOMMUNITY BANKS TO EXPLORE TOP TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES AND INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. /Sept. 23, 2002/ -- In a unique, invitation-only symposium, chief information officers from 20 non-competing SuperCommunity Banks around the nation will gather here October 27-29 to candidly share opinions and experiences, compare technology initiatives, and examine industry best practices.

The *SuperCommunity Bank CIO Peer Group Forum*, hosted twice each year by SCB Forums, Ltd. and Cornerstone Advisors, Inc., brings together executive level technology professionals from banks with asset sizes ranging from \$1 billion to \$30 billion.

“This Forum is unlike any other in that registered attendees design their own agenda to maximize returns on the time they spend together, as well as discuss with great candor issues that are on their plates,” said Anat Bird, president and CEO of SCB Forums and facilitator of the conference. “They say ‘here’s what’s on our minds, here’s what we need to talk about,’ and then they get down to business.”

Attendance is intentionally limited to 20 banks to foster open and fully participative dialogue in an informal setting, Bird said. “We are delighted that all 20 spots for our October Forum were reserved so quickly,” she added.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for many of our client banks to meet peers and discuss how they’re handling technology and process challenges,” said Scott Sommer, president and CEO of Cornerstone Advisors. “We always encourage our clients to measure their performance against benchmarks and best practices, and I can’t think of a better way for them to do this than in one-on-one, frank discussions with peer banks.”

Issues at the top of the list for the October Forum are Web and Internet strategies, network and data communications best practices, the effectiveness of CRM systems, and future payment system initiatives. Microsoft Senior Technology Specialist Russ Ruggia is scheduled to speak on “Web Standards, Integration Strategies and Security,” and Michael Fong, CEO of Calence, Inc., is slated to discuss network and data communications best practices.

The next Forum is scheduled for April 27-29, 2003, in Hilton Head, S.C.

(more)

Cornerstone Advisors, based in Scottsdale, provides consulting and advisory services focusing on strategy planning, technology assessment, vendor selection and process re-engineering for mid-sized banks (\$1 billion - \$30 billion in assets) and other financial institutions.

SCB Forums, Ltd. facilitates executive forums for bank executives in human resources, marketing, and risk management. The firm is dedicated to serving SuperCommunity Banks nationwide through consulting, meeting facilitation, peer group management, and board services.

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