

**75****YEARS STRONG****FIRST  
FEDERAL®****PRESS RELEASE: *For Immediate Release*****FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**Debbie S. George | 870.391.3427 | [dgeorge@ffbh.com](mailto:dgeorge@ffbh.com)**ARKANSAS BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN  
HONORS FIRST FEDERAL FOR FOURTH YEAR**

*Little Rock, Ark., May 2009* – Arkansas Business and Professional Women (AR/BPW) held its Ninth Annual “Arkansas Women Mean Business” Gala and Awards Banquet on Friday, May 29, 2009, at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in Little Rock.

For the fourth year in a row, First Federal Bank won the Employer of the Year Award. Larry J. Brandt, Chief Executive Officer of First Federal, accepted the award on behalf of the Bank.

“This is truly a great honor for our company and one that we take great pride in,” said Brandt. “Over 83% of our Team Members are women, and 34 hold a title of Vice President or above. We are pleased to be recognized for the value we place on women both as customers and members of the organization.”

The annual Gala recognizes individual women for achievements in the arts, banking, education, financial, legal, medical, and non-traditional fields. The Arkansas Employer of the Year is recognized for a track record of supporting female employees through equal advancement opportunities and family-friendly policies and procedures.

First Federal was previously named the 2006 AR/BPW Employer of the Year, the 2007 AR/BPW Employer of the Year, the 2007 Best Customer Service Award/Financial Institution, and the 2008 AR/BPW Employer of the Year.

**About Business and Professional Women (BPW)**

BPW/USA, founded in 1919, promotes equity for all women in the workplace through advocacy, education, and information. With 1500 local organizations across the country and members in every congressional district, BPW/USA is the leading advocate for millions of workingwomen on work life balance and workplace equity issues. Local BPW organizations provide members with professional development programs, networking, participation in grassroots activism, and opportunities to support scholarships for disadvantaged women. The Arkansas federation was also formed in 1919; currently 24 organizations throughout the state serve over 400 members.

**About First Federal Bank**

First Federal is a community bank serving consumers and businesses in Northwest Arkansas with a full range of checking, savings, investment, and loan products and services. The Bank, founded in 1934, has \$803.4 million in assets as of March 31, 2009, and conducts business from 20 full-service branch locations, one stand-alone loan production office, and 31 ATMs. First Federal Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of First Federal Bancshares of Arkansas, Inc., whose stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol FFBH. For information on all the products and services we offer, visit us on the web at [www.ffbh.com](http://www.ffbh.com) or contact our Account Information Center by phone toll free at 866-AIC-FFBH (870.365.8329 Harrison area) or by email at [aic@ffbh.com](mailto:aic@ffbh.com).

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