



**BANK
OF THE
SIERRA**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Bank of the Sierra Announces Keith Pretzer as a
Graduate of Pacific Coast Banking School**

PORTERVILLE, CA — Local resident Keith L. Pretzer, Senior Vice President & Area Manager, Bank of the Sierra, Fresno, CA, graduated from Pacific Coast Banking School (PCBS) on September 4, 2009. This year's graduating class consisted of 211 executives representing a diverse mix of financial institutions from around the country.

For over 70 years, the prestigious Pacific Coast Banking School has partnered with the University Of Washington Graduate School Of Business to teach the business of banking to over 10,000 bankers and members of the financial service community. Hundreds of PCBS alumni currently serve as CEO's of financial institutions and in key leadership roles across the country. Graduates of this three-year leadership and financial management educational program attend a two-week resident session each August on the University of Washington campus and complete six rigorous inter-session assignments, including an original management thesis.

"We are proud of Keith's hard work and completion of the Pacific Coast Banking School's rigorous program. It is quite an accomplishment and exemplifies his commitment to banking excellence", stated Kevin McPhaill, Executive Vice President Chief Banking Officer.

About Bank of the Sierra

With over \$1.3 billion in assets and strong performance ratios, Bank of the Sierra is the largest independently owned community bank headquartered in Southern San Joaquin Valley's Heartland. The bank serves 15 different communities with 23 branches, two Ag Centers and one SBA Center. For more information visit the web site at www.bankofthesierra.com or call (888) 454-BANK.

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