



The Column

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Welcome back to The Column, our quarterly newsletter.

On May 23, we opened our corporate office at 181 N. Winstead Avenue in Rocky Mount, NC, with a ribbon cutting and reception, and we are so grateful for everyone who attended and celebrated the occasion with us! We would like to extend a special thank you to Rocky Mount-based contractor Smithson, Inc. as well as Falkbuilt for their work on this project. The building, our third on our N. Winstead Avenue campus, will serve as a state-of-the-art expanded operations headquarters. During our expansion over the last few years, many of our day-to-day corporate teams, including deposit and loan services, FinTech support, compliance, credit, loan processing, and finance, have remained largely housed in Rocky Mount, and this third building allows for those teams to stay in Rocky Mount and grow accordingly. The new building connects directly into our current corporate office, which opened in the fourth quarter of 2020. The combined three-story, 26,000 square foot space encompasses 70 offices (55 of which are new), multiple conference rooms, a training room, a wellness room, and a media room.

“We are deeply committed to our eastern North Carolina roots and believe the growth in First Carolina’s franchise will extend our ability to make further investments in the region, thus enhancing overall economic activity,” **Ron Day**, our President and CEO, said. “Kristen Brabble and her team have delivered another quality facility for Rocky Mount that will be a center of commerce for many years to come.”

“As a company dedicated to growth and success, we take great pride in maintaining the Bank’s headquarters in the Twin Counties,” **Kristen Brabble**, our COO, said. “This strategic decision not only showcases our unwavering commitment to the local community but also provides us with the necessary resources to attract and retain top-tier talent. By expanding our presence in this region, we are poised to serve our expanding market across four states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia – and continue delivering exceptional service while doing the day-to-day things in banking extremely well for our clients and shareholders.”



Our Commitment: We Do The Day-To-Day Things In Banking Extremely Well



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MEET OUR 2024 SUMMER INTERNS



Garrett Lewis

Retail Banking & Treasury Operations Intern

Garrett just graduated from Faith Christian School in Rocky Mount and plans to attend Nash Community College in the fall. As our Retail Banking & Treasury Operations Intern, he will assist the branch with processing teller transactions, opening accounts, and completing customer maintenance requests. He will also assist Treasury Ops with the NonJHA menu project, monitoring remote deposits (RDC), and daily review of customer accounts.

John Ludenia III

Retail Operations Intern

John has already earned a degree in finance with a minor in mathematics from the Quinnipiac University School of Business in Hamden, CT and is currently pursuing his MBA there. As our Retail Operations Intern, he will assist with retail reporting, document indexing, and audits.

Colin Shannon

Marketing Intern

Colin is majoring in advertising and public relations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As our Marketing Intern, he will complete social media audits and website audits as well as planning and creating other marketing campaign assets. He will also shadow with a variety of departments in the Bank.

A FRAUD REMINDER

Satisfying our customers' financial needs in a secure manner and helping them succeed financially has been a cornerstone of First Carolina Bank since we first opened our doors. At First Carolina Bank, protecting our customers, their data, and other information is a top priority, and one that we take very seriously. We continue to enhance our systems and processes as online services evolve. Because no single solution can ensure online security, we have developed a layered security approach with industry-leading solutions.

The security systems that are in place, however, cannot protect those customers who do not follow secure and proper computer practices. It is vitally important that customers take all necessary precautions to ensure that their computer access credentials are not compromised. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding any activity that increases the likelihood of identity theft; not opening fraudulent email messages that contain harmful viruses or malware; not falling prey to social engineering attacks where perpetrators obtain computer access information with direct communications via phone calls, fax, or mail; not sharing user ID and passwords with coworkers or friends; limiting or discontinuing the use of weak passwords; keeping computer anti-virus and similar programs up to date; and not falling prey to internet sales and get-rich-quick scams. Therefore, First Carolina Bank has the expectation that each customer will take any and all reasonable precautions to reduce the likelihood of computer-related fraud and the resulting financial losses. Let's work together to fight fraud!

NEED ONLINE BANKING HELP?

You can always reach out to your banker or local branch if you suspect fraud may have occurred on your account, but if you have a question specific to something you're seeing within your online banking, we have a dedicated help line for that. For all online banking inquiries, call **(252) 451-2963**, and one of our online banking experts will assist.

Product Spotlight: ICS & CDARS

Wondering about FDIC insurance and whether it's possible to insure larger sums of money while still maintaining your current banking relationship?

At First Carolina Bank, we offer ICS and CDARS products to **allow our customers to do just that.**

WHAT ARE ICS AND CDARS?

ICS stands for IntraFi Cash Service, and CDARS is short for Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service. These services provide **FDIC insurance on deposits greater than \$250,000**. Your funds are divided into deposits below that threshold at multiple FDIC-insured institutions, but you will receive **all account support through your First Carolina Bank bankers**, and your ICS and CDARS account balances are easily viewable via your First Carolina online banking. Additionally, we automated the sweep process for ICS accounts such that when your balance surpasses the \$250,000 mark, the excess funds will automatically sweep into a different account. This way, you can take the guesswork out of insuring your funds!

WHICH PRODUCT IS BEST FOR ME?

It depends on your needs. ICS places your funds into demand deposit and money market accounts, while CDARS is a CD-based product. So, if you'd like more consistent access to the money, ICS is the right route, but if you're comfortable setting it aside for a longer period of time, CDARS is a great option.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Aside from the security of the program and simplicity of working with just First Carolina Bank, it's important to note that the interest rates for these accounts are set by us and not another institution. Also, making your deposit through First Carolina enables us to use the full amount of the funds to reinvest in the communities we serve.

Not sure if these options are right for you? Your banker can also put you in touch with our in-house wealth management team if you have any financial planning questions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: **TACKLE THE TAR**



Kristen Brabble, our COO and the chair of Tackle the Tar, is pictured in the center wearing the yellow staff shirt with the team from North Carolina Wesleyan University. Photo by Carl Lewis.

May 18 saw the seventh annual run of Tackle The Tar, a 5K obstacle course race chaired by our own Chief Operating Officer, **Kristen Brabble**. The race begins at the Rocky Mount Sports complex and courses through historic Battle Park, challenging participants with over 20 obstacles, including a mud pit. **All proceeds from the event go directly to the funding of college scholarships for deserving students in Nash and Edgecombe Counties.** A variety of Bank employees from multiple locations both ran and volunteered, and **Lauren Paré**, one of our FinTech Compliance Complaint Specialists, aided Brabble by serving as a co-chair of the event's marketing committee.

In total, the 2024 event featured:

- **700 runners** from **6 different states**
- **100 volunteers**
- **Over \$100,000 raised** for local students going to local colleges or universities

