

**For Immediate Release
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**Community Banks in South Carolina Recognize April as
“Community Banking Month!”**

Columbia, S.C., April 8, 2005, the Independent Banks of South Carolina (IBSC) will join community bankers nationwide during April to celebrate April as “Community Banking Month!” Community bankers across the country have made a combined effort to discuss with the public the important economic and social contribution their banks make in their hometowns.

South Carolina Community Banks play a significant role in local economic development efforts by financing new businesses, stimulating the economy to produce jobs and new opportunities and, as a group, they contribute an important and strong part of the state’s economic fabric.

South Carolina Community Banks have supported their communities as they prospered and grew. Today, more than 68 South Carolina Community Banks continue the tradition of giving back to their local communities through nearly 250 banking offices with more than \$10 billion in assets. South Carolina Community Banks are working citizens in their communities with 7,143 full-time employees

The Independent Banks of South Carolina is an association of 68 locally owned and operated banks in South Carolina, which promotes the interests and welfare of the independent community banks within the state.