



FIRST BUSEY CORPORATION

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CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820

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January 3, 2013

First Busey Corporation Names Stephen V. King to Board of Directors

CHAMPAIGN, IL – First Busey Corporation (NASDAQ: BUSE) has announced Stephen V. King as an independent director of the board effective January 1, 2013. His appointment brings the board to ten members. King was selected because of his extensive knowledge and acumen in business management, merger and acquisition, due diligence and negotiation, as well as his experience implementing effective economic and growth strategies that drive shareholder value.

King has worked as Founding Partner of Prairie Capital, L.P., in Chicago since 1997. Prairie Capital specializes in facilitating ownership transitions for middle market companies across a range of industries. Prairie Capital's four previous funds were deployed in more than 70 platform companies representing in excess of \$525 million of invested capital. They are currently investing out of their latest fund, the \$300 million Prairie Capital V.

“Steve brings a valuable perspective to Busey through his years of experience helping successful businesses manage change and achieve sustainable growth.” said Van Dukeman, President & CEO of First Busey Corporation.

In addition, King provides guidance to various other boards—FCA Packaging Products, Industrial Water Treatment Solutions, Insource Contract Services, Pioneer Metal Finishing, R3 Education, Regency Beauty Institute, Specialized Education Services, Inc. and Teacher Match, LLC. Before founding Prairie Capital, King was the initial President for ANB Mezzanine (then a subsidiary of First Chicago Corporation). King is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and past chairman of the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies.

“Prairie Capital shares Busey’s level of engagement in, and commitment to, the community,” said Greg Lykins, First Busey Corporation Chairman. *“As one of Prairie Capital’s founders, Steve is an integral part of building and maintaining a culture of success. I welcome the opportunity to collaborate with Steve, and look forward to the new insight and expertise he brings to the First Busey Corporation Board of Directors.”*

King is familiar with downstate Illinois and the communities Busey serves. A native of Bloomington, Illinois, King is a graduate of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance. King has also earned a master's of business administration with a concentration in Finance from the University of Chicago as well as a Juris Doctor from Loyola University. Active in various community organizations, King serves on the Board of Directors for Arc of Hope, Big Shoulders Fund and Boys Hope/Girls Hope of Illinois. He lives in Evanston, IL with his wife and four children.

Corporate Profile

First Busey Corporation (NASDAQ: BUSE) is a \$3.5 billion financial holding company headquartered in Champaign, Illinois. Busey Bank, First Busey Corporation's wholly-owned bank subsidiary, is headquartered in Champaign, Illinois and has thirty-one full service and four limited service banking centers serving Illinois, a full service banking center in Indianapolis, Indiana, and seven full service banking centers serving southwest Florida. Busey Bank had total assets of \$3.5 billion as of September 30, 2012.

Busey Wealth Management is a wholly-owned subsidiary of First Busey Corporation. Through Busey Trust Company, Busey Wealth Management provides asset management, investment and fiduciary services to individuals, businesses and foundations. As of September 30, 2012, Busey Wealth Management managed approximately \$4.1 billion in assets. In October 2012, Busey announced the formation of Trevett Capital Partners, a private wealth management model created to serve high net worth clientele in SW Florida.

Through Busey Bank, First Busey Corporation owns a retail payment processing subsidiary, FirstTech, Inc., which processes over 22 million transactions per year through online bill payments, lockbox processing and walk-in payments through its 3,100 agent locations in 38 states.

Busey Bank also provides electronic delivery of financial services through its website, www.busey.com.

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