



# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## *ECB Names Darren S. Howell as Vice President and Commercial Market Executive*

**Durham, N.C.** – Charles Evans, Senior Vice President and Commercial Banking Executive for The East Carolina Bank (ECB), announced that Darren Howell has been named Vice President and Commercial Market Executive for the Triangle area.

“East Carolina Bank is extremely fortunate to have Darren on board as a Commercial Banking Executive,” said Evans. “His leadership and financial expertise will play a critical role in serving the financial needs of business and commercial customers in the Triangle market. We look forward to his leadership in this key position.”

Howell brings to ECB 17 years’ experience in the commercial banking industry, most recently as Senior Vice President, Chapel Hill/Durham City Executive with Gateway Bank. Prior to Gateway Bank, Darren spent ten years with BB&T as Vice President, Business Services Officer and was a graduate of BB&T’s Management Development Program. As the Triangle Commercial Market Executive with East Carolina Bank, Howell will be responsible for building and managing a commercial banking team as well as the development and management of small and medium size commercial banking relationships.

“I am very excited to be joining such a well-established community banking organization,” stated Howell. “I look forward to continuing to work with small and medium sized businesses to help them achieve their financial goals, and I am eager to

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partner with ECB in building a first-class commercial banking team that will serve our clients well in the Triangle.”

A strong supporter of his local community, Howell currently volunteers in several civic organizations including East Chapel Hill Rotary Club, East Chapel Hill Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Co-Chair, and Chapel Hill Country Club Finance Committee. He is also a member of the East Carolina University Pirate Club, Commerce Club and Alumni Association. Formerly, Howell was a Board & Executive Committee Member and Treasurer for Downtown Durham, Inc.

Howell is a graduate of East Carolina University in Greenville, NC where he received his MBA and BSBA with a concentration in Finance. He currently resides in Durham with his wife Jennifer and sons, Edward and Reese.

**About ECB Bancorp, Inc.**

ECB Bancorp, Inc. is a bank holding company, headquartered in Engelhard, North Carolina, whose wholly-owned subsidiary, The East Carolina Bank, is a state-chartered, independent community bank insured by the FDIC. The Bank provides a full range of financial services through its 25 offices covering eastern North Carolina from Currituck to Ocean Isle Beach and Greenville to Hatteras. The Bank also provides Mortgage, Wealth Management, and Insurance Services through the Bank’s licensed agents. The Company’s common stock is listed on the NYSE Amex under the symbol “ECBE”. More information can be obtained by visiting ECB’s web site at [www.MyECB.com](http://www.MyECB.com).

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Darren Howell  
Vice President and  
Commercial Market Executive  
Triangle Area