



PRESS RELEASE

January 13, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECB's John Dawson Promoted to Managing Director of Wealth Management

SOUTHERN SHORES, N.C. – Thomas Crowder, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for The East Carolina Bank (ECB), announced that John E. Dawson, Financial Advisor for ECB's Southern Shores office, was promoted to Managing Director of the Wealth Management Division.

"East Carolina Bank is fortunate to have someone with John's experience prepared to step up and take on the development of our Wealth Management Division," commented Crowder. "I expect the future growth and expansion of the Wealth Management Division to be dynamic under John's leadership."

Dawson joined ECB in 2010 as a Financial Advisor. Prior to ECB, his experience spans 20 years in the financial industry with roles as senior financial advisor, banking center manager, and corporate services analyst.

"I enjoy providing financial advice and exceptional customer service to my clients at ECB Wealth Management," Dawson said. "With my additional responsibilities as Managing Director, I look forward to using my expertise to recruit experienced Financial Advisors and help grow the Wealth Management business across all of ECB's markets."

Dawson is a graduate of East Carolina University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He is currently enrolled in the College for Financial Planning in the CFP

Professional Education Program. He is a current board member of the Outer Banks Family YMCA and former President of the Manteo and Kitty Hawk Rotary Clubs. He is also the former Chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and former Treasurer of Sharon United Methodist Church.

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.

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John E. Dawson
Managing Director of the
Wealth Management Division