



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2008

Ellis, KS and Wichita, KS. On April 17, 2008, the Board of Directors of Ellis State Bank (“Ellis”) and the Board of Equity Bancshares, Inc., holding company for Equity Bank, N.A., (“Equity”) entered into a definitive agreement to merge the two Kansas based banking organizations (the “Merger”). The completion of the Merger is subject to various closing conditions, including receiving certain regulatory approvals. Equity and Ellis expect to close the proposed transaction by June 30, 2008.

Mike Downing, President and CEO of Ellis, commented that “The Merger will provide a great advantage for our customers with expanded access to their accounts in other markets where Equity operates. In addition, the new products and services that Equity will bring to the table, such as remote deposit and free nationwide ATMs, will be a huge benefit for our customers. For sometime now we have been looking to partner with a company that has similar business strategies in terms of enhancing the customer’s experience and increasing long term value for our shareholders, and Equity certainly fits that bill.”

Speaking on behalf of the Equity Board, Chairman and CEO Brad Elliott said the merger “...is very exciting in terms of expanding the franchise into Central Kansas. We strongly believe that to be successful in the State of Kansas, having the right people and locations in both the metro markets and in strong community markets is critical. Ellis County is experiencing tremendous growth being along the I-70 corridor, with Fort Hays State, healthcare, agribusiness and the oil and gas industry contributing to the health of the economy in the area. The team at Ellis, led by Mike and his experienced management group, will have an immediate impact on our company’s financial success and in meeting our strategic goals. The plan is simple - just let them keep doing what they’ve been doing so well over the years.”

As of March 30, 2008, Ellis had total assets of \$69 million with their main banking facility in Ellis and a branch in Hays, KS. Ellis is the sixth largest bank in Ellis County in terms of deposits based on the latest FDIC market data. Equity had total assets of \$288 million and has eight locations: Wichita, KS (3), Andover, KS, Overland Park, KS, Spring Hill, KS, Haddam, KS and Lee’s Summit, MO. The combined organization will have approximately \$360 million in assets.

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