

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Equity Bancshares, Inc. Announces Six-Month Results for 2015

WICHITA, Kansas (August 4, 2015) – Equity Bancshares, Inc. (the “Company”), the Wichita-based holding company of Equity Bank, released its unaudited results for the period ended June 30, 2015, including net income of \$5.0 million.

“We’re pleased with our results for the first half of 2015, with additional loan activity, and deposit growth throughout many of our markets,” said Brad Elliott, Chairman and CEO. “We continue to achieve efficiencies through scale. Our team of dedicated lenders also continues to serve as banking resources for our stable communities.”

Highlights of the Company’s performance for the first half of 2015 include:

- Net income allocable to common stockholders of \$4.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015, compared to \$4.2 million for the same period in 2014.
- Diluted earnings per share of \$0.78 for the six months ended June 30, 2015, compared to \$0.64 for the six-month period ended June 30, 2014.
- Deposits at June 30, 2015 were \$1.0 billion, compared to \$967 million at June 30, 2014.
- Total assets at June 30, 2015 of \$1.35 billion, compared to \$1.18 billion at June 30, 2014.
- Diluted tangible common book value per share at June 30, 2015 of \$13.72.

Six-Month Financial Review

Net income allocable to common stockholders was \$4.9 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015, on net income of \$5.0 million for the same period. For the six months ended June 30, 2014, net income allocable to common stockholders was \$4.2 million, on net income of \$4.8 million. Diluted earnings per share were \$0.78 for the six months ended June 30, 2015, and \$0.64 for the six months ended June 30, 2014.

Net interest income was \$22.3 million for the first six months ended June 30, 2015, compared to \$20.5 million during the same period in 2014. The net interest margin on average interest-earning assets was 3.98% in the first six months of 2015, compared to 3.97% during the same period of 2014. Non-interest income was \$4.8 million for the six-month period ended June 30, 2015, compared to \$4.2 million during the same period in 2014. Non-interest expenses totaled \$18.2 million for the six months ended June 30, 2015, compared to \$17.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2014.

Total assets were \$1.35 billion on June 30, 2015, and \$1.18 billion on June 30, 2014. Net loans totaled \$830 million at June 30, 2015, compared to \$679 million a year prior. As of June 30, 2015, the allowance for loan losses was \$5.6 million, or 0.68%, of period-end loans, compared to \$6.1 million, or 0.89% of period-end loans, on June 30, 2014. Non-performing assets (non-accrual loans and Other Real Estate Owned) totaled \$14.3 million, or 1.06% of total assets, as of June 30, 2015, compared to \$16.0 million, or 1.35% of total assets, on June 30, 2014. Total deposits at the end of the six-month period ended June 30, 2015 were \$1.0 billion, compared to \$967 million at June 30, 2014.

The Company's book equity at June 30, 2015 was \$122 million, compared to \$128 million on June 30, 2014. As of June 30, 2015, the Company had 6,270,727 common shares outstanding. Diluted tangible book value per common share was \$13.72 at June 30, 2015, compared to \$12.37 at June 30, 2014.

About Equity Bancshares, Inc. and Equity Bank

Equity Bancshares, Inc. is the holding company for Equity Bank, a \$1.35 billion financial institution with 25 locations throughout Kansas and Missouri, including corporate headquarters in Wichita and branches throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

On July 28, 2015, the Company announced its agreement to acquire First Independence Corporation of Independence, Kansas, and its wholly-owned subsidiary First Federal Savings & Loan Association ("First Independence"), with consolidated total assets of \$134 million, branch offices in Independence, Neodesha, Coffeyville and Pittsburg, Kansas, and a loan production office in Lawrence, Kansas. The transaction is subject to certain regulatory approvals and anticipated to close in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Equity Bank offers a full range of financial solutions, including commercial loans, consumer banking, mortgage loans, and treasury management services. Equity Bank's deposits are insured up to the maximum legal amount by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Company was founded by Chairman and CEO Brad Elliott in Andover, Kansas, and Equity Bank offices are now located in Andover, Ellis, Hays, Overland Park, Topeka, and Wichita, Kansas, and Clinton, Higginsville, Kansas City, Knob Noster, Lee's Summit, Sedalia, Sweet Springs, Warrensburg, Warsaw and Windsor, Missouri. Learn more at www.equitybank.com.

Special Note Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained herein may be considered "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon the belief of the Company's management, as well as assumptions made beyond information currently available to the Company's management, and may be, but not necessarily are, identified by such words as "will," "expect," "plan," "anticipate," "target," "forecast" and "goal". Because such "forward-looking statements" are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the Company's expectations include competition from other financial institutions and bank holding companies; the effects of and changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve Board; changes in the demand for loans; fluctuations in value of collateral and loan reserves; inflation, interest rate, market and monetary fluctuations; changes in consumer spending, borrowing and savings habits; and acquisitions and integration of acquired businesses, and similar variables. Except as otherwise stated in this news announcement, the Company does not undertake any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements because of new information, future events or otherwise.

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CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Unaudited Results

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Dollars in thousands)

	6/30/15	6/30/14
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 19,626	\$ 22,618
Total Investments	383,948	369,347
Net Loans	830,724	679,277
Total Other Assets	117,181	110,171
Total Assets	\$ 1,351,479	\$ 1,181,413
Total Deposits	\$ 1,003,801	\$ 966,531
Total Borrowings and Other Liabilities	225,930	87,339
Total Stockholders' Equity	121,748	127,543
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	\$ 1,351,479	\$ 1,181,413

Consolidated Income Statements

(Dollars in thousands)

	<i>For the Six Months Ended</i> 6/30/15	<i>For the Six Months Ended</i> 6/30/14
Net Interest Income	\$ 22,344	\$ 20,483
Provision For Loan Losses	(1,330)	(900)
Net Interest Income After Provision	21,014	19,583
Total Non-interest Income	4,782	4,223
Total Non-interest Expense	(18,227)	(16,950)
Income Before Income Taxes	7,569	6,856
Provision for Income Taxes	(2,559)	(2,081)
Net Income	\$ 5,010	\$ 4,775
Dividends and Discount Accretion on Preferred Stock	(86)	(565)
Net Income Allocable to Common Stockholders	\$ 4,924	\$ 4,210

Stockholder Data

	<i>For the Six Months Ended</i> 6/30/15	<i>For the Six Months Ended</i> 6/30/14
Basic Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.65
Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.78	\$ 0.64
YTD Weighted Average Shares	6,270,727	6,501,165
YTD Diluted Weighted Average Shares	6,287,810	6,555,256
Shares Outstanding at Period-end	6,270,727	6,064,943
Diluted Shares Outstanding at Period-end	6,289,407	6,161,004
Common Book Value Per Share	\$ 16.81	\$ 15.77
Common Book Value Per Share-Diluted	\$ 16.76	\$ 15.52
Tangible Common Book Value Per Share	\$ 13.76	\$ 12.57
Tangible Common Book Value Per Share-Diluted	\$ 13.72	\$ 12.37

All numbers are in thousands of dollars except for the number of shares and per share amounts. This financial information is internally prepared by bank management and is accurate to the best of our knowledge, but is not audited or reviewed. Prior year financial information may have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.