



NEWS RELEASE

Equity Bancshares, Inc. and First Independence Corporation Complete Merger

10/13/2015

WICHITA, Kan., Oct. 13, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Equity Bancshares, Inc., the Wichita-based holding company of Equity Bank, and First Independence Corporation, the holding company of First Federal Savings & Loan of Independence, based in Independence, Kansas, today announced the completion of their merger.

Former First Federal Savings & Loan of Independence branch locations in Independence, Coffeyville, Neodesha and Pittsburg, Kansas, will open as Equity Bank branches on Tuesday, October 13, at 9 a.m., as part of the Equity Bank branch network.

With completion of the merger, effective at close of business Friday, October 9, 2015, Equity Bank now has \$1.5 billion in total assets and 29 banking offices in Kansas and Missouri.

Equity Bank's deposits are insured up to the maximum legal amount by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In addition to the locations mentioned above, Equity Bank has offices 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; acquisitions and integration of acquired businesses; and similar variables. The Company does not undertake any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements because of new information, future events or otherwise.

