



Oconee Financial Corporation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCONEE STATE BANK ANNOUNCES SBA LENDING LEADERSHIP EXPANSION

WATKINSVILLE, Ga., October 29, 2026 – Oconee State Bank (OTCQX: OSBK) today announced that Joe Smith has joined the Bank as Senior Vice President and Director of Government Guaranteed Lending (SBA), further strengthening the Bank’s commitment to serving small businesses through its growing SBA lending platform.

With a banking career spanning more than 35 years and a specialized focus on SBA lending since 1995, Joe Smith brings extensive expertise in building, leading, and growing successful government-guaranteed lending programs. Throughout his career, he has held executive SBA leadership positions with institutions across the country, overseeing sales, credit, operations, business development, and strategic growth initiatives.

“Joe’s experience, industry reputation, and deep knowledge of SBA lending make him an outstanding addition to our team,” said Mike Hill, President of Trio South Bank, a Division of Oconee State Bank. “He has spent decades helping financial institutions build high-performing SBA platforms, while creating meaningful opportunities for small business owners. His leadership will help us continue expanding our SBA capabilities and delivering valuable financing solutions to the businesses that fuel economic growth in the communities we serve.”

“Oconee State Bank has established a strong reputation for serving businesses and communities with excellence, and we are excited to welcome Joe to our organization,” said Neil Stevens, President and Chief Executive Officer of Oconee State Bank. “His extensive SBA expertise, leadership experience, and passion for helping small businesses succeed make him an exceptional fit for our team.”

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About the Company

Oconee Financial Corporation, established in January 1999, serves as the holding company for Oconee State Bank, established in 1960 and headquartered in Watkinsville, Georgia. The Bank operates six full-service financial centers across Oconee, Athens-Clarke, Gwinnett, Macon-Bibb, and Elbert counties. The Bank also maintains Loan and Deposit Production

Offices in Johnson City, Tennessee, under its Trio South Bank division, and in Statesboro, Georgia. Oconee State Bank is the only locally owned and operated community bank headquartered in Oconee County and is committed to providing personalized service, innovative financial solutions, and local decision-making that create remarkable experiences for its customers, businesses, and communities.

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