



## 2011 Press Release

### Portage Community Bank Receives Prestigious Preferred Lender Status from SBA

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**Date:** January 25, 2011

#### RAVENNA, OHIO

During the last few years of economic uncertainty, Portage Community Bank continued to be a leader in lending to businesses in Portage County. At a time when many found it increasingly difficult to obtain financing, PCB remained committed to using the bank's resources to fill the needs of business owners throughout the community.

PCB has been able to assist businesses by utilizing various governmental programs. In some instances, the United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development Loan Guaranty Program, the State of Ohio's GrowNOW Linked Deposit Program and the Small Business Administration (SBA) have been utilized.

In 2009 and again in 2010, PCB was recognized as one of the top Small Business Administration (SBA) lenders in Northeast Ohio by *Crain's Cleveland Business*. In December of 2010, PCB learned that it had received the prestigious Preferred Lender Program (PLP) status from the SBA. By participating in the PLP, the bank will be able to dramatically increase the efficiency and expediency of the SBA lending process. PLP status is reserved for banks that show an exceptional performance record with the SBA with strong volume and low default rates. PLP status is the highest distinction that a bank can receive from the SBA.

"We are very happy to welcome Portage Community Bank on board as a Preferred Lender and consider them to be an invaluable lending partner of the SBA," said Gil Goldberg, Cleveland SBA district director. "SBA awards Preferred Lender status to lenders that have demonstrated a commitment to small business and have the ability to effectively serve the market. We believe that their Preferred Lender status should help provide additional access to capital to the small businesses in the area," he added.

Moving forward into 2011, Portage Community Bank remains dedicated to continue living up to its motto of "Neighbors Serving Neighbors". The bank will maintain its high level of service to its existing customers, while continuing to add customers throughout the area.

Portage Community Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Portage Bancshares Inc. To learn more about Portage Community Bank, please visit their website at [www.pcbbank.com](http://www.pcbbank.com). Portage Community Bank is an equal housing lender and FDIC Insured.