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First National Bank's FNB Fund Advisers Earns High Ratings from Morningstar

OMAHA, Neb. (Jan. 26, 2009) – FNB Fund Adviser, a Registered Investment Adviser and division of First Investment Group within First National Bank of Omaha, 1620 Dodge Street, has received high Morningstar ratings on its First Focus Core Equity and Small Company Funds, announced Steve Frantz, chief investment officer.

According to Frantz, the Core Equity Fund received a 4-star overall rating, which is increased from a 3-star rating. The three and five-year period rankings remained at 4-stars and the 10-year period has been increased to three stars from two. The Small Company Fund remained steady at a 4-star overall ranking as well as 5-stars for the three-year period, 4-stars for the five-year period and a 3-star rating for the 10-year period.

Frantz said the Core Equity Fund is common in clients' portfolios and has been a steady performer versus the S&P 500 benchmark. The performance for the three and five year periods has placed the Core Equity Fund in the top of its peer group of more than 1400 funds in this category. The Small Company Fund also ranked in the top of its peer group for the three and five year performance with more than 400 funds considered in this category.

"We made a strategic decision nearly ten years ago to expand beyond traditional trust management business to grow our corporate and individual asset management," said Frantz. "None of this happened by accident, as we have actively sought key additions to our team over the past several years who enhance our expertise and share our vision."

Frantz said First Investment Group's strategy was simple: build a team with the talent and values that are consistent with the organization and the Midwest market. The funds are managed by Randall Greer, head of equity strategy, along with Mark Wynegar and Mike Johnson on the Small Company Fund and Chris Sullivan, on the Core Equity Fund.

“In order to maximize returns for our clients, our team focuses on undervalued and high-quality securities that have the potential for above average returns,” Greer said. “Rather than following trends and responding to short-term market anomalies like some fund managers, we focus on the long-term by using time-tested strategies.”

First Investment Group is a division of the First National Bank of Omaha. First Investment Group manages six of the eight First Focus Funds. The group manages the funds and its separately managed accounts with a value approach, seeking above average returns with below average risk. Strategies managed include: large cap value, small cap value, core fixed income, aggregate fixed income, short/intermediate fixed income, and municipal fixed income.

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