



N E W S R E L E A S E

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Union Credit Bank Introduces New Micro-loan and Consumer Financial Education Program

MIAMI, January 7, 2009 – Union Credit Bank (UCB) today announced that it will offer a new micro-loan program called Credit Enhancement Program (CEP).

This program is designed for first-time borrowers, lower income groups and persons with low or no credit history but meeting other minimum requirements. As part of the program, the borrowers commit to take a financial literacy course which UCB will provide free of charge in combination with one or more local organizations and schools.

The purpose of this program is to help companies and individuals identify effective business practices by incorporating small-dollar loans into mainstream banking services. The program helps low-to-moderate income borrowers to lower their cost of borrowing under credit cards and other consumer programs, while also educating them in debt management and the importance of saving.

“These loans have many significant benefits for UCB and its customers,” said Fernando Capablanca, president and CEO of UCB. “The program helps solidify the banking relationship with community customers in both the depository and credit products, while also introducing customers to a saving component that is currently lacking. The idea is not only to develop a long-term relationship with a client but to also see them graduate into more traditional commercial programs.”

The program is similar to the FDIC’s “Small Dollar Program” but UCB has introduced certain elements of its own design. It has a maximum dollar amount of \$1,000 and a minimum of \$100. The maximum length of the loan is 36 months. If approved for the program, customers must open a savings account with a minimum balance of \$50 and must make regular contributions during the life of the loan.

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About Union Credit Bank

Union Credit Bank (UCB) is a full-service commercial bank that offers a full range of financial products and services, including home and business loans, commercial real estate and commercial non-real estate loans, small business loans, trade financing products, financial planning and financial advisory services. For more information, call (305) 398-9000 or visit the bank's website at www.ucbmiami.com.