

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2011

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BLACKROCK ACQUIRES AN INTEREST IN ALLIANCE PARTNERS

Broader strategic relationship focused on the activities of BancAlliance

(Washington, DC)—Alliance Partners today announced that BlackRock, Inc. (NYSE: BLK) has acquired a minority interest in the company for an undisclosed amount. The investment, which represents just under 25% of the Company, is part of a broader strategic relationship between BlackRock and Alliance Partners, with a particular focus on BancAlliance, the bank-controlled cooperative managed by Alliance Partners which helps member banks diversify loan portfolios, access a broader range of asset opportunities and manage their commercial real estate concentrations.

“BlackRock represents the gold standard for fiduciary based asset management and advisory services. We are delighted to have them as our partner. This strategic relationship will assist us in delivering unparalleled services to the members of BancAlliance,” said Lee Sachs, Co-founder of Alliance Partners.

“We see the BancAlliance program as a constructive opportunity for community banks across the country to diversify their asset portfolios,” said Laurence D. Fink, Chairman and CEO of BlackRock. “We are delighted to be partnering with the talented management team at Alliance Partners to better serve this vital segment of the country's financial system.”

BancAlliance is a cooperative network of community and regional banks working collectively to address the business model challenges that an over-reliance on real estate assets created. Dedicated to ensuring the financial success of locally focused main street financial institutions, BancAlliance deploys highly skilled professionals to evaluate, source and manage bank-appropriate loans for member banks by acquiring assets from all U.S. lending markets. With this expanded capacity, members will be more financially robust, allowing them to fulfill their primary mission of service to the businesses and consumers who live and work in their local communities.

For more information, visit www.bancalliance.com.

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About BlackRock

BlackRock is a leader in investment management, risk management and advisory services for institutional and retail clients worldwide. At December 31, 2010, BlackRock's AUM was \$3.561 trillion. BlackRock offers products that span the risk spectrum to meet clients' needs, including active, enhanced and index strategies across markets and asset classes. Products are offered in a variety of structures including separate accounts, mutual funds, iShares® (exchange traded funds), and other pooled investment vehicles. BlackRock also offers risk management, advisory and enterprise investment system services to a broad base of institutional investors through BlackRock Solutions®. Headquartered in New York City, as of December 31, 2010, the firm has approximately 9,100 employees in 25 countries and a major presence in key global markets, including North and South America, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East and Africa. For additional information, please visit the Company's website at www.blackrock.com.