



The friendly, professional staff at Investar ready to greet and serve customers includes (left) Angela Wales, Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager; and (right) Paula Hebert, Customer Service Manager; Allison Schwartz, Customer Service Representative/Teller; and Robin Watts, Customer Service Representative/Head Teller.

cluding children's savings accounts.

Investar Bank was started after three different community banks in the Baton Rouge area were all bought by larger banks in 2006.

"I saw the need for a true community-based bank, and I quit my job as president of a national mortgage company to work on establishing such a bank" D'Angelo revealed. "My timing at first looked to be terrible because three weeks after I quit my job, Hurricane Katrina hit. But it presented an opportunity to capture new customers because of the population shift from New Orleans and other regions to

our area. Then, the national recession hit, which has been tough for everyone, but it made people reevaluate their banking relationships, and many of them decided to move to Investar."

He added, "We've had excellent growth because our deposit products are some of the best out there, and our local ownership and control allows us to serve customers more efficiently and economically. Compare us to other banks and you'll be pleasantly surprised."

Investar merged with South Louisiana Business Bank in September and reopened that bank's one location in Prairieville as

an Investar branch. Investar has five locations including the one in Denham Springs and plans to expand into New Orleans and Lafayette.

"We'll continue to look for other merger opportunities that are a good fit with Investar's community-oriented philosophy, especially looking east and west along the I-10/I-12 corridor," D'Angelo said, adding, "Our eventual goal is to take the bank public."

Wale is an experienced, well-known local banking executive, and she serves as Investar's retail sales manager for all five Investar branches. She has also served

four years on the Livingston Parish Council and was recently elected chairwoman of that body for 2012.

Complete information about Investar's products and services are available at the bank, online at [investarbank.com](http://investarbank.com), or by calling 225-300-8550. Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"Stop by and have a cup of coffee with us," Wale invited. "Come see for yourself how we are setting ourselves apart in the banking industry. Our customers are more than a transaction to us, and they will always be our number one priority."

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