

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENNIS THURMAN OBTAINS THE CERTIFIED WEALTH STRATEGIST® DESIGNATION

***FOCUSED ON INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL STRATEGIES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
TO HELP CLIENTS ACHIEVE THEIR INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES***

Sioux Falls, SD – January 6, 2009 – Dennis Thurman with First Allied Securities, Inc. has been awarded the Certified Wealth Strategist® designation. The Certified Wealth Strategist® education and designation are administered by Cannon Financial Institute, in which the CWS® Board of Standards awards to individuals who successfully complete initial and rigorous ongoing certification requirements. Mr. Thurman successfully completed instructor trained courses which were held through NextGen University at Georgia Tech University in October 2007 and The University of Texas at Austin in November of 2008.

Mr. Thurman was selected by his parent company, Advanced Equities Financial Corp. (Advanced Equities), as he has consistently demonstrated excellence in his commitment to continually meet and exceed the client and the firm's expectations. "As one of the top producers in our family of companies, Mr. Thurman already possesses many of the traits successful advisors share," said Dwight Badger, CEO and Co-Founder of Advanced Equities. "Now that he has access to additional tools and sought-after products, we anticipate he will be able to provide unique opportunities for his clients that few advisors can match," Badger said.

The NextGen Platform is a combination of implementing proven techniques and strategies and providing clients access to exclusive products. A suite of differentiated products and services, such as alternative investments, in-house experts in asset management, complex insurance case management, qualified plan design, financial planning and comprehensive wealth management strategies.

Dennis Thurman has been with First Allied in Sioux Falls, SD since 1993 and lives in Sioux Falls with his wife Jamie and their 5 children. Mr. Thurman is a registered representative and is also an Investment Advisory Representative through First Allied. First Allied is a subsidiary of Advanced Equities, which is a leading provider of investment management, securities brokerage, and venture capital investment banking services. Mr. Thurman belongs to one of the nation's top independent financial services organizations with approximately 1,000 financial consultants administering more than \$40 billion in client assets. Advanced Equities was ranked number 11 on Inc. magazine's list of the 500 fastest-growing companies in America and was the No. 1 brokerage firm on the list for 2006.

For more information, go to www.firstallied-sd.com and/or call 605-335-3200.

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