



## **First Niagara Appoints Tom Faughnan to Lead Mortgage Banking**

BUFFALO, N.Y. September 24th, 2013 – First Niagara Financial Group, Inc. (NASDAQ:FNFG) today announced the promotion of Tom Faughnan to Senior Director of Residential Mortgage. Faughnan will be responsible for developing and executing on the company’s overall strategy and financial goals as well as managing day-to-day operations for the company’s residential mortgage business. He joined First Niagara in 2010 as Senior Vice President of Residential Lending.

“Tom has played a pivotal role in formulating and executing on our current strategic initiatives in the Residential Mortgage business.” said Andy Fornarola, Executive Vice President and Managing Director of Consumer Finance. “He is the ideal person to help us further our strategy to become a leading residential mortgage lender across our four-state footprint. Tom and his mortgage team will also work closely with our retail banking team to further enhance First Niagara’s value proposition to our deposit customers.”

Faughnan has more than 35 years experience in the financial services industry. Prior to First Niagara, he was the Chief Executive Officer and Director at Home Funding Finders, and served in leadership roles at Coldwell Banker, and the New York Business Development Group.

Faughnan is a graduate of the School of Consumer Lending at Fairfield University, and the School of Mortgage Banking at University of Maryland. Active in the community, he has served on the board and held the position of President of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Upstate NY/VT Chapter and was a member of the South Colonie Board of Education.

### **About First Niagara**

First Niagara, through its wholly owned subsidiary, First Niagara Bank, N.A., is a multi-state community-oriented bank with approximately 420 branches, approximately \$37 billion in assets, \$27 billion in deposits, and approximately 6,000 employees providing financial services to individuals, families and businesses across Upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts. For more information, visit [www.firstniagara.com](http://www.firstniagara.com).

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