

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Suggested Headline: First Financial Credit Union will open Chicago main branch

Chicago, Illinois (September 12, 2011) -- First Financial Credit Union is breaking ground tomorrow on a new 4,350-square-foot main office building located two blocks east of Lincoln Ave at 2942 W. Peterson Rd. Plans for the building feature an innovative, free-moving lobby with teller pods in place of counters, drive-through teller lanes with 2-way audio and video, and multiple green initiatives in the materials and design.

The professional team at La Macchia Group, LLC, a Milwaukee-based firm that specializes in financial institutions, created the design and will manage the construction. Local Union contractors will be used for construction. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on September 13, 2011, with construction to take approximately 7 months. During the construction phase, there will be no interruption of member service at the credit union's Skokie office.

In making the announcement, First Financial Credit Union Chairman Doug Buier said, "We are excited about our expansion into the City of Chicago. This building shows our commitment to the North side community and the surrounding suburbs. Unlike a large bank that is driven by profits for shareholders, First Financial Credit Union is a financial cooperative that is owned by its members, so we are committed to improving their financial position. For the last 75 years we have been helping to build the communities and companies that help support us and we look forward to doing the same for the North side of Chicago and the surrounding communities."

First Financial Credit Union has been serving members since 1936 and now operates one office in Skokie that is open to the public and four offices located within partnered employer's sites. The credit union started as AT&T Teletype Employees Federal Credit Union serving the employees of AT&T Teletype Corporation. In 2000, the credit union changed its name to First Financial Credit Union to reflect the transition to a community charter. Membership to the credit union is now open to anyone living within the boundaries north of Irving Park Rd, South of Dempster St, East of Interstate 294 and West of Ridge Blvd or Damen Ave. For more information call (847)676-8000 or visit www.firstfcu.org.

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