A visionary entrepreneur, Vernon Smith has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in the founding and development of Riverside Bank and successful business ventures in cattle, citrus, radio and newspapers.

In 1982, Vernon Smith established Riverside Bank in Fort Pierce as an independent, locally owned institution with ten employees and one office. Under his leadership as President and CEO, Riverside Bank has grown to 65 offices in ten Florida counties with more than 1,000 employees and $4.5 billion in assets.

Vernon Smith is also actively involved in four successful affiliate banks, Riverside Bank of the Gulf Coast in Cape Coral, Riverside Bank of Central Florida in Winter Park, Prosperity Bank of St. Augustine and First National Bank of South Florida in Homestead.

An astute businessman, Vernon Smith owns and operates a cattle ranch, citrus groves, FM radio stations and the Hometown News, composed of 18 weekly newspapers with a circulation of 500,000 copies.

Respected for this sincere involvement in community service, Vernon Smith has instilled a sense of community pride among his employees, spearheading efforts to raise funds for child abuse prevention, build a Habitat for Humanity home, volunteer for youth services, teach economics to young people and establish college scholarships.

Smith was named 2004 Banker of the Year by the Florida Bankers’ Association, serves on the Board of Directors of Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and as President of the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Reserve Unit and Florida Highway Patrol Advisory Council.