



GULFSTAR GROUP INVESTMENT BANKERS

GulfStar Group Announces New Director of Marketing



HOUSTON, May 18, 2015 - GulfStar Group is pleased to announce that Dara Smith has recently joined the firm as director of marketing. A seasoned marketing and communications professional with over 10 years of experience, Dara has worked extensively with professional and financial services firms as well as non-profit organizations.

Prior to joining GulfStar, Dara served as the interim director of marketing and communications at Dini Spheris (formerly Dini Partners), a leading national non-profit fundraising consulting firm. Previously, she worked in London as a senior marketing executive at Ernst & Young, where she managed the integrated global regulatory reform marketing program across banking and capital markets and financial services teams in Europe. Prior to that, Dara worked in Houston as a marketing specialist at UHY Advisors and as a communications coordinator at the Literacy Council of Fort Bend County.

"We are very excited to welcome Dara to our GulfStar team," said Kent Kahle, managing director of GulfStar. "She brings a wide range of marketing expertise, which will allow us to continue building our brand awareness and developing valuable relationships within the middle market community."

Dara received a Bachelor of Science in Radio, Television, Film from The University of Texas at Austin with a Business Foundation Certification.

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About GulfStar Group

GulfStar is a leading middle market investment bank headquartered in Houston. GulfStar specializes in providing merger and acquisition advisory services, institutional private placements of equity and debt, and general corporate finance advisory services to companies with revenues or enterprise values generally ranging from \$25 million to \$350 million. Since its formation in 1990, GulfStar has completed approximately 600 transactions in 33 states and 10 foreign countries across a variety of industries.