

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**First Star Capital's Mike Helder Receives CLP Certification**

First Star Capital is proud to announce that National Account Manager, Mike Helder, has been given the esteemed title of CLP (Certified Lease Professional). The CLP Foundation announced Mike Helder's accomplishment on the morning of October 26<sup>th</sup> of 2010. With this title, Mike Helder joins a group of premier individuals who are recognized and respected within the equipment leasing industry and its primary associations such as NAELB, UAEL, and ELFA.

To put into perspective, the equipment leasing and financing industry currently accounts for roughly \$250 billion in annual capital equipment expenditures, with eight out of every 10 companies leasing and/or financing all or some of their equipment. This industry comprises of thousands of companies and hundreds of thousands of individuals, but there are less than 250 Certified Lease Professionals.

The CLP title is only given to those individuals that have demonstrated success in the leasing industry for a minimum of five years and have completed a thorough training program covering 16 subjects and have passed the most rigid test in the industry.

Mike Helder started his equipment leasing and financing career at Capital Funding Group, spending six very successful years there, prior to joining First Star Capital. With almost a decade of experience and knowledge under his belt, Helder describes this accomplishment as, "the culmination of years of dedication to those I have worked with past and present, and a great accomplishment for myself, personally as well as professionally." Helder continues with, "I would also like to extend a special thank you to Jim McCommon for helping me throughout this process."

Brad Harmon, president of First Star Capital states, "All of us at First Star Capital could not be more proud of Mike. We pride ourselves in carrying some of the brightest talent in the equipment leasing and financing industry, and he is a testament to that. This certification is only just a prelude to the amazing future that Mike has waiting for him."

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First Star Capital is an established firm that has financed thousands of different businesses across the country and has funded hundreds of millions of dollars worth of capital equipment. They are an independent commercial lender with a specialty focus in equipment financing and leasing. First Star Capital is a direct lender with the ability to quickly and efficiently fund new financing requests between \$10,000 and \$10,000,000.