

## USFSP MBA Graduate Advances at C1 Bank

September 26, 2014/in [USFSP News](#) /by



From left: Javier Jorge, C1 CEO Trevor Burgess, Alison Watkins, associate dean, and Gary Patterson interim dean, Kate Tiedemann College of Business

Javier Jorge, '11, MBA '13, took a circuitous route to his career as a banking professional, but his detours had no negative effect on his current rise through the ranks at C1 Bank in St. Petersburg.

After graduating with a B.A. in finance, Jorge immediately began working on his MBA. "Javier represents many qualities of an outstanding graduate of the USFSP MBA program," said Gary Patterson, interim dean, Kate Tiedemann College of Business. "He benefited from our case-based curriculum that links the classroom to actual corporate situations. We emphasize group projects since this is a part of corporate life, and Javier's leadership skills shined in this environment."

With his MBA in hand, Jorge was one of six people accepted into C1 Bank's Management Associate program, which is designed to train new managers. It combines hands-on experience in various bank divisions with graduate coursework at USFSP. At the end of the 22-week program, he was one of three participants who were asked to stay on.

Javier became a Loan Operations Analyst in January 2014, a new position created for him, but he will soon strike out on a new professional adventure. In November he will take on the role of C1 Bank's SBA and Lending Business Development Officer for Miami Dade County. There is currently one banking center there, with plans for three more to open in the next three months.

When asked what he thinks has contributed to his success and rapid career advancement, Javier said, "I think a lot of people in my generation may not appreciate the opportunities they're given, and don't take full advantage of them. Dropping out of school gave me the drive and understanding of what I needed to do to progress."

"Whenever a need arose at the bank, I always said 'yes,'" he added. "My goal is to someday sit at the same table as CEO Trevor Burgess and the rest of the executive team."