

**From:** [Armstrong, David A.](#)  
**To:** [BankMergerApplication](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on the SunTrust and BB&T Bank Merger  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 09, 2019 9:00:59 AM

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SunTrust Bank has been a community partner to St. Thomas University for close to two decades. St. Thomas University is a not-for-profit faith-based institution of higher education located in Miami Gardens, Florida. The University is recognized for its programs in justice, international business, ministry and the sciences, and for preparing ethical leaders in their local communities and in the global arena. The University's full-time student population of 2,600 reflects the rich diversity of South Florida and the Region. St. Thomas is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution and 84% of its students identify as a minority. Last fall, 33% of the University's incoming class was classified as "first generation students" and 53% were designated as "low income."

To a small college like St. Thomas, it is critical to have a close relationship with its main banker. Over the years SunTrust has helped us with highly competitive terms on loans and credit lines. But more important, they have developed an intimate understanding of the university's goals and been involved on our boards and with our students.

SunTrust for the last twelve years has had an executive serving on our President's Board of Advisors; they have been supportive of events that raise monies for student scholarships; and they have attended many university activities. Additionally, SunTrust has partnered or advocated for us with several grant funded programs. This includes their foundation donating to two capital campaigns; helping us get monies from other foundations for our nursing program; and being the corporate partner in a national initiative for student career development - Strada. SunTrust also has taken on our business students as interns and provided financial advice to our students.

As a faith-based institution, we align ourselves with companies that promote ethics. SunTrust has a positive, longstanding reputation in the South Florida community. We are proud that they are our banker.

During this time of transition for SunTrust and BB&T, the executives we deal with from SunTrust have been supportive and have reassured us that we can expect the same level of engagement. We view the merger as a positive development for our institution and the community. For many years, we had a top executive from BB&T serve on our Business Advisory Board. They were supportive of our mission and as a company focused on ethics.

They are both strong companies and leaders in our community.

Sincerely,

**David A. Armstrong, J.D.** | President

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