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## **Wes Burns Joins Midwest BankCentre as Senior Vice President, Community and Economic Development**

ST. LOUIS (April 21, 2021) – **Wes Burns** has joined **Midwest BankCentre** as senior vice president of community and economic development, reporting to **Alex Fennoy**, executive vice president of community and economic development.

Burns will be responsible for leading Midwest BankCentre’s expanded focus on Affordable Housing, New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) and other complex financing structures related to community



and economic development within the St. Louis region and beyond. His work will accelerate the bank’s efforts to invest \$200 million in community and economic development loans in the next five years. This capital will be extended to people in underserved communities— to buy homes, start or scale businesses and transform neighborhoods.

Throughout his 20 plus year career in banking, Burns has most recently led a community bank in St. Louis as market president. He previously held the position of director of asset management, leading a team responsible for national debt portfolio of low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) projects.

“Wes brings a strong community and economic focused background to our team. He is going to help our efforts to accelerate transformation of lives and

neighborhoods of low-income and marginalized individuals and communities. Our goal is to create an even bigger ripple effect changing neighborhoods pockmarked with abandonment into thriving ones and restoring forgotten people and communities to places of value and contribution. Wes will play a huge role in our success and I am excited to have him on our team” said Fennoy.

Burns served as vice chairman of the board of directors for Sunnyhill Inc., vice chairman of the board of directors for The Housing Partnership and he currently serves as a board member for Covenant House Missouri.

Burns graduated from the Southeast Missouri State University with a BS in business management. Burns also has a master of business administration degree from Webster University and a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking program in Boulder, Colorado.

Midwest BankCentre’s current assets exceed \$2 billion and deposits total more than \$1.5 billion. A mainstay of the greater St. Louis community banking scene since 1906, the bank employs a staff of about 280 working at 18 bank locations in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis, Jefferson and St. Charles counties in Missouri and St. Clair County in Illinois. It works to empower people, enable business and energize neighborhoods through the strength of its financial services, including personalized consumer and business banking, business cash management, mortgage lending, home equity loans, financial planning and investments, insurance and digital banking.

The bank is a local leader in the St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition (formerly the St. Louis Regional Unbanked Task Force) and its Bank-On Save-Up St. Louis initiative. Since 2001, Midwest BankCentre has consecutively achieved the Bauer Financial 5-Star Superior financial rating each quarter. It has been recognized for its success in bringing mainstream financial services to

unbanked and underbanked citizens in the region and other diversity and inclusion contributions with the 2019 Community Commitment Award from the American Bankers Association Foundation and the 2018 National Community Bank Service Award from the Independent Community Bankers of America®.

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