



PHOTO RELEASE

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Midwest BankCentre's Commitment to Building Capacity in Multicultural Communities

2022 Black Community Appreciation Event

Midwest BankCentre's Chairman and CEO, **Orvin T. Kimbrough**, hosted an event on October 27, 2022, at his home to celebrate Midwest BankCentre's deep relationships with those within the Black community. More than 90 individuals from the local African-American community joined Kimbrough, one of the nation's only diverse CEOs of a major bank, to build relationships and connections. Attendees networked and heard remarks from Midwest BankCentre's board members, **David Mason**, President and CEO of David Mason + Associates, **Cheryl Walker**, Attorney at Walker Commercial Group and **Wes Burns**, Executive Vice President of Community and Economic Development for Midwest BankCentre.

Midwest BankCentre is the St. Louis region's second-largest locally-owned bank. They believe in helping all communities step into their dreams through a democratized approach to accessing opportunities and capital. Midwest BankCentre has leveraged its Network for Good to help build connections and capacity within multicultural communities, particularly those who have historically been denied access to capital, to start and scale businesses, purchase homes, and fund education.

"We have to think differently about how we grow our region," said Kimbrough. "Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and minority-owned businesses and those who have curiosity and capacity to start businesses, in particular, are an untapped resource

in our region.” Kimbrough also noted that for many Black entrepreneurs, acquiring capital from lenders or private investors is their biggest hurdle in running a successful business. This has made it harder for Black business owners to start and scale their businesses.

In 2021, Midwest BankCentre announced a commitment to lend \$200 million over a five-year period to the people, nonprofits, faith-based institutions, community development projects, and small businesses residing in or benefiting historically divested communities. Midwest BankCentre invests a considerable amount of time and resources working through the challenges that, unfortunately, aren't just surface-level complexities. They are deeply rooted, systemically rooted, with the result being the exclusion of individuals and communities from accessing reasonably priced capital.

Midwest BankCentre embraces and fosters diversity, not just because it's the right thing to do but also because it makes good business sense. By embracing diversity in people, geography, and products, they spark innovation that allows them to understand better and serve their customers. Midwest BankCentre's commitment to diversity and inclusion starts at the top, with a Bank Board that is 50% diverse and an executive team that is 63% diverse by gender and ethnicity. Midwest BankCentre was recognized in 2019 with the American Bankers Association's prestigious Commitment Award for Community & Economic Development and again recognized nationally in 2021 and 2022 as a Top Workplace within the DE&I space.

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About Midwest BankCentre

Midwest BankCentre's current assets exceed \$2.3 billion and deposits total more than \$1.9 billion. A mainstay of the greater St. Louis community banking scene since 1906, the Bank employs a staff of about 280 working at 17 bank locations in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis, Jefferson and St. Charles counties in Missouri and St. Clair County in Illinois. It empowers people, enables business, and energizes 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.

Midwest BankCentre 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.