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## **Karlos Ramirez Joins Midwest BankCentre as VP-Community Engagement & Business Development**



ST. LOUIS (Nov. 3, 2021) --- **Karlos Ramirez** has joined **Midwest BankCentre** as vice president of community engagement and business development. He reports to **Wes Burns**, leader of community and economic development.

Ramirez joins Midwest BankCentre from his role as president and chief executive officer of the **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis**, which he had led since 2011. He was honored in October 2021 with the chamber's **Hispanic Lifetime Achievement Award**.

"Karlos Ramirez is deeply rooted in our community and has a track record for driving the business success that uplifts neighborhoods," said Midwest BankCentre Chairman and CEO **Orvin T. Kimbrough**. "With the Hispanic population growing rapidly at over 225% in the last 30 years, Karlos' contributions will propel our efforts to reach members of the Latinx community to ensure everyone in St. Louis has access to capital."

In his new role, Ramirez will broaden the bank's network for transforming local communities. His work will support the bank's new five-year goal of lending \$200 million to nonprofits, faith-based institutions, community development

projects and small businesses to benefit historically disinvested, marginalized communities.

“Since joining the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis over a decade ago, I have helped members of the Hispanic population with their banking needs. Having been a member of the Midwest BankCentre legal board of directors since 2018, I felt confident that I could accelerate the wealth and prosperity of Hispanic community members with greater sustainability by working on access to opportunity and capital. Our success in these efforts is vital to the economic development and success of the St. Louis region.”

At the Hispanic Chamber, Ramirez forged multicultural partnerships, promoted the economic development of Hispanic businesses, and led the chamber’s growth to become the third largest chamber in metro St. Louis. During his tenure, membership more than tripled to exceed 500, and corporate memberships increased seven-fold.

Ramirez serves on the boards of **St. Louis Children’s Hospital** and the **St. Louis Economic Development Partnership**. He has been a member of the **U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** since 2011. Ramirez formerly served on the Midwest BankCentre legal board (2018-2021) and the boards of the **United Way of Greater St. Louis** and the **St. Louis Sports Commission**. Ramirez graduated from Illinois State University with a master’s degree in educational administration and from Northern Illinois University with a bachelor’s degree in education.

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**Editor’s note:** **Karlos Ramirez** works at Midwest BankCentre’s branch in Chesterfield, Mo. (63017). He lives in Ballwin, Mo. (63011).

### ***About Midwest BankCentre***

Midwest BankCentre’s current assets exceed \$2.3 billion and deposits total more than \$1.7 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 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 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®.