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WOMEN CONTINUE TO HOLD THEIR OWN IN C-SUITE AT NATION'S LARGEST BANKS Study Shows Increased Number of Women in C-Suite Positions

Inver Grove Heights, Minn. (10/14/17) – The percentage of women in executive roles at the nation's 50 largest banks has made a slight jump – from 20.3 percent to 21.7 percent, according to the latest Women at the Top® (WATT®) Study. Women hold 130 of 598 total senior management positions.

The study also reveals that 55.4 percent of those female executives hold C-level positions at the very top of their organizations, up from 48.5 percent last year. In addition, the number of C-level female executive rose by 7 to 72.

“We have seen another year in the decrease of senior management jobs at the large banks, from 660 to 598 in our newest study – however there continues to be excellent opportunities for women,” said Regina Barr, founder and CEO of Red Ladder, Inc., and the Women at the Top® Network. “Organizations continue to be concerned about a talent gap and Banks are no exception. As competition increases, many banking and financial services professionals go elsewhere. Women are more than capable of filling the gap.”

The opportunities for women who aspire to the banking C-suite just keep getting better, particularly for those who shore up their leadership skills, Barr said. What's the critical path to success? “Cultivate a sponsor who will put you forward for opportunities and back you up,” she advised. “Do your part to cultivate skills that will move you ahead. Then be sure to ask for resources you need to be successful including budget and staffing necessary to get the job done.”

According to the new WATT® Study, the number of female CEOs at the 50 largest banks rose from three to four. However, the number of bank division CEOs decreased from six to four, bank division CFOs fell from four to three, and the number of female chief credit officers fell from two to one. The traditionally higher numbers in executive marketing and administrative positions increased.

The number of women in each position includes:
Chief Executive Officer (Bank) 4
Chief Executive Officer (Bank Division) 4
Chief Executive Officer (Asset Management) 1



Chief Financial Officer (Bank Division) 3
Chief Credit Officer 1
Chief Risk Officer 6
Chief Information Officer 7
Chief Operations Officer 3
Chief Marketing Officer 9
Chief Administrative Officer 6
Chief Human Resource Officer 12

However, four of the top 50 banks have no women in management, compared to five in 2016 and four in 2015. In 2007, 30 percent of the nation's largest banks did not have a single woman in a senior-level position. Today, almost one half of senior managers are women at a few of the largest banks.

About the Women at the Top® (WATT®) Study: Students at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, led by instructor Terrilyn Morgan, conducted the 2017 WATT® Study. Students identified and ranked by asset size the nation's 50 largest commercial banks, using Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. data as of December 31, 2016, and then used publicly available information such as annual reports to determine the number of women in leadership positions. The WATT® Study, conducted regularly since 1999, is sponsored and managed by the Women at the Top® (WATT®) Network.

About the Women at the Top® (WATT®) Network: The Women at the Top® Network is a nationwide community of aspiring and high-achieving women who share the desire to develop and nurture their own leadership skills and those of other women. For more information, visit www.WATTNetwork.com or call 651-453-1007.

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