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**WOMEN STRENGTHEN THEIR PRESENCE IN C-SUITE AT NATION'S LARGEST BANKS**  
**WATT® Study: More Women Benefit as Senior Management Rebound Continues**

Inver Grove Heights, Minn. (9/21/15) – The percentage of women in executive roles at the nation’s 50 largest banks has increased a full percentage point – from 16.9 percent to 17.9 percent, according to the latest Women at the Top® (WATT®) Study. Women hold 129 of 720 total senior management positions.

The study also reveals that women made gains in C-level positions at the very top of their organizations, with 44.2 percent holding those top jobs, up from 41.6 percent last year. The number of C-level female executives rose by 10 to 57.

“The number of senior management jobs at the large banks grew for the second consecutive year, increasing by 50 – from 670 last year to 720 in our newest study,” said Regina Barr, founder of the WATT® Network and Red Ladder, Inc. “It’s great to see this trend, which follow two years of decline. For women, this means excellent opportunities as the demand for talent in traditional banking jobs remains strong.”

Women can be in the best position to reap the rewards of banking’s talent gap by building leadership skills and cultivating supporters who will actively promote their careers, Barr said. “Remember, self-promotion and negotiation are critical skills that most women need to develop or improve,” she added.

According to the new WATT® Study, the number of female CEOs at the 50 largest banks held steady at two. The number of bank division CEOs increased from four to five, bank division CFOs grew from five to six, and the number of female chief credit officers remained at three. The traditionally higher numbers in executive marketing and human resources positions increased slightly, while the number of CIOs grew from four to seven. The number of women in each position includes:

Chief Executive Officer (Bank)	2
Chief Executive Officer (Bank Division)	5
Chief Executive Officer (Asset Management)	1



Chief Financial Officer (Bank Division)	6
Chief Credit Officer	3
Chief Risk Officer	4
Chief Information Officer	7
Chief Operations Officer	3
Chief Marketing Officer	6
Chief Administrative Officer	3
Chief Human Resource Officer	8

Just four of the top 50 banks have *no* women in management, compared to six in 2014 and eight in 2013. In 2007, 30 percent of the nation's largest banks *did not* have a single woman in a senior-level position. Today, up to one-third 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 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, 2014, 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® 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.theWATTNetwork.com](http://www.theWATTNetwork.com) or call 651-453-1007.

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