

BUSINESS PEOPLE

UFCU hires, promotes three in St. Joseph

ST. JOSEPH — Jeff Blake was promoted to be vice president of human resources at United Federal Credit Union in St. Joseph. In his new role, Blake will join the senior leadership team, providing operational and strategic leadership in the areas of compensation and benefits, recruiting, employee relations training, payroll operations and performance management.

Blake was previously director of compensation and benefits with the credit union, where he oversaw a national compensation and benefits program and payroll operations. Blake's prior experience includes human resources management positions with Lifestyle Family Fitness Corp. in St. Petersburg, Fla; Wright-Patt Credit Union in Dayton, Ohio; and other organizations in southwest Ohio.

A native of Dayton, Blake holds a bachelor of science degree in human resource management from Wright State University in Dayton, is a Human Resource Certification Institute senior professional in human resources, a World at Work-certified compensation professional, and a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the Southwest Michigan Society for Human Resource Management.

Yvonne Dean was appointed to the position of vice president of United Investment Planning at UFCU in St. Joseph. In her new role, Dean will be accountable for the growth and profitability of the UFCU investment portfolio. She will act as the credit union's subject matter authority in retirement, investment, college and estate planning; insurance products and services, and will be responsible for UIP program regulatory compliance.

Dean was previously a senior portfolio consultant team manager at Schwab Private Client in Indianapolis, where she led a team of certified financial planner professionals, portfolio consultants and support staff, managing assets on behalf of 1,750 clients. Dean's 20 years of prior financial services industry experience includes leadership positions with PNC Bank and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Dean holds a bachelor of arts degree from Siena Heights University in Adrian, a master's degree in organizational leadership from Indiana Wesleyan University in Indianapolis.

She is a certified financial planner, a certified wealth strategist, and holds the Indiana Life, Health and Variable Annuity Resident License and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Series 7, 9, 10, 24, and 66 licenses. She currently resides in Indianapolis and will relocate to Southwest Michigan.

Vaari Regan was named compensation and benefits manager at UFCU in St. Joseph. In her new role, Regan will oversee national compensation and benefits programs, payroll operations – including development and

maintenance of all related compliance procedures and documentation – as well as human resources systems reporting and maintenance.

Regan was previously benefits specialist and payroll supervisor with the credit union, where she administered all credit union benefit plans, developed and provided enhanced value of benefits through employee education, and supervised the payroll function. Her prior experience includes total rewards manager and human resources director duties with Crowe Horwath LLP and Edgewater Bank in South Bend and St. Joseph, respectively.

A native of Buchanan, Regan earned a bachelor of arts degree in classical studies from Indiana University in Bloomington, holds the senior professional in human resources certification from the Human Resource Certification Institute and is a Society for Human Resource Management senior certified professional.



BLAKE



DEAN



REGAN

Teachers Credit Union announces new hires

SOUTH BEND — Teachers Credit Union, Indiana's largest credit union, announced two new hires and two promotions at several of its branches across northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan.

Kenneth Byrd joined TCU as a commercial loan officer at the 110 S. Main St. branch in South Bend. In this role, Byrd will assist local businesses by determining their financial well-being and guiding them through the loan application process.

He brings 15 years of experience to this role and has lived and worked in the community for more than 25 years. Byrd attended Lake Michigan College, Ivy Tech Community College and Indiana Bankers Commercial Lending School. He is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Business Networking International and Community Wellness Partners.

Veronica Torres comes to TCU with 10 years of banking experience and joins the 133 E. McKinley location in Mishawaka, Ind., as the service center manager. Torres will be responsible for supervising team members, expanding member relationships and representing TCU at community events.

She holds bachelors' degrees in economics and Spanish from the University of Notre Dame, and she volunteers regularly as a language translator at community events.

William DeLuca was promoted to commercial loan officer, small business, at the 110 S. Main St. branch in South Bend. His TCU career has spanned more than 30 years, and in this new role he will develop relationships and help small business members navigate the lending process.

DeLuca currently sits on the board of Four Flags Chamber of Commerce and volunteers at the Niles Community Gardens. He holds a bachelor's of science in supervision management from Indiana University Purdue University – Fort Wayne.

Samantha Karacson was promoted to service center manager at the 1500 S. 11th St. branch in Niles. She has been with TCU for more than seven years and previously held an assistant manager position.

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