

News Release

THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* KANSAS CITY

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ESTHER GEORGE NAMED PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY

Esther George, first vice president and chief operating officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of the Bank. She will succeed Thomas M. Hoenig, who is retiring from the Bank on Oct. 1 as required by mandatory Federal Reserve retirement rules for presidents. The announcement was made by Paul DeBruce, chair of the Bank's board of directors and CEO and founder of DeBruce Grain Inc., Kansas City, Mo.

"On behalf of the board of directors, I congratulate Esther on her appointment as president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City," DeBruce said. "Esther is a great leader who possesses an extraordinary depth of knowledge of the financial system and the economy that will enable her to carry out the tradition of excellence at the Kansas City Fed. We are confident that she will uphold the high standards of performance at this Bank and will be a strong voice for Main Street on national policy issues."

"It is a privilege to have this opportunity to lead the Bank as it continues to fulfill its key missions of conducting monetary policy, providing financial services and supervising and regulating financial institutions," George said. "The financial and economic landscape is changing in our region and around the world, and I am mindful of the challenges ahead. I am honored to be selected to serve."

George, 53, joined the Bank in 1982 and served as a commissioned bank examiner until 1995, when she was named to the Bank's official staff. She has held numerous leadership positions at the Bank within its research support, public affairs and human resources functions. She has been first vice president of the Bank since August 2009.

In January 2009, George was named executive vice president in charge of the Division of Supervision and Risk Management, a division she led as senior vice president since 2001. In that position, she was responsible for the supervision and regulation of the District's 170 state-chartered member banks and nearly 1,000 bank and financial holding companies, as well as the Bank's discount window and risk management functions.

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During her tenure in banking supervision, she was directly involved in the Tenth District's banking supervision and discount window lending activities during the banking crisis of the 1980s and after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. She is a former chair of the Federal Reserve System's Community Banking Organizations Management Group and is also a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's Management Committee, which is responsible for strategic planning and policy direction.

In 2009, George served for a time at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., as acting director of the Board's Division of Bank Supervision and Regulation during the financial crisis, where she worked closely with the Board on System matters.

George's experience in international central banking issues includes presentations at the Bank for International Settlement's Financial Stability Institute programs in Lima, Peru; Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.; and Singapore. She also has served as the Tenth District's lead officer for international partnership programs involving the central banks of Morocco, Iraq and Malawi.

A native of Faucett, Mo., she holds a B.S.B.A. in business administration from Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo., and an M.B.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She is a graduate of the American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking and the Stanford University Executive Program. She has been married to Kevin George for 30 years. They have a daughter and a son, both of whom attend colleges in Missouri.

George's appointment to president, which was made by the Bank's directors and approved by the Board of Governors, followed a nearly six month-long search. In March, DeBruce announced the formation of a search committee of directors to find Hoenig's successor. The committee was headed by director Terry Moore, president of the Omaha Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Omaha, Neb. Other directors on the search committee included DeBruce; Lu Cordova, CEO of Corlund Industries, Boulder, Colo.; Mark Gordon, owner of Merlin Ranch, Buffalo, Wyo.; Richard Ratcliffe, chairman of Ratcliffe's Inc., Weatherford, Okla.; and John T. Stout Jr., CEO of Plaza Belmont Management Group, Shawnee Mission, Kan.

"I want to convey my deepest gratitude to Terry Moore, who took on significant responsibilities to lead the selection of the next Bank president," DeBruce said. "We are indebted to him."

As president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, George will rotate with other

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regional Reserve Bank presidents as a voting member on the Federal Open Market Committee, which has authority over U.S. monetary policy. She will participate in FOMC meetings with her appointment as president and will be a voting member in 2013.

As the regional headquarters of the nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and its branches serve the seven states of the Tenth Federal Reserve District: Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming, northern New Mexico and western Missouri.

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Esther George Career Highlights

1982-1995: Commissioned Bank Examiner, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

1995-1997: Assistant Vice President, Economic Research

1997-1999: Vice President, Public Affairs

1999-2001: Vice President, Human Resources

2001- 2009: Senior and Executive Vice President, Supervision and Risk Management

2009: Acting Director, Division of Supervision and Regulation, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

June 2009-September 2011: First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Education

Stanford University Executive Program, 2007

Stonier Graduate School of Banking, University of Delaware

Thesis Library Honors—"Federal Home Loan Bank Membership for Commercial Banks: Benefits, Costs and Public Policy Issues" (1994)

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Masters of Business Administration

Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Mo.

Bachelor of Science-Business Administration

Community Involvement

Missouri Western State University Foundation Board, member

University of Missouri-Kansas City, Board of Trustees, member

Kansas City, Missouri, Civic Council, member