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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Unitus Community Credit Union SVP/Chief Human Resources Officer, Gayle Evans, Honored as 2022 “Women of Influence” Award Winner**

*The Portland Business Journal’s annual awards ceremony recognizes Evans as an established business leader with a strong record of innovation in her field*

**Portland, Ore., March 2, 2022** – The *Portland Business Journal* has recognized Unitus Community Credit Union’s Gayle Evans as a 2022 Women of Influence Award winner. Ms. Evans serves as Unitus’ SVP/Chief Human Resources Officer. She joined Unitus in 2007.

The annual Women of Influence Awards honor the region’s most influential businesswomen, according to the *Portland Business Journal*. The awards’ call for nominations sought women who have made a difference in their communities and blazed a trail, leaving a mark on the Pacific Northwest community. Nominees were judged on professional accomplishments, community leadership, as well as awards and milestones.

Examples of Ms. Evans’ innovation in her field include implementing a monthly student loan principal payment benefit for employees, saving them thousands of dollars as they pay off loans three-to-five years early. She also instituted a partnership with BankWork\$, a program that improves social mobility by helping young adults from low-income communities build meaningful careers in banking, which led to 17 new hires at Unitus. Ms. Evans moved Unitus’ employee medical plan to a self-insured platform, saving \$12 million for the membership, lowering the cost to employees, and gaining the flexibility to tailor the benefits to meet the needs of the workforce.



Ms. Evans’ contributions to the community helped earn this recognition. She serves as a Trustee on the Board of Directors for Western Oregon University, the chair of Oregon Business & Industry’s health care steering committee, and a mentor for the Portland Rose Festival Court. She has also been appointed to two committees by Oregon Governor Kate Brown: the Task Force on Resolution of Adverse Healthcare Incidents and as vice chair of the Oregon Patient Safety Commission’s Board of Directors.

“I know everyone in our entire organization recognizes how deserving Gayle is of this award,” said Steven Stapp, President and CEO of Unitus Community Credit Union. “From her inspiring organizational management to her community involvement, Gayle is a shining example of a servant leader. We are grateful for her service and to celebrate this award with her.”

“I’m very grateful that Gayle has mentored me and advised me, said Abigail Reyes-Santiago, the 2016 Rose Festival Princess whom Gayle mentored. “She has helped me and motivated me to stay in school and to not give up on my goals and dreams. She inspires me to be better and to help the world, and she instilled in me that any woman is capable of achieving any dream.”



Ms. Evans has a B.S. in Business Management, and an M.S. in Management and Organizational Leadership. She participated in the Women Board Directors Development Program through the Foster School of Business Executive Education at University of Washington. Ms. Evans holds a Senior Professional in Human Resources certification.

The *Portland Business Journal* honored the 2022 Women of Influence at a ceremony on March 2, 2022, and will profile each award winner in an upcoming special edition of the *Journal*.

### **About Unitus Community Credit Union**

At Unitus, we're dedicated to improving lives in the communities we serve. As a member-owned local credit union, we invest in people by doing the right thing. Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations, we provide support for community groups through volunteerism and financial donations. Our 104,000 members count on us to serve them and their communities; our 300 employees share that passion for service. Learn about the local impact Unitus makes by visiting [unitusccu.com](https://unitusccu.com).