



NEWS RELEASE

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President and Owner of Just Me Apparel and Fischer's School Uniforms Joins Midwest BankCentre Women Connect Advisory Board

ST. LOUIS (September 12, 2023) – **Rita Waldman**, president and owner of **Just Me Apparel and Fischer's School Uniforms**, has been elected to the **Midwest BankCentre Women Connect** Advisory Board.

Just Me Apparel and Fischer's School Uniforms partner with more than 120 local school administrators to understand their needs, objectives, and criteria for successful uniform programs. Waldman took the business over in 1997 and has successfully grown it. As an entrepreneur, Waldman understands the importance of being a reliable and trustworthy partner who can understand each school's unique uniform needs and provide the service and products to fulfill those needs.



St. Louis is the fastest-growing market for female-led startups, according to the venture capital database [Pitchbook](#). Since 2020, St. Louis' female-led startups have seen capital increase by 187% – the most in the country – and more than tech hubs like San Francisco, Phoenix, and Austin. This surge in entrepreneurship has resulted in a need for businesswomen to meet, share, and learn from one another.

"Years ago, Midwest BankCentre saw that women entrepreneurs needed opportunities to network and talk to other women entrepreneurs about their unique challenges," said **Orvin T. Kimbrough**, Midwest BankCentre's Chairman and CEO. For 20

years, Midwest BankCentre has helped local women connect through their Women Connect Advisory Board. "Through networking and collaboration, the members empower each other, drive change in their industries, and help pave the way for future generations of female leaders."

Waldman graduated from Hickey Business College's business program.

About Midwest BankCentre

Midwest BankCentre's current assets exceed \$2.4 billion and deposits total more than \$2.0 billion. A mainstay of the greater St. Louis community banking scene since 1906, the Bank employs a staff of about 280 working at 17 bank locations in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis, Jefferson and St. Charles counties in Missouri and St. Clair County in Illinois. It empowers people, enables business, and energizes neighborhoods through the strength of its financial services, including personalized consumer and business banking, business cash management, mortgage lending, home equity loans, financial planning and investments, insurance, and digital banking.

Midwest BankCentre is a local leader in the St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition (formerly the St. Louis Regional Unbanked Task Force) and its Bank-On Save-Up St. Louis initiative. Since 2001, Midwest BankCentre has consecutively achieved the Bauer Financial 5-Star Superior financial rating each quarter. The Bank has been recognized for its success in bringing access to reasonably priced capital to traditionally underserved markets and elevating financial inclusivity by addressing the banking needs of low- and moderate-income market customers who are often overlooked. Recent awards include the 2023 Innovation in Philanthropy Awards from the ***St. Louis Business Journal***, the 2022 Champions of Diversity & Inclusion Award (for-profits) from the ***St. Louis Business Journal***, and Energage's 2021, 2022, and National Top Workplace Award for diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.