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Banker Dorothy Bridges to lead Meda

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Dorothy Bridges

The Business Journals

Banking leader Dorothy Bridges has joined Meda as interim CEO & President.

Bridges has worked in the banking industry more than 40 years, often with a focus on commercial and community development lending in minority, small business and development markets.

"Many know that my passion runs deep for helping Black and brown businesses start, grow, and prosper," Bridges said. "I am honored to lead Meda at a time when the future is transforming."

Bridges assumes the role from outgoing President and CEO Alfredo Martel, who has decided to transition after nearly 3 years to pursue new opportunities.

Martel was appointed Meda's CEO in November 2019. He guided the organization through the pandemic, expanded lending capacity for Meda's current and future clients, and expanded Meda's presence in the Minneapolis and St. Paul community. He led important talent and operational resources improvements which leave Meda very well poised to continue to fulfill its mission going forward, the organization said.

"Meda could not be in better hands. Dorothy Bridges brings a wealth of banking and executive leadership experience to her position as interim CEO," said Sara Idle, Meda board member and chair, MEDA Governance Committee. "The board of directors looks forward to working with Mrs. Bridges. She has our support and that of the talented team at Meda."

Bridges' "passion for Meda's mission is unmistakable and her decades' worth of work in numerous financial institutions and capacities will be of immense value for the organization," said Meda board member Jashan Eison:

Bridges is a former executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. As Senior Vice President, she led several divisions and her responsibilities included overseeing the bank's activities in government and media relations, internal and external communications, public outreach and community development, and the activities of the bank's Center for Indian Country Development (CICD).

Prior to her role at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Bridges served as President and CEO of City First Bank in Washington, D.C. and of Franklin National Bank in Minneapolis.

Bridges is a member of the U.S. Bancorp (USB) Board of Directors and serves as a member of the Risk Management Committee and as chair of Public Responsibility Committee. She also currently serves in leadership roles on the boards of the Greater Twin Cities United Way, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation and the University of Minnesota Foundation board of trustees.

Meda also announced that Keven Ambrus, vice president of finance and IT has been promoted to Chief Operations Officer.

Ambrus joined Meda in March 2022 to lead Meda's financial management strategy and influence Meda's IT systems, workflow processes and strategic goals. His career has focused on analyzing and developing financial plans to implement change with specialties in budgeting, financial planning, operational modeling, forecasting, and IT management.

Meda operates a Community Development Fund Institution (CDFI) that provides capital to enable businesses to become sustainable enterprises and employers. Meda hosts the Minnesota Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center, which has been recognized by the MBDA as the top performing center four of the last six years. For more information, visit meda.net.

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