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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Unitus Community Credit Union Announces Retirement and Key Leadership Promotion**

*Unitus promotes Jessica Brown to its executive leadership team as Chief Human Resources Officer announces retirement*



**Portland, Ore., October 30, 2023**

– Unitus Community Credit Union is celebrating a much-deserved retirement and promotion from within the organization. After 16 years of exemplary service, Gayle Evans, SVP/Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO), is retiring. Unitus is promoting VP of People and Culture, Jessica Brown, to the Executive Leadership Team to take on the CHRO role. In addition to executive leadership duties, Brown will oversee Unitus’ Human Resources, Organizational Development, and workplace Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

(DEI) functions.

Ms. Evans joined Unitus in 2007 after serving in human resources leadership roles at The Standard and Pacific Health Horizons. During her time at Unitus, Gayle helped the organization grow, transitioned employee benefits, and led DEI efforts across the organization.

“I am so honored to have served Unitus, its employees, members, and community,” reflected Ms. Evans. “It was a difficult decision to retire but I know the credit union is in good hands with Jessica. I’m looking forward to celebrating her achievements as I continue to support Unitus as a member.”

In 2022, the *Portland Business Journal* named Ms. Evans a “[Woman of Influence](#)” in its annual awards. Gayle’s advocacy, volunteerism, and mentorship will be missed at the credit union.

“Her external involvement with the credit union industry, state policy making, business groups, and communities will have a lasting impact,” explained Steven Stapp, President and CEO of Unitus Community Credit Union. “We look forward to continuing to work with her in her role as a Board Trustee at Western Oregon University where we’ve developed a deep partnership in supporting the Bilingual Teacher Scholars Program.”

Jessica Brown, SHRMCP, has more than 18 years’ experience in human resources and holds a master’s in business administration. In her 4+ years at Unitus, she’s significantly improved the employee service experience and implemented new benefits such as the student loan repayment program and new wellness offerings. Ms. Brown also guided her team through record-level



recruitment volume and improved new hire onboarding while navigating the pandemic, guiding Unitus' transition to hybrid work models.

"We are truly making meaningful change in the People and Culture department at Unitus," said Ms. Brown. "From creating remote work opportunities to improving employee benefits and building a culture of care, our team is committed to serving our staff in the spirit of our shared values. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to take on this new role and to continue developing an engaged and highly-qualified workforce at Unitus."

"While we will certainly miss Gayle, we are fortunate that we have a leader in Jessica Brown who can step up and assume new responsibilities," said Mr. Stapp. "Jessica's promotion is another example of the career development culture we've created at Unitus through which we focus on opportunities within our organization to grow employees into leadership roles."

Ms. Brown begins her role as Unitus' Chief Human Resource Officer on November 3, 2023.

### **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 105,000 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).