



H. Lynn Harton to Succeed Jimmy Tallent as Chairman of United Community Banks, Inc.'s Board of Directors

May 13, 2019

GREENVILLE, S.C., May 13, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- United Community Banks, Inc. (NASDAQ: UCBI) ("United") today announced that its Board of Directors has appointed H. Lynn Harton, Chief Executive Officer, to serve as United's Chairman of the Board, effective May 8, 2019. He succeeds Jimmy Tallent, who has served as United's Chairman since February 2015.

"The Board of Directors is pleased to appoint Lynn as Chairman as part of our ongoing management transition at United. The Board is confident that Lynn, as Chairman and CEO, has the vision and leadership skills to assure that United continues its dedication to quality, profitability, and growth for the benefit of our shareholders, customers, employees, and the communities we serve," said Thomas Richlovsky, Lead Independent Director of United Community Bank. "Lynn's planned transition to CEO has been successful, and we see great opportunities on the horizon. We are impressed by Lynn's ability to preserve the culture of this organization while navigating through a fast-changing environment and building United into one of the best banks in the Southeast."

Richlovsky added, "At the same time, we recognize that we would not be where we are today without Jimmy's dedication and outstanding service to United over the past 35 years, for which we are profoundly grateful. We owe our service-oriented culture to Jimmy and remain focused on sustaining the core values that he instilled in our organization."

Harton has been one of the key architects of United's strategic vision since joining the company as Chief Operating Officer in 2012. He was elected to the Board of Directors in February 2015 and named CEO of United on July 2, 2018. Prior to joining United, Harton served in executive capacities with various financial institutions including The South Financial Group, Regions Financial Corporation and BB&T.

Since Harton joined the company, United has completed seven key acquisitions and has grown from \$7 billion in total assets and 100 offices, to \$12.6 billion in assets and 149 offices throughout five states. During this period, United's performance has also improved significantly, with the most recent quarter reflecting a record operating ROA of 1.44%.

"I am honored to take on this responsibility as Chairman of United," said Harton. "Having worked closely with Jimmy to craft the long-term plan for the company, I feel confident about our ability to continue to deliver a strong performance for shareholders. I look forward to leading our talented directors, executive team and employees together in our goal to be the best bank where the best bankers want to work."

About United Community Banks, Inc.

United Community Banks, Inc. (NASDAQ: UCBI) is a bank holding company headquartered in Blairsville, Georgia, with executive offices in Greenville, South Carolina. The company is one of the southeast region's largest full-service financial institutions with \$12.7 billion in assets, and 149 offices in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee which operate as United Community Bank, the company's bank subsidiary. The bank specializes in personalized community banking services for individuals, small businesses and corporations. Services include a full range of consumer and commercial banking products, including mortgage, advisory, and treasury management. Respected national research firms consistently recognize United Community Bank for outstanding customer service. For five consecutive years, J.D. Power has ranked United Community Bank first in customer satisfaction in the Southeast. In 2019, for the sixth consecutive year, Forbes magazine included United on its list of the 100 Best Banks in America, and for the first time included United on its list of The World's Best Banks. Additional information about the company and the bank can be found at www.ucbi.com.

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Source: United Community Banks, Inc.