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First Citizens Community Bank Bolsters Information Technology Team

MANSFIELD, PA (July 2018) First Citizens recently promoted Wendy Southard to the position of Information Security Officer, Rob Dewater to the position of VP, Electronic Banking Manager and hired Keith Sampsell as the VP, Technology Infrastructure Manager. These new positions have been created to fortify the Banks' Information Technology efforts to support their growth and security strategies for the future.

Wendy Southard first joined the Bank in 1991 and spent 25 years supporting the bank's Marketing Department; first as Marketing Secretary and ending her service there as AVP and Marketing Officer. In 2016, Southard was promoted to Professional Development Officer responsible for training and development of the staff and was recently selected for the Information Security Officer position based on her experience, understanding of banking regulations and innate ability to recognize potential problems.

"In a world where cybercrime is the leading form of crime, the threat is incredibly serious—and growing," commented Randall E. Black, CEO and President. "Cybercriminals are depending on a lack of knowledge and the absence of checks and balances to perpetrate fraud such as identify-theft, malware attacks, spam, phishing, and social engineering. The addition of Wendy to the team is another example of our continued efforts to protect our customers."

Rob Dewater started his career with First Citizens in 1998 as Computer Operator, and was promoted to Information Processing Supervisor in 2002. In 2014, Dewater was promoted to Assistant Vice President. Now, in his new position as VP, Electronic Banking Manager, he will focus on the development, support, and risk management of First Citizens electronic banking initiatives including online banking, cash management, remote deposit capture, mobile banking, lockbox, ATMs, and any new electronic delivery products or services that will arise. He will also continue to manage the Item Processing system and Proof/Mailroom team.

Both Southard and Dewater have been named Employee of the Year during their tenure with the Bank.

Keith Sampsell joined the First Citizens team in July as VP, Technology Infrastructure Manager. Sampsell's primary responsibility will be overseeing the Bank's core system and their network infrastructure. Prior to joining First Citizens, he worked at Jersey Shore State Bank in various technical roles, and was responsible for maintaining their core system along with administering the IT infrastructure. He has also worked as a Network Systems Specialist and Systems Administrator at Penn State University. Sampsell earned a B.S. Degree in Computer Information Technology with a Network Specialist Emphasis from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

"The importance of growing our digital strategy and information technology initiatives can never be understated," noted Black. "We're fortunate to have such skilled individuals help us as we tackle future information technology challenges and expansion."

First Citizens Community Bank is headquartered in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. They currently operate 28 offices throughout Tioga, Bradford, Potter, Clinton, Union, Centre, Lebanon, Lancaster, Schuylkill and

Berks counties in Pennsylvania and Allegany County New York. For more information about First Citizens, visit [FirstCitizensBank.com](https://www.FirstCitizensBank.com), or find them on Facebook.

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