

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Dec. 15, 2016

CONTACT: Jennifer Spence
Director of Marketing, *Banterra Bank*
jaspence@banterra.com 618-201-2305

BANTERRA BANK HIRES JIM KRATZER TO LEAD ST. LOUIS REGION AS MARKET EXECUTIVE

St. Louis, MO – *Banterra Bank*, with over \$1.4 billion in assets and locations throughout the Midwest, is pleased to announce that Jim Kratzer will lead their St. Louis region as Market Executive. Kratzer brings more than 30 years of banking experience to his new position.

"As a strong community bank, beginning more than 40 years ago, *Banterra* continues to show steady growth as we expand our footprint," said Jeff May, President of *Banterra Bank*. "We entered the St. Louis area in 2013 and we know that Jim Kratzer is the right leader to enhance our growth within this competitive marketplace."

"It's a great opportunity to join a bank like *Banterra* that has an established brand within its core footprint and shown rapid growth within new markets that it has established," said Kratzer. "This environment, combined with *Banterra's* leadership and solid structure, is the perfect platform for me to utilize my experience in the St. Louis area and accelerate that growth further."

Kratzer most recently served as Senior Vice President for Citizens Bank & Trust of Kansas City, St. Louis market. Prior to this position, Kratzer began his banking career with the original First National Bank in Saint Louis, which later became Centerre Bank/ Boatmen's National Bank and eventually Bank of America. Kratzer's last position with Bank of America was head of the correspondent banking group for Missouri and Illinois. In 2004, Kratzer opened a Loan Production Office in St. Louis for Signature Bank of Springfield, growing the business and the bank later sold to BancorpSouth in 2006.

Jim Kratzer and his wife, Allyn, reside in Frontenac, Missouri. Their two married daughters, Anne and Elizabeth, have provided them with six grandchildren, all under eight years old. Kratzer received his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting at St. Louis University and attended Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He has stayed involved in the community serving on board of trustees for Villa Duchesne/Oak Hill School and Loyola Academy of St. Louis, a past alderman for City of Frontenac, a board member for St. Louis Equity Fund and chairman of St. Louis County Economic Council.

Banterra Bank began as a single bank in Ridgway, Illinois in July of 1975. Today, *Banterra* is the largest, locally-owned bank in the region with \$1.4 billion in assets and is ranked in the Top Ten Percent of U.S. Charter Banks and Top Five Percent for Illinois Charter Banks, according to asset size. *Banterra* has 35 locations in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri. For more information, call 866-BANTERRA (226-8377), or go to www.banterra.com.

###