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SIU AND BANTERRA TO LAUNCH BANTERRA CENTER UNVEILING DURING SALUKI MEN'S BASKETBALL FIRST DIVISION I GAME OF THE SEASON ON NOV. 16th

Carbondale, IL – SIU and Banterra Bank will host an historic event during the Saluki Men's Basketball first Division I game of the season on Nov. 16th with the unveiling of Banterra Center. Banterra Center, a partnership that is the largest corporate naming-rights agreement in SIU's 150-year history, the first corporate naming-rights agreement for a SIU athletic facility and the first naming right for the 55-year-old arena, will showcase a new court floor and new exterior and interior signage. Evening events will include a ribbon cutting, game ball presentation, Banterra-SIU Scholarship presentation and a Saluki Debit Card promotion with a chance to win multiple \$25 gift cards for Saluki merchandise, McDonald's and Huck's.

"This is a special event for both Banterra and SIU," said Jeff May, president of Banterra Bank. "For the last six months, we have been working alongside SIU to rebrand the SIU Arena as Banterra Center for the start of Saluki basketball season. We are excited for this new era in Saluki Athletics and look forward to strengthening this partnership with SIU."

Banterra, SIU and Carbondale Chamber of Commerce will host a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on the court floor prior to the start of the men's game at 6:45 p.m. Saluki fans are encouraged to arrive early to watch this special ceremony. There will also be a Banterra Center game ball presentation during first half and a Banterra-SIU Scholarship presentation at halftime.

Fans will not want to miss the chance to participate in the Banterra-Saluki Debit Card Promotion. A lucky audience member will have the opportunity to run to three areas on the three-point line to shoot a Banterra "Bank" shot off the board in order to win \$25 gift cards for Saluki merchandise, McDonald's and Huck's.

In May, Banterra announced a multi-million dollar agreement with Southern Illinois University Carbondale to rebrand the SIU Arena as Banterra Center. The agreement, which includes a 10-year extension option, annual payments plus an affinity program, offers up to \$10 million for SIU, with a \$4-million guarantee for the first 10 years. The affinity program offers exclusive rights to Banterra Bank for a Saluki-branded debit card, with portion of profits going to a newly established Banterra-SIU Scholarship Fund.

Banterra Bank began as a single bank in Ridgway, Illinois in July of 1975. Today, Banterra has nearly \$2 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 40 locations in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Arizona and entered the Carbondale market in 1993. In addition to offering a variety of personal and business banking products, Banterra provides services nationwide through specialty lending divisions including Aircraft Finance, Machine Tool Finance, Corporate, Transportation and RV and Marine Lending. Banterra also offers Banterra Insurance for auto, home, life, business and Banterra Investment services. For information, call 866-BANTERRA (226-8377), or go to www.banterra.com.

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