



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Native CDFI Network Welcomes New Board Members**

**Rapid City, SD – January 30, 2019** – The Native CDFI Network, a national association of Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that works to increase access to capital in Native communities, is excited to announce two new board members, growing the governing body to nine seats. The newly-elected members are Christopher Coburn (Muscokee Creek), the Chief Executive Officer of Mvskoke Loan Fund in Oklahoma, and Robin Danner (Hawaiian), the Chief Executive Officer of Homestead Community Development Corporation in Hawaii.

“Both Robin and Chris come to us with vast skill sets and strong ties in Indian Country. We are glad to welcome them to our team,” says Pete Upton, Board Chair of the Native CDFI Network, and also the Executive Director of Native360 Loan Fund in Nebraska.

Danner was a founding co-chair of the Network in 2009, and saw the organization through its initial stages of development. In reconnecting with the Network, she is dedicated to pushing federal policy to the heights of the industry’s capacity. As a board member, Danner will serve as the Policy Committee Chair for the Native CDFI Network and work to develop policy priorities that every Native CDFI can identify with.

Coburn has implemented an aggressive, goal-oriented plan for Mvskoke Loan Fund since he joined the organization in July of 2017. He joins the Network’s board with 25 years of management experience serving a wide variety of industries, including consumer and commercial banking, higher education, public utilities, and marketing. During his term with the Native CDFI Network’s Board of Directors, he’ll serve as the Organizational Development Committee Chair.

“The addition of these two new seats really rounds out our governing body, creating stronger representation for Native communities across the country,” says Upton.

The Native CDFI Network’s Board of Directors is comprised of a diverse group of Native CDFI practitioners, representing the Great Plains, Mid-West, Pacific Northwest, Alaska and Hawaii regions. All of the board members have a long history of working in Indian Country as well as experience in implementing innovative solutions that increase access to capital in Native communities.

“Our Board of Directors is looking forward to a great year in 2019,” says Upton.

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**About the Native CDFI Network**

The Native CDFI Network was formed in 2009 to unify Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs) serving Native trust land communities, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Currently, over 70 certified Native CDFIs are located in 21 states across the country. As a strong national network, the Native CDFI Network empowers its members to engage their best ideas, connect to one another, and collectively advance policy priorities that foster systemic and sustainable Native community and economic development. The Native CDFI Network's mission is to be a national voice and advocate that strengthens and promotes Native community development financial institutions (CDFIs), creating access to capital and resources for Native peoples. More information on the Native CDFI Network can be found at [www.nativecdfi.net](http://www.nativecdfi.net).