



Encore Bank

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Encore Expands Footprint in North Carolina, Names Leigha Smith Market President for Piedmont Triad

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Nov. 17, 2021) – Encore Bank is pleased to announce its expansion into the Piedmont Triad in North Carolina and has named Leigha Smith as the senior vice president and market president to lead the expansion there.

“This is an exciting time for Encore Bank,” said Phillip Jett, Encore’s vice chairman and chief banking officer. “With the expansion into the Piedmont Triad, we are now operating in 17 markets across seven states. Less than three years ago, we started Encore Bank with only one office in Arkansas.”

This announcement comes just one month after Encore Bank announced its plans for growth in the Carolinas and its expansions into Charlotte, N.C. and Charleston, S.C. The bank is also considering opening branches in Greenville, Asheville, Columbia, Raleigh and Wilmington but will remain disciplined in its people-first expansion strategy.

“We were interested in the Triad area because it is an attractive, high growth market with a diverse economy, but we ultimately made the decision to expand into the Triad because of our confidence in Leigha’s ability to build the Encore brand there,” said Michael Sharpton, Encore’s regional president for the Carolinas. “Leigha has extensive banking experience and an impressive track record for developing high-performing teams to drive client satisfaction. She is also well-known and respected for her community involvement in the Triad area, having served on boards for numerous nonprofits.”

Smith brings more than 32 years of banking experience to Encore Bank. Most recently, she held the position of regional bank president for Wells Fargo. Smith holds a bachelor’s degree from Appalachian State University.

“I appreciate the opportunity to join the Encore team and look forward to building a client-focused team in the Piedmont Triad where I have spent the better part of my career,” said Smith. “Encore is building a different kind of bank and setting a standard for concierge banking and

innovation for its clients. I know the vision and culture of Encore is an ideal match for the market's business clientele."

About Encore Bank

Founded in 1997 as The Capital Bank but rebranded as Encore Bank in 2019 after a change in leadership, Encore Bank is one of the fastest growing banks in the country. Encore Bank is a private, boutique bank with a commercial focus that couples highly experienced and talented bankers with innovative technology to offer unprecedented levels of personal service and experiences to its clients through a hospitality-inspired concierge approach. Encore Bank provides a full suite of financial products and services to businesses, business owners, professionals, their families and contacts with purpose, passion and precision. Headquartered in Little Rock, Ark., Encore Bank currently operates in 16 markets across seven states. As of Oct. 31, 2021, Encore Bank had \$1.4 billion in total assets. Additional information about Encore Bank can be found at www.bankencore.com.

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