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1603 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 102 | West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Phone: 515.453.1495 | Fax: 515.453.1498 | [www.cbionline.org](http://www.cbionline.org)

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Media Contact:

Krissy Lee, Communications Director  
Community Bankers of Iowa  
515-453-1495  
[klee@cbionline.org](mailto:klee@cbionline.org)

## **CBI HOSTS FIRST-EVER PEER CONNECTION FORUM** **40+ Community Bank Staffers Gather to Discuss Trends**

**WEST DES MOINES, IA** – CBI's new Community Banking Peer Connection Forum was held May 28 at Prairie Meadows Conference Center in Altoona, IA. Gathering to hear motivational and educational speakers were over 40 community bank staff in Marketing, Human Resources, Operations, IT, Compliance, Lending, and Director functional groups. The Peer Connection Forum event takes the place of the State Fair Conference, which is held only on the election year cycle.

Coach Kevin Kush kicked off the event with a presentation based on his new book "A Piece of the Puzzle: Eight Traits of a Quality Teammate". Kush, a football coach in Omaha's Boys Town, discussed traits needed to be a contributing member of a team: believing in the team concept, exhibiting selfless behavior, respect for others, handling adversity, adapting to change, accepting feedback, demonstrating high energy, and being accountable.

Breakout session topics and speakers in the inaugural Peer Connection Forum included: How to Survive a State Exam, Vendor Management, Branch Maintenance Optimization, Succession Planning, Trends in Data Breach Response, Social Media in the Workplace, Understanding Your Role as a Bank Director, Truth & Fair Lending, and New Mortgage Rules.

The first-ever Peer Connection Forum closed with attendees in each functional group meeting in roundtable forums to compare notes on current banking industry trends and practices. These discussion group sessions are the unique feature of the Peer Connection Forum, intended as an educational and networking outlet for community bank staff below the CEO/President level.

The Forum is co-sponsored by CBI's Leaders of Tomorrow Group (LOT). For more information on CBI's Peer Connection Forum, visit [www.cbionline.org](http://www.cbionline.org).

### **About the Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT)**

*The Leaders of Tomorrow is a program created by the Community Bankers of Iowa to enhance the growth, leadership, and networking skills of future banking leaders. LOT establishes a network of leaders who serve and strengthen their communities and advocate for the community banking industry. For more information, visit the Community Bankers of Iowa website.*

### **About CBI**

*The Community Bankers of Iowa exclusively promotes and defends the common interests of independently owned and locally controlled Iowa community banks whose services are vital to the preservation of economic diversity and rural America. More than 330 independent community banks are located in Iowa, representing more than 1,000 communities across the state and employing over 5,000 Iowans. CBI members have in excess of \$3.2 billion dollars in common sense loans to consumers, small businesses, and the agricultural community. For more information, visit [www.cbionline.org](http://www.cbionline.org).*