



For Immediate Release
Caylee Smith, VP Marketing & Business Development - csmith@gcefcu.org

Gulf Coast Educators FCU President/CEO Announces Retirement After 43 Years of Distinguished Service



*Gulf Coast Educators FCU Executive Team accepting their 2024 Pasadena Business of the Year award.
Pictured: Back (Left to Right) - Kyle Ford, Jamieson Mackay, Eric Stegall, Taylor Hebert.
Front (Left to Right) - Caylee Smith, Linda Lukaszewski, Joseph Ditta, Kim Jackson*

Pasadena, TX: Gulf Coast Educators Federal Credit Union announces the retirement of its long-serving President/CEO, Mrs. Linda Lukaszewski. After a remarkable 43-year career, Mrs. Lukaszewski will be stepping down, leaving behind a legacy of growth, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the education community.

During her 20 years as President/CEO, Lukaszewski led the credit union through significant milestones, including numerous charter and branch expansions, navigating economic challenges, and overseeing a successful merger. Under her leadership, GCEFCU has grown by over \$1 billion in assets, tripled its branch network, expanded its employee roster threefold, and has now transformed into the largest educator credit union in the state of Texas.

Since taking on the role of CEO in 2005, Lukaszewski has fostered a strong culture of volunteerism and active involvement within the education community. Leading by example, she has proudly served on the Pasadena ISD Education Foundation for 18 years, where she volunteers her time and mentors young students. Her dedication to supporting educators was recognized when she was named Pasadena ISD's Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 2012, a testament to her profound commitment to education.



Her influence in investing in education has extended throughout the credit union's internal culture as well as helped shape GCEFCU's overall brand. Today, Gulf Coast Educators FCU has 12 representatives serving on local school district education foundation boards who donate their time and resources. Additionally, GCEFCU invests hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to school districts and their education foundations, as well as hosting educator appreciation events, and contributing funds towards classroom mini grants, scholarships, educator awards, and much more.

Gulf Coast Educators FCU has been awarded many prestigious awards and achievements under Lukaszewski's leadership. Over the last several years, the credit union has received the "Best of the Best" award from Member XP, "Best Credit Union in Texas" recognition by WalletHub, "Top 200 Healthiest Credit Unions" award with an A+ rating from DepositAccounts.com, "Stand Up for Texas Public Schools" award from TASB, and "Top 100 Best Performing Credit Unions" award from S&P Global Market Intelligence. Most recently, GCEFCU was named Pasadena's Business of the Year for 2024.

"Linda has been an amazing leader who has done so much not only for the credit union and its members, but for school districts all across our area," said Dr. DeeAnn Powell, Pasadena ISD Superintendent and GCEFCU Board Member. "It's amazing to see the growth in the credit union and the partnerships that have been built. So many amazing accomplishments of a leader."

Mr. Eric Stegall, Chief Operating Officer at Gulf Coast Educators FCU, will succeed Lukaszewski as President & CEO following her retirement. With more than 20 years of experience in the credit union industry, Mr. Stegall brings extensive operational knowledge and proven multi-department leadership.

The Board of Directors, management, and employees of Gulf Coast Educators FCU extend their heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Lukaszewski for her 43 years of dedication and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement. Her leadership and commitment will leave a lasting impact for years to come.

About Gulf Coast Educators FCU: In 1948, eleven Pasadena ISD educators got together and formed what today remains a credit union dedicated to serving the financial needs of school employees in the state of Texas. The credit union offers its member-owners a full line of banking services, but through a cooperative ownership structure. To learn more about the credit union, visit www.gcefcu.org.