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**Banking & Financial Services**

# **KeyBank names new Cincinnati market president as prior leader takes new job**



Jennifer Damiano was named KeyBank's new Cincinnati market president.

KEYBANK



By [Steve Watkins](#) – Staff reporter, Cincinnati Business Courier  
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KeyBank has named a new Cincinnati market president after its previous local leader departed for another role.

Cleveland-based KeyBank (NYSE: KEY) named Jennifer Damiano its Cincinnati market president. She adds that role to her current responsibilities as senior vice president and market leader of KeyBank's private banking unit in Cincinnati and Dayton.

The move took effect Monday, Sept. 11.

Damiano takes on the local part of the role Mike McCuen held as market president in Cincinnati and Dayton. McCuen joined Indiana, Pa.-based First Commonwealth Bank as its corporate banking executive.

KeyBank also named a new market president in Dayton. It promoted Jeff Bardonaro to that post. He has been commercial sales leader in Dayton since 2019. His role as market

president will give him a more visible role in that market.

Damiano plans to continue the success McCuen built in Greater Cincinnati.

“To follow Mike McCuen is a special opportunity,” she said. “Mike is a wonderful person and leader. He was high integrity and high impact here in Cincinnati. I’m building on the success he built, namely building an excellent team. I’m excited to step into this role and expand our impact here in Cincinnati.

“I’m looking forward to contributing deeper thoughtfulness about our philanthropic partnerships in the community,” she added, noting KeyBank has made \$384 million in investments in the local community since 2017. “I’m really excited to take this to the next level.”

Damiano leads not only Key’s private bank in the local market, as she has, but represents the commercial and retail bank as well.

“I’m responsible for our broad success,” she said. “But even more importantly, to weave together how we interact in the community. It’s an opportunity for Key to strengthen our relationships in the community, and that includes our philanthropic endeavors in this market.”

Those philanthropic activities are near to Damiano’s heart. She has an unusual background for a banker in that she spent 17 years working in the philanthropic world before making the leap to banking. She worked as a consultant, traveling the country to help nonprofits raise money. In 2012, she served as vice president of development for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra for a two-year period.

She shifted gears in 2014 and went to PNC Bank in Cincinnati to work on the wealth management team. The change wasn’t as big as it might sound.

“I took a career that was focused on high-net-worth and ultra-high-net-worth families and converted it to being of service to those families,” Damiano said.

She worked at PNC until last year, when she joined KeyBank to lead its private banking unit in Cincinnati.

“I find myself a bit of a unicorn in the banking industry,” Damiano said. “When people ask me, ‘What are you, exactly?’ my answer is I’m a leader. I love leading people and teams. For me it’s been a natural progression.”

She's on five local boards: Cincinnati Ballet Foundation, Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Mount St. Joseph University, Public Media Connect and Ursuline Academy.

Damiano spent most of her childhood in Cincinnati and went to Mount Notre Dame High School in Reading. She graduated from Marquette University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in business administration. She and her husband, Vito, live in Anderson Township and have a daughter who is a freshman at Saint Louis University.

Key is Greater Cincinnati's eighth-largest bank, with \$1.4 billion in local deposits as of June 2022, according to the most recently available data from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

It has 19 local branches.



Image: First Commonwealth Bank

Mike McCuen has been named corporate banking executive at First Commonwealth Bank.

FIRST COMMONWEALTH BANK

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McCuen had been KeyBank's local market president for six years. He was also previously local market president for National City Bank in the mid-2000s.

He will serve as a corporate banking executive at First Commonwealth, which has five banking offices in Greater Cincinnati. He'll be locally based but will lead all commercial banking teams and initiatives for First Commonwealth. Those include commercial and investment lending, commercial real estate, treasury management and portfolio management. He will strive to expand First Commonwealth's full banking relationships in its regions of commercial activity: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Canton and Columbus in Ohio; and Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Indiana in Pennsylvania.

"The bank has been successful while sticking to its values and helping customers, communities and employees achieve financial success," McCuen said in a news release. "In this moment of industry change, the bank has a ripe opportunity to grow the commercial business."

First Commonwealth President and Chief Revenue Officer Jane Grebenc said McCuen will be "transformative in helping us grow our commercially led regional business model. Besides a terrific background in both (commercial) lending and commercial real estate, Mike is exceptionally versed in attracting and developing high-caliber talent, bank integrations, risk management and credit."

McCuen and his wife, Megan, and family live in Montgomery. They have six children, including an adopted son, and are supporters of the foster care system.

## T H E L I S T

# Largest Cincinnati Area Banks and Bank Holding Cos.

Local deposits

Rank	Prior Rank	Business name
1	1	U.S. Bank National Association
2	2	Fifth Third Bancorp
3	3	PNC Bank, National Association

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