



## PRESS RELEASE

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Member FDIC

Star Bank has a rich history of serving Minnesota communities dating back to 1904, when it was originally chartered as The First National Bank of Bertha in Bertha, Minnesota. Founded by Harry Wahlquist with the guiding principle, "If it's worth doing at all, it's worth doing well," Star Bank remains committed to being The Bank That Cares™. Through its dedicated employees and 11 branches across the state, Star Bank continues to drive prosperity and build meaningful relationships with the communities it serves.

For Immediate Release

## ALISSA SANDHOLM NAMED TO ICBA INDEPENDENT BANKER'S ANNUAL 40 UNDER 40: COMMUNITY BANKER LEADERS LIST



[Maple Lake, MN - June 1, 2026] - Independent Banker magazine, the award-winning monthly publication of the Independent Community Bankers of America® (ICBA), has named **Alissa Sandholm, VP | Marketing** at Star Bank, to its 40 Under 40: Community Bank Leaders list. The annual award recognizes emerging leaders helping shape the future of community banking through innovation, leadership, and service.

"ICBA congratulates Alissa Sandholm on this well-deserved recognition," ICBA President and CEO **Rebeca Romero Rainey** said. "Each year, the 40 Under 40 honorees remind us of the talent and leadership strengthening community banking across the country. Alissa has demonstrated the drive, professionalism, and forward-looking leadership this recognition is meant to celebrate."

The feature story in the June/July issue of Independent Banker recognizes honorees who have helped level up banks' technological capabilities, advocate for the people they work with and serve, and educate and support members of their community. Candidates were judged on character, leadership, community involvement, and innovation. FIS, a global leader in financial services technology, sponsored this year's program.

*"Being named to ICBA Independent Banker's 40 Under 40: Community Bank Leaders List is a tremendous honor," said **Sandholm**. "Community banking is about building relationships, serving the community, and helping local families and businesses thrive. I'm proud to be a community banker and to further the work of Star Bank in support of our communities every day."*

Since joining Star Bank, Sandholm has played a key role in advancing the bank's marketing, digital banking, innovation, and employee development initiatives. She began her career at Star Bank as Digital Product Manager, was promoted to Director of Products and Innovation, and now serves as Vice President of Marketing. In her current role, she leads strategic marketing initiatives, oversees digital services, manages key bank-wide projects, and supports employee training and development efforts. Sandholm is also actively involved in industry advocacy and leadership through her participation with the **Minnesota Bankers Association** and **BankIn Minnesota**.

*"As a community bank, we want employees to feel connected and invested in the communities we serve," said **Katie Wahlquist**, Star Bank President and CEO. "Alissa leads by example and brings purpose and passion to her work that makes our bank better and our community stronger. Her vision, creativity, and dedication have helped drive innovation across our organization while strengthening our connections with customers, employees, and communities. We join ICBA in celebrating Alissa's recognition and look forward to supporting her continued growth and success."*

### About ICBA

The Independent Community Bankers of America® creates and promotes an environment where community banks flourish. ICBA powers the potential of the nation's community banks through effective advocacy, education, and innovation. With community banks representing locations across the nation, ICBA is dedicated exclusively to representing the interests of the community banking industry and the customers and communities community banks serve.

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