



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Doug Burgum
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Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

NEW

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Eric Hardmeyer announces retirement from Bank of North Dakota

BISMARCK – Bank of North Dakota (BND) President Eric Hardmeyer announced his retirement effective July 6, 2021, at the Industrial Commission meeting today. Hardmeyer has been in the role since 2000, qualifying him as the longest-serving president in the Bank’s 102-year history.

A Mott, North Dakota native, he began his career in 1985 as an administrative assistant to Bank President Joseph Lamb. He went on to serve in several roles in commercial lending before succeeding John Hoeven after Hoeven was elected governor.

Under his leadership, Hardmeyer solidified the Bank’s reputation for its visionary approach and agility in financing economic development. He navigated times of great economic change with oil booms and busts, droughts, natural disasters, and the COVID-pandemic, and is leaving the Bank in a strong position to address future needs.

Under Hardmeyer’s leadership, BND’s assets grew from \$1.81 billion to \$7.74 billion and the loan portfolio increased from \$1.16 billion to \$4.75 billion and there were 16 consecutive years of record profits which began in 2004.

In addition to its strong financial position, numerous accomplishments are credited to Hardmeyer. He worked closely with the North Dakota legislature to build a new headquarters which opened in 2008. His belief in helping families pay for postsecondary education led him to bring College SAVE, the state’s 529 plan, and North Dakota Dollars for Scholars to the Bank, rounding out the education financing options to include saving, scholarships and student loans. Relationships with local financial institutions strengthened while he was president.

Hardmeyer served as president of the North Dakota Bankers Association from 2007-2008 and on the Federal Home Loan Bank Board of Directors from 2008-2018.

“For over 35 years, Eric has maintained a strong commitment to the Bank of North Dakota and a deep passion for the Bank’s mission of delivering quality, sound financial services that promote agriculture, commerce and industry in North Dakota, including the energy sector,” stated Gov. Doug Burgum. “After more than two decades as president, Eric has left the Bank in a tremendously strong position to continue to adapt to new challenges and develop programs that positively impact every North Dakota family. We are deeply grateful for his longtime service and dedication to creating a brighter future for the citizens of our great state.”

“Whether it was a disaster or a price collapse or an opportunity for growing an industry, Eric identified how the Bank, in partnership with local lenders, could help North Dakota farmers, ranchers and companies sustain their businesses,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “Working with the Legislature he advocated for programs that helped entrepreneurs and communities which will improve the lives of citizens for years to come.”

“Eric has long recognized the need to help students, whether through loans, savings accounts, or scholarships,” stated Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “The Bank developed the DEAL program under Eric’s leadership and during the pandemic identified ways to help students in repaying their debt. He had the vision that the Bank could play a key role in helping students achieve their education and work opportunities here in North Dakota.”

“It has been a privilege to serve the state of North Dakota and work beside so many outstanding employees for so many years,” stated Eric Hardmeyer, BND president. “Their positive attitudes and dedication to making things better for North Dakotans inspires me every day.”

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT
Chad Hatzenbuhler, Bank of North Dakota public information specialist 701.328.5657