



WATKINSVILLE BANKER APPOINTED TO NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY BANK LEADERS

WATKINSVILLE, GA - American Bankers Association has selected Mr. Neil Stevens, President and CEO, Oconee State Bank, to serve on ABA's Community Bankers Council.

During the November ABA Community Bankers Council meeting in Washington, bankers had discussions on the recovering economy, COVID vaccine mandates, regulatory exams, small business lending data collection, consumer data aggregation, central bank digital currency, fraud mitigation, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Council members also had a chance to share ways the pandemic has impacted the business of banking and exchange ideas on operational and business best practices.



“Community banks play such an important role in our banking industry,” Stevens said. “This appointment gives me the opportunity to represent Georgia and advocate for the continued success of America’s hometown banks.”

ABA’s Community Bankers Council, which meets twice a year, is made up of approximately 100 bankers from across the country, from institutions with generally less than \$5 billion in assets. Members are appointed by the ABA Chair.

Neil serves as President and CEO of Oconee State bank with over 30 years of experience in the banking industry. In his time at Oconee State Bank, Neil has placed a strong emphasis on building

a remarkable culture within the organization and led the institution to levels of accelerated performance.

Neil currently serves as a Board Member with Classic City Church and the University of Georgia Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is also Chairman of the Board for Mercy Health.

About Oconee State Bank

Oconee State Bank is a leading financial institution with a vision to be essential to the lives, businesses, and communities we serve. In February 2021, Oconee State Bank celebrated 61 years of service and continues to be the only locally owned and operated community bank headquartered in Oconee County. Oconee State Bank has proudly served the local community, providing an unparalleled commitment to personalized service, innovative products and solutions, and seeks to bring exceptional value to our customers through local ownership, involvement, and decision-making. We continuously strive to create remarkable experiences that significantly mark the lives of others.