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The Summit's Laurie Baker Honored as an Athena Award Finalist Award Applauds Women for Exceptional Business and Community Leadership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ROCHESTER, N.Y. –

Laurie Baker, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of The Summit Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Rochester, New York, is a finalist for The Rochester Chamber of Commerce Women's Council Athena Award. The award is presented to a local woman who demonstrates excellence in business, community service and mentorship.

"Laurie is truly the epitome of an effective leader," said The Summit's President and CEO, Mike Vadala. "She gets results at The Summit and at the many places she volunteers her expertise. She does it all with kindness, great wisdom and without seeking one bit of recognition."

Prior to becoming COO in 2001, Laurie was The Summit's Vice President of Lending. As COO, Laurie leads the strategic planning process, which specifies how members' evolving needs can be met most effectively while ensuring the future viability of the credit union. She has been with The Summit since 1993.

With a personal passion for charitable work, Laurie volunteers for both industry and community non-profits, often at the board level. As someone with a deep commitment to the "people serving people" philosophy of credit unions and a global understanding of the issues they face, she has been an invaluable resource to the industry. Laurie has served on the New York Credit Union Association (NYCUA) Board of Directors since 2007, including as Vice Chair and Chair, has served on the Board of the New York Credit Union Foundation, and is past President of the Rochester Chapter of Credit Unions.

Drawn to organizations that help children, she volunteers for the Mary Cariola Children's Center and has been active at Rochester's Villa of Hope for over a decade, including as Board Chair. This spring, Villa of Hope honored Laurie with their inaugural "Champion of Hope" award, bestowed upon an individual who has significantly impacted the lives of Rochester youths. She is a member of United Way of Rochester's Women's Leadership Council, is a graduate of SUNY Geneseo, and holds a Masters in Social Science from SUNY Binghamton.

About The Summit Federal Credit Union

Founded in 1941, The Summit Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member-owned, full-service financial cooperative. With approximately \$860 million in assets, The Summit has over 230 employees and provides a full range of affordable financial products and services to approximately 80,000 active members in Central and Western New York. For more information, visit www.summitfcu.org.

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