



Tradition of Women

December 29, 2020

Here at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the work of its female employees help the Bank fulfill its mission of working in the public's interest by supporting economic and financial stability. Without these capable individuals, the Bank itself would not be able to continue to innovate and grow as it serves its diverse seven-state district.

Our Reserve Bank's commitment to diversity is evident from our early beginnings. From this strong foundation, we continue to expand and enhance our efforts.

Historical Timeline

1914: The Federal Reserve opens with five female employees out of 15 total. They earned an average of \$60 month as stenograph operators.

1935: The Kansas City Fed implements a ban on hiring married women, which is repealed years later.

1971: Donna Simpson is named the Reserve Bank's first female examiner.

1971: Virginia Sutton is named the Reserve Bank's first female auditor.

1973: Betty Dixon is the first female protection officer. She was hired at the Kansas City Fed's [Omaha Branch](#).

1973: The Denver Branch hires Candy Ferguson as its first female protection officer.

1978: The Oklahoma City Branch hires Lou Wallace as its first female protection officer.

1979: The Kansas City headquarters office hires Leslie Bowden as its first female protection officer.

1982: The first two women employees are promoted to the Kansas City Fed's official staff: Kathy Webster and Barbara Saathoff.

1984: Doris Drury becomes the first chairman of the Reserve Bank's [Board of Directors](#).

1994: Julie Stackhouse is named as the first female senior vice president.

2000: The four Boards of Directors are all chaired by women: Jo Marie Dancik in Kansas City, Kathryn Paul in Denver, Gladys Styles Johnston in Omaha and Patricia Fennell in Oklahoma City.

2001: Maryann Hunter at the [Denver Branch](#) is the first female to become manager of one of the three Branch offices.

2009: [Esther George](#) is the first woman named First Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

2010: [The Office of Minority and Women Inclusion](#) is created to oversee diversity practices. Donna Ward is named director.

2011: Esther George is the first woman named President and Chief Executive Officer.
