Banking on Her: THE HISTORY of WOMEN at THE KANSAS CITY FED

Through struggle and protest, determination and might, the supporters for voting equal rights witnessed the fruit of their labor with ratification of the 19th Amendment on August 18th, 1920. Since then, this nation has experienced a momentous transformation in the life and careers of all its citizens.

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.

IN MEMORY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT AND ITS IMPACT ON THE NATION, WE CELEBRATE THE HISTORY OF WOMEN WHO SERVE OR HAVE SERVED IN THE 10TH DISTRICT OVER THE LAST 100 YEARS.

Our words, actions, and culture promote a workplace of inclusion and belonging where all employees have the same opportunity to contribute and succeed.

-FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY • DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION VISION STATEMENT

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

-19TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

1914:
The Federal Reserve opens with 15 employees, five being female stenographers including Katherine Dalton. These women earned on average $60 per month.

1970:
Mary Lynn becomes the first employee to reach the employment milestone of 50 years.

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

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

1940s:
Fourteen female employees supported the nation's effort in WWII by joining the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Reserve (SPARS), the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACS), and the Naval Women's Reserve (WAVES).

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

1973:
Betty Dixon is hired by the Omaha Branch office as the first female protection officer in the 10th District.

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

1984:
Doris Drury, founding director of the Women's Bank of Denver, becomes the first female chairman of the Reserve Bank's Board of Directors.

1994:
Julie Stackhouse is named as the first female Senior Vice President.

2000:
The 10th District four Boards of Directors are all chaired by women: Kathryn Paul in Denver, Jo Marie Dancik in Kansas City, Gladys Styles Johnson in Omaha, and Patricia Fennell in Oklahoma City.

2001:
Maryann Hunter at the Denver Branch is the first female to become manager of a 10th District Branch office.

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, with Donna Ward named as its director.

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

2015:
Women in Technology Community of Practice is formed to support women technology professionals at the Bank.

2017:
The Oklahoma City Branch hosted over 200 women bankers during the Banking and the Economy: A Forum for Women in Banking.

2017:
Esther George is recognized as the University of Missouri-Kansas City's Alumna of the Year.

2019:
Tammy Edwards is promoted to Senior Vice President to lead the Bank's Diversity and Inclusion efforts-becoming the first African-American woman in this role.

2020:
Trudie Hall reaches her 50 year anniversary and becomes the longest serving employee in the Bank's history.