IN FOUNDING THE FEDERAL RESERVE MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, Congress recognized the importance of connecting the nation’s central bank to the Main Streets of America and to the wider global public. The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City carries out this role through its president and its programs and activities throughout the Tenth District, and beyond. Here is a glimpse at the recent activities of President Esther L. George and the staff of the Kansas City Fed.

George, below, was interviewed Sept. 29 by CNBC economics reporter Steve Liesman as part of the Minority Bankers Forum at the Kansas City Fed’s headquarters.

Thomas Jordan, chairman of the governing board of the Swiss National Bank, visited President Esther George, right, in October at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

George takes a few moments to speak with Donald Kohn, former vice chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Kohn visited the Kansas City Fed in September.
George took time during her Sept. 26 visit to Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind., to record a podcast with Wabash College President Greg Hess. George was a guest speaker for the college’s Rogge Lecture.

During the Minority Bankers Conference, Sept. 28-29 at the Kansas City Fed, George posed with guest speakers, from left, Doug Harris, chief executive officer of The Kaleidoscope Group; Rebeca Romero Rainey, chair and CEO of Centinel Bank of Taos (New Mexico); Rose Washington, deputy chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s Board of Directors; and James Ballentine, executive vice president with the American Bankers Association.

George talks with John Ruff, director of the Missouri Department of Insurance. The department invited George to speak at its Director’s Summit Oct. 13 in Kansas City, Mo.
Building relationships ...

CRA presentation at New Mexico Housing Summit
Ariel Cisneros, right, senior community affairs advisor, presented information Sept. 19 on “Understanding the CRA and the Benefits to Your Organization” at the New Mexico Housing Summit in Albuquerque. Picture with Cisneros, left, is Mary Williams with First National Bank of Santa Fe, and Pat Nie, center, with Wells Fargo Bank.

Economic forums and roundtable in Wyoming
The Kansas City Fed’s Denver Branch hosted economic forums in October in Sheridan and Rock Springs, Wyo., to share with community leaders the latest information on the regional and national economies. During those events, Alison Felix, vice president and Denver Branch executive, conducted roundtables with business, banking and community leaders.

Denver office welcomes new student board
The 2016-17 student board of directors program kicked off in October in both Denver and Albuquerque, N.M. The mentoring program helps students become knowledgeable citizens by increasing their understanding of economic, financial and occupational topics through collaboration with peers and business leaders.
Community Development Advisory Council meets in Oklahoma City

Members of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Community Development Advisory Council had their biannual meeting at the Oklahoma City Branch in October. This eight-member council is comprised of community leaders from the Tenth Federal Reserve District. While in Oklahoma City, the group toured a local innovation hub and met with industry leaders and Federal Reserve staff.

Kansas City Fed participates in Tahlequah economic forum, tour and business roundtable

The Kansas City Fed’s Oklahoma City Branch public and regional affairs staff hosted an economic forum and business roundtable with local leaders in November in Tahlequah, Okla., to learn more about the regional economy. Chad Wilkerson, Oklahoma City Branch executive, vice president and economist, spoke at the forum, which was attended by 80 business leaders from northeastern Oklahoma. During the visit, staff toured local businesses, including a wholesale nursery (left), hospital and the Cherokee Heritage Center, which housed a monument to Robert L. Owen. Owen was one of Oklahoma’s first senators and the senate author of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913.

Oklahoma City Office welcomes student board of directors

The Oklahoma City office kicked off this year’s student board of directors program in October. The monthly sessions provide an in-depth look at the Federal Reserve, personal finance, regional economy and workforce readiness. The Oklahoma City student board of directors is comprised of 15 students from nine different high schools in Oklahoma.
Construction Workforce Roundtable
On Nov. 16, the Omaha Branch and the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce hosted a roundtable with workforce development professionals, contractors and re-entry specialists to discuss labor needs in the construction sector.

Federal Reserve Financial Education Day
The Kansas City Fed’s Omaha Branch joined with the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s College of Business Administration to host 48 students from Omaha Bryan High School for Federal Reserve Financial Education Day.

Nebraska Bankers Association Women in Banking Conference
Tammy Edwards, center, vice president of Community Affairs, moderated the “Women Leaders in Banking: Telling Their Stories” session during the Nebraska Bankers Association’s Women in Banking Conference on Sept. 13. The participating panelists, from left to right, were Amanda Adams Hoover, CFO, Adams Bank & Trust, Ogallala; Angie Muhleisein, president, Union Bank & Trust, Lincoln; Kris Holoch, CEO, Cornerstone Bank, York; and Leslie Anderson, president and CEO, Bank of Bennington, Bennington.

Omaha kicks off student board of directors
The Kansas City Fed’s Omaha Branch welcomed in September students from four Omaha high schools as members of the 2016-17 student board of directors program.