



A Message from Linda Geers, MWRDECU CEO

By now you should have received a letter announcing the potential merger with Credit Union 1. Regulatory requirements dictated the majority of the format and content of that letter so I wanted to personally share a bit more about how we arrived at this decision and why we believe this is a tremendous opportunity for our members and staff.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of serving as your President and CEO for over 35 years and I am approaching retirement. As our Board and I began discussing how we might transition toward our future, we considered a variety of options. After nearly two years of considerable research and discussion, we determined that our greatest future success would be achieved by partnering with another credit union.

Small credit unions like ours face many challenges. Acquiring new technology is expensive, regulatory oversight and compliance requirements continue to increase, and having only a few employees to manage it all takes too much of our attention away from maximizing value for our members.

Through an extensive review process, the Board and I closely examined a number of credit unions that met our list of priorities. In the end, we found that Credit Union 1 has the technology, services, locations, and opportunities that will best serve our members and staff.

Enhancing the Member Experience

As members, you will continue to receive first-class service along with improved technology and a wider variety of financial services – not just for you, but for your entire family. Equally as important, our branches will remain open and you will still be dealing with our outstanding staff. They, too, will have more opportunities for things like training and advancement. The benefits of this merger will far outweigh any potential negatives.

Supporting our Staff

To our staff, I say thank you for dedication and hard work and I am excited for us all to be a part of this larger team. Joanne Shinnick and Jewel Hobbs have been with our team for decades and they will be instrumental in supporting the rest of our staff and members through and beyond this transition. Colin and Shaunrice have made a tremendous impact in a short time and their future with Credit Union 1 is bright.

John Van Keulen has been with us for over 26 years. He has been planning to retire for the last several years. Thanks to his commitment and dedication, he has stayed and I am so grateful. He will be retiring in 2026, but in the meantime, you will continue to see him at the Stickney branch.



I will also retire soon, but not quite yet. I am excited to get back to more of what I used to do – spending the majority of my time talking to members and District contacts. The relationships I have built over the years have brought me great joy and I am looking forward to being able to do more of that.

Looking Forward to our Future

We have received wonderful support from the District and I thank our volunteer board of directors for their diligence throughout this process. Their focus has always been, and continues to be, doing what is best for our members and staff.

We are excited about our partnership with Credit Union 1 and encourage all members to support this merger as well. Much more information will be coming throughout this process. Our goal is to make this transition as smooth as possible. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please talk to our team or reach out to me directly.