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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Federal Promotes Cathy Cooper to Lead Retail Banking

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON –Washington Federal, Inc. (NASDAQ: WAFD) today announced that Cathy Cooper has been promoted to Executive Vice President and Retail Banking Group Manager and joined the Company's Executive Management Committee.

Cooper's career at Washington Federal began in 1996 with the acquisition of Metropolitan Savings, where she worked since 1988. During most of her twenty-eight years with the combined company, she served as Director of Marketing, where she helped craft the Company's growth strategy across eight states and all business lines. Her responsibilities included oversight of advertising, internal communications, and investor relations. Among her many contributions, she has been instrumental in the promotion and development of digital products to meet the changing needs of consumer and small business banking clients. She led the Company's rebranding effort in 2011 that generated the "*invested here*" tagline and has held strategic responsibilities in the repositioning of our traditional branches. In her most recent role as the Retail Client Experience Executive, Cooper has been responsible for guiding the service vision, product strategy and brand positioning for the Company's retail banking segment, working with operational executives and retail bankers throughout the organization to streamline product delivery and improve customer satisfaction.

Washington Federal Chairman & Chief Executive Roy Whitehead said, "Cathy has successfully delivered on everything asked of her during her career with Washington Federal. She is smart, results-oriented, and professional. We are very proud to recognize her value to the Company with this well-earned promotion and the additional responsibility it entails. Our retail bank will be in good hands."

Cooper graduated summa cum laude from Washington State University and is an alumna of the Washington Federal Executive Leadership Academy. Her board and volunteer experience includes terms as Board President for both the Puget Sound American Marketing Association and Neighborhood House, a local non-profit. She currently serves on the board of the Seattle Sports Commission and on the Marketing Committee for the Washington Bankers Association. A native of the Pacific Northwest and graduate of Washington State University, Cathy lives in Seattle with her husband and two daughters.

Washington Federal, Inc. is the parent company of Washington Federal N.A., a national bank that provides consumer and commercial deposit accounts, insurance products, financing for small to middle market businesses, commercial and residential real estate, including consumer mortgages and home equity lines of credit. Established in 1917, the Company operates 238 branches in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Texas and New Mexico. As of June 30, 2016, the Company reported \$14.8 billion in assets, \$10.6 billion in deposits and \$2.0 billion in stockholders' equity.

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