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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Federal Announces Michelle Coons as its new New Mexico Regional President

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON – Washington Federal, Inc. (NASDAQ: WAFD) today announced that effective January 1, 2018, Michelle Coons will lead its New Mexico territory as Senior Vice President and Regional President. Bill Synnamon, its current NM Regional President, is retiring effective December 31, 2017, after serving in this capacity over the last 6 years. Michelle and Bill, whose career paths have crossed in the past at United New Mexico, will begin working together on the transition of duties as of December 1st. Michelle will maintain offices in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Michelle is a thirty four year veteran of NM banking, having held positions as a Regional President, a Community Bank President and a multi-state Commercial Banking Manager over the last 18 years. She is well known across the state for her community leadership having served as past board chairs for the UNM Foundation, Accion, the Association of Commerce and Industry and the UNM Alumni Association. Her current community involvement also includes the New Mexico Space Authority, New Mexico Amigos, New Mexico Women's Forum and Economic Forum. Michelle is a UNM graduate with a BBA from the Anderson Schools of Management, attended UNM's New Mexico School of Banking and the National Commercial Lending Graduate School at the University of Oklahoma.

Washington Federal President & CEO, Brent Beardall, says, "We are pleased to have Michelle join our leadership team as Washington Federal is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Our New Mexico roots began in Roswell in 2007, grew again in 2011 with the Beal/Charter bank

acquisition in Santa Fe and Albuquerque and then expanded statewide with the acquisition of 11 branches from Bank of America in 2014. Consequently, Michelle will oversee 25 branches, 4 commercial banking markets, \$843 million in deposits, \$597 million in loans and 49 licensed mortgage officers throughout her territory. I am confident she is the right leader to continue to grow our customer base, to further raise our visibility and to take us to the next level in New Mexico.” Michelle shared, “I am excited about this opportunity and believe that Washington Federal is well positioned in New Mexico to help business owners and homeowners achieve their goals.”

Washington Federal is a national bank that operates 237 branches in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Texas, Nevada and New Mexico. It has been publicly traded since 1982 and is in its 139th consecutive quarter of paying dividends. The bank provides consumer and commercial deposit accounts, financing for small to middle market businesses, commercial real estate and residential real estate, including consumer mortgages, home equity lines of credit and insurance products through a subsidiary. As of September 30, 2017, the Company reports \$15.3 billion in assets, \$10.8 billion in deposits and \$2 billion in stockholders’ equity.

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