FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fritschle Named Leader in Banking Excellence



INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 14, 2026) – **Alvin "Al" Fritschle**, chairman and retired president and CEO of **First Bank, Carmi, Illinois**, was honored by the Indiana Bankers Association with the IBA Leaders in Banking Excellence award, presented on Sept. 14 during a ceremony as part of the IBA's Annual Convention at the French Lick Springs Resort in French Lick, Indiana. This award celebrates exceptional leaders who have positively impacted Indiana banks and communities. Four other members of the Indiana banking community were also inducted into the class of 2026 leaders.

Indiana dignitaries presented the awards, including Indiana Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville; Director Thomas C. Fite, Indiana Department of Financial Institutions; IBA Chairman David M. Findlay, chairman and CEO of Lake City Bank, Warsaw, Ind.; Amber R. Van Til, IBA president and CEO; and a video message from U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind. Honorees were invited to offer their own comments in reflection on their career and the industry.

Honorees received an ebony plaque etched with a portrait and biography. Identical crystal plaques are on permanent display at the IBA office in Indianapolis.

The Leaders in Banking Excellence awards are the Association's highest honor. This year's honorees represent a range of industry leaders. Each was nominated by IBA-member organizations and approved by the Association's Board of Directors. For more information, **visit the IBA's website**.

BIOGRAPHY

Al Fritschle served as the fifth president of First Bank. He joined as a senior lender in the 1986, quickly being named president in 1989. Over the next three decades of his leadership, the bank opened its first branch and expanded its service offerings to include insurance, brokerage, wealth management and title services. It was also under Fritschle's leadership that the bank crossed the border and began operating in Indiana, where the bank quickly expanded until it had more branches in Indiana than Illinois. Overall the bank grew from roughly $60 million in total assets to more than $600 million before he transitioned to chairman & CEO in 2019 and retired from daily work in 2022. Fritschle is the Chairman of the Absher Charitable Foundation board, a past president of the Carmi Chamber of Commerce and Carmi Kiwanis Club, and former Carmi Hospital board member.

Congratulations to the full 2026 class of IBA Leaders in Banking Excellence:

Alvin "Al" Fritschle, First Bank, Carmi, Ill.
Travis Holdman, KeyState, Markle, Ind.
Mark "Doc" Holt, First Farmers Bank & Trust Company, Converse, Ind.
Matthew W. Howrey, North Salem State Bank, North Salem, Ind.
D. Grant Whaley, The Farmers and Merchants Bank, Boswell, Ind.

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The Indiana Bankers Association supports Indiana banking through issues advocacy, professional education, and products and services that enhance financial institutions' ability to help build better communities.

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