Riverview B CEO Nicole Sherm a i ‘focu ed o the people

Wh n cli nts ar succ ssful, it mak s a strong r community, sh says e

By Sarah Wolf, Columbian staff writer
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Riverview Bank CEO Nicole Sherman takes a break in one of the company’s conference rooms in downtown Vancouver. Sherman, one of few female banking CEOs across the nation, took over in July. (Amanda Cowan/The Columbian)

Photo Gallery

Nicole Sherman is new in town. But the new iverview Bank CEO is already making waves.

Sherman took over as president and chief executive officer at Vancouver's iverview Bank in July. The previous CEO was ousted a year prior.

"We needed somebody who could come in and really develop the staff," said Stacey Graham, a member of iverview's board of directors. Graham led the nationwide search for a new chief executive for the community bank.

Once she jumped on board, Sherman dove headfirst into meeting with branch staff, attending community events and talking with clients, Graham said. R

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"She has not been here that long, but I thin she's made a prett significant splash," Graham said.

Sherman was born and raised, as she says, on the slopes of Salt Lake City. She started in banking at just 17 years old as a teller at Zions Bank.

"I was a baby banker," she said.

Sherman said the bank's CEO saw something in her — that she knew banking at its core is a people business.

Sherman never planned to go into banking, expecting instead to go into something like law. R

She’d go o h gh hoo n he morn ng and hen her work- udy job n he af ernoon a he bank. She ked he f nan a a pe of he job. Bu wha rea y ap va ed her wa he peop e.

Sherman wen on o be ome an a an v e pre den a 20 year o d a v e pre den a en or v e pre den exe u ve v e pre den and o on.

“I ju fo u ed on be ng he be I ou d n he ro e ha I wa n over he year ” Sherman a d.

A hough he never a p red o be a CEO he a d ho d ng ha po on a R verv ew he h gh gh of her , areer.

She’ pen abou a h rd of her 25-year areer work ng n bank bran he .

Af er he moved o he Pa f Nor hwe he worked for Ąmer anWe Bank and Co umb a Bank. She’ been nvo ved w h 11 merger and a qu on n ud ng Amer anWe ’ pur ha e by Banner Bank and Co umb a’ merger w h Umpqua Bank.

Af er o many year Sherman ee bank ng a a peop e bu ne .

“To be u e fu n bank ng and have he ompany be u e fu you have o be fo u ed on he peop e ” he a d. “Tha ’ rea y my ph o ophy here a R verv ew.”

Sherman a d he be eve emp oyee w rea en how hey’re rea ed. And when en are u e fu make a ronger ommun y he added.

“There’ no h ng more a fy ng o me han deepen ng a re a on h p w h a bu ne and ee ng omebody’ dream ome rue be au e hey bu d he r bu ne a a re u of u par ner ng w h hem ” Sherman a d. ,

Sherman a he ne er l e n Vancou er before accept ng the job at R er ew, but he taken w th the area an t beauty. a

Sherman taught lea er h p at the P cific Co st B nking School, a gra uate-le el bank ng program ba e n Belle ue. That appeale to R er ew boar . a

“She wa recogn ze a a lea er,” Graham a . a

Graham a the boar hope Sherman w ll help grow the century-ol company, con er at on that are alrea y n the work . a

“It been k n of a wh rlw n ,” Graham a . a

Bank ng ha been a h tor cally male- om inate n u try, mak ng Sherman lea er h p at R er ew a rar ty. a

More than half of U.S. bank employee are now women, accor ng to the Americ n B nkers Associ tion. But ju t 7.5 percent of bank are le by women CEO . a

Sherman a women n execut e bank ng po t on can ha e a n ce balance of entrepreneur al p r t but al o focu on people. (She empha ze that he know male execut e who are al o ery people-or ente .)

Sherman ee more women n execut e bank ng po t on now than he early on n her career. a

“But we t ll ha e work to o,” he a . a

Bank ng an e ol ng n u try, e pec ally w th the ntro uct on of art f c al ntell gence. Sherman e pec ally exc te about the e olut on of open bank ng, wh ch allow har ng of f nanc al ata between bank an th r part e . a

Sherman hope lea er n her company mentor the future generat on of the bank lea er , ju t l ke how he wa mentore n tho e early ay n Utah. a

“I know t t ult com et oug p opl ,” id. t

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