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The board of Directors of Security State Bank (SSB) is excited to announce a new President; Bernie Knutson. Bernie will assume the presidency role from Mark Gardeski who currently holds Chief Executive Officer and President titles. Mark will remain CEO of Security State Bank until his retirement on December 31, 2025.

Bernie is no stranger to banking dedicating 25 years of service to the industry. He spent most of his career in northern Minnesota and because of his love for the Iron Range moved back to Minnesota from North Dakota.

In May Bernie was hired at Security State Bank. He carries a strong business banking background and has worked in various executive roles at his previous institutions. Bernie immediately embraced the Security State Bank's mission statement upon hire. He has already demonstrated his passion for strong customer relationships and supporting the banks growth.

Bernie expressed his enthusiasm for the new role, saying, "I am honored to serve SSB and the community in this capacity. I look forward to driving meaningful growth and continue to build on the strong foundation set by Mark's many years of leadership. I look to continue the strong relationships that only a true community bank like SSB can create. I am confident with this dedicated team; our customers will continue to experience trusted and personal service they've come to know.

In his spare time Bernie enjoys spending time with his family doing outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, retriever training, and other outdoor activities. Please feel free to reach out and welcome Bernie to our bank.