



Karen Koppel

Karen Koppel, CCIM, broker at **NAI Cascade** was awarded the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation by the CCIM Institute, one of the leading commercial real estate associations in the world. The CCIM designation is conferred upon commercial real estate leaders who have a proven record of success in the field and have demonstrated a mastery of financial, market and investment analysis. Karen's CCIM designation places her in a unique group of only six percent of the real estate brokers in the United States.

Koppel was pinned by CCIM Designee and founder of NAI Cascade, Andie Edmonds and was among the few commercial real estate professionals from across the nation who earned the designation by passing the Institute's Comprehensive Examination, the final component in the designation process. The designation was awarded on May 14, 2021 following examinations held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

CCIMs are recognized experts in commercial real estate brokerage, leasing, asset management, valuation and investment analysis. The CCIM designation is awarded to commercial real estate professionals upon successful completion of a graduate-level education curriculum totaling 200 hours of in class training, five comprehensive examinations and presentation of a portfolio of qualifying industry experience. The curriculum addresses: financial analysis, market analysis, user decision analysis and investment analysis — the cornerstones of commercial investment real estate.

NAI Cascade has fostered its reputation as a brokerage dedicated to providing full-circle service to its clients, work that produces meaningful rewards and relationships that appreciate.

Today, partners Walt Ramage, Jenn Limoges and Principal Broker Katy Haines honor the legacy of a relationship driven approach to business.

Umpqua Bank, a subsidiary of Umpqua Holdings Corporation (NASDAQ: UMPQ), announced the hiring of **Mike Sventek**, a long-time commercial and community banker, to lead and expand a team of bankers to support the unique needs of greater Oregon-based businesses. Sventek is based in Bend.

The addition of Sventek, who will serve as commercial market director for greater Oregon, is Umpqua's latest move to provide local, accessible commercial banking team support for growing business enterprises across the state and region.

Last year, following the first round of funding through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Umpqua formed its new community and business banking division to focus on this critical segment of the economy. Ashley Hayslip, who managed Umpqua's first-round PPP program, was promoted late last year to lead this division for the bank. Under her leadership, Umpqua is actively building teams in key markets and hiring top talent like Sventek, who brings more than 30 years of experience as a commercial and community banking leader at major financial institutions.

Sventek has strong personal and professional ties in Bend and across Oregon, having served for more than a decade as community banking district manager for Wells Fargo. Over the last ten years, he led a regional team of commercial relationship managers for BBVA USA. During his tenure at BBVA USA, Sventek more than doubled the size of the commercial portfolio in his region, while also coordinating efforts for the bank related to business development, community involvement and the Community Reinvestment Act.

Sventek earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from Northern Arizona University and is a graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington.

Aurora Consulting, LLC., a patent strategy firm that specializes in working with science and technology-based startups, announced that Bend-based Aspirational Technology emerged from a closely contested group of finalists as the first runner-up in the second annual 2021 RISE (Relief for Startup Endurance) Award. The award will help Aspirational Technology secure vital intellectual property rights.

Aspirational Technology is on a mission to end water poverty with an affordable and immediate solution to the global health crisis of waterborne diseases. They've developed an ultra-low-cost, easy-to-use water filter for low-income consumers in developing countries. Their filter is easy to use and screws directly onto the type of faucets commonly found in low-income houses. A family of five will spend less than a penny a day for water — less than any other filter available on the market in emerging countries. Their approach doesn't end with a device, though. They've also architected a scalable and profitable manufacturing and distribution model centered around regional production that will create economic opportunity in developing countries and reduce carbon emissions from long supply chains. Added sustainability and environmental impact comes by way of a reduced carbon footprint compared to other clean water solutions since filtering water at home eliminates wasteful consumption of plastic.

Terry Skjersaa, principal broker with the **Skjersaa Group**, which operates in partnership with Duke Warner Realty, has been named as Secretary and Treasurer of the newly formed board of directors serving local nonprofit **Furnish Hope**.

Furnish Hope works with over 30 community partners to collect, redistribute and deliver donated home furnishings and household essentials to families transitioning into stable, affordable housing in Central Oregon. As demand for the nonprofit's services have increased, the Furnish Hope team realized they needed the support and guidance offered by a board of directors.

Volunteers — who help receive donations, organize them in the Furnish Hope warehouse and ultimately deliver them to families settling into new homes — are critical to the nonprofit.



(L-R) TERRY SKJERSAA, DEBORAH ASATO, MEGAN MARTIN, MARY BARLOW, CHRIS EARWICKER AND STAN STIEBEN OF FURNISH HOPE | PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBORAH ASATO

The **Oregon Department of Education**, in partnership with the Oregon Lottery, announced Oregon's 2022 Regional Teachers of the Year. Oregon teachers bring their ingenuity, flexibility, encouragement and expertise to classrooms every day in support of their students. During this global pandemic, teachers have overcome constant challenges requiring transitioning instructional models, developing new ways to create important student connections, learning new teaching platforms and so much more.

Oregon educators were identified through a regional application and selection process facilitated by local Education Service Districts. Applicants submitted testimonials and letters of support and were assessed on leadership, instructional expertise, commitment to equity, community involvement, understanding of educational issues, professional development and vision by a diverse panel of regional representatives.

Each Regional Teacher of the Year will receive a \$500 award from the Oregon Lottery, and is automatically considered for the honor of 2022 Oregon Teacher of the Year, which will be announced this fall.

The local 2022 Oregon Regional Teachers of the Year award winners were **Jill Plant**, Warm Springs K-8 Academy, Music, Jefferson County School District and **Steve Wetherald**, Bend Senior High School, Special Education, Bend-La Pine School District.



Jenn Limoges

Summit Bank announced that **Jenn Limoges**, a 15-year real estate executive and co-owner of the NAI Cascade brokerage firm, has joined the Summit Bank Central Oregon Advisory Board.

Limoges is a leader in the Central Oregon real estate industry and has the designation of Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM), which places her in an elite group of only six percent of the real estate brokers in the United States.

Limoges will be the seventh addition to the Central Oregon Advisory Board for Summit Bank which already includes: Wes Price, who serves as advisory board chair (Price Fronk & Co.), Becca Williams (Red Plate Foods), Jamie Danek (Humm Kombucha), Dr. Jay Moore (The Center), Bill Smith (William Smith Properties Inc.) and Hayden Watson (Hayden Homes).

The **Central Oregon Association of REALTORS** (COAR) will present the 2021 EnCOAR awards on June 7 at Tetherow Resort. The EnCOAR awards represent those members that have given back to the association through volunteer work, are very involved in the community, respected among their peers and represent REALTOR spirit.

The 2021 EnCOAR awardees are REALTOR of the Year: **Debbie Martorano**, RE/MAX Key Properties; Rookie of the Year: **Megan Zampko**, Pacwest Realty Group; Affiliate of the Year: **Amber Wilson**, Umpqua Bank; COARPAC Cup Small Office: **Desert Sky Realty**; COARPAC Cup Large Office: **Windermere -Redmond**; WCR Member of the Year: **Jessica McIntyre**, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices NW and **Cat Zwicker**, Desert Sky Realty; WCR Affiliate of the Year: **Susan Simonsen**, AmeriTitle; and Commercial Transaction of the Year: **Brian Fratzke** and **Howard Friedman**, **Jay Lyons** and **Grant Schultz** for 777 NW Wall Street, Bend.

Additionally, at the EnCOAR Awards COAR will present the 2021 Housing Champion Award. This award is presented to public servants who have supported homeownership and protected private property rights through policymaking, collaboration and other initiatives. This year, recipients are Carolyn Eagan, City of Bend; Nick Lelack, Deschutes County; and Pacific Crest Affordable Housing.

Mid Oregon Credit Union welcomes **Dan Stake** as commercial markets director. Stake brings over 30 years of financial services experience, primarily with commercial credit and overall commercial financial needs. In his new role, Stake assists Central Oregon businesses with business lines of credit, commercial real estate, multifamily properties and more.

Stake and his Mid Oregon team members take a personalized approach with every commercial relationship. They spend time understanding the complexities of each business and how Mid Oregon can uniquely assist with services to meet the business's financial needs, now and in the future.

Stake comes from a family with a long history in financial services. His father was a banker for over 50 years, and his brother for more than three decades. Both sons learned from their father that every business relationship is important and to cater to specific needs, whether it's a new business or an established one.

In his free time, Stake enjoys spending time with his family, fly fishing, golfing and skiing.

Deschutes County Farm Bureau awarded a record-breaking \$10,000 in scholarships this year.

Winner of the first-ever \$2,500 scholarship is **Madalynn Lamken** of Terrebonne. Winners of the \$1,500 scholarships are **Josiah Cruikshank** of Bend, **Chelsea Buhmann** of Bend and **Chance Greene** of Bend. Winners of the \$1,000 scholarships are **Rhiannon Curley** of Redmond, **Lauren Neuman** of Bend and **Jessica Simpson** of Redmond.

Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Laura Duquela, from Miami, supervises Quartermaster 3rd Class **Sophia Puentes** from Bend (pictured below left) in clearing barrel procedures during a gun shoot aboard amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli (LHA 7), May 14. Tripoli is underway conducting routine operations in U.S. Third Fleet.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO | BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SEAMAN APPRENTICE CHRISTOPHER SYPERT