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# News Release

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## **Oregon Bankers Association Inducts Richard Hieb into Hall of Fame**

**SALEM, Ore.**, August 5, 2009 – The Oregon Bankers Association (OBA) inducted PremierWest Bank’s **Richard Hieb** into the Oregon Bankers Hall of Fame during its recent annual convention held at Coeur d’Alene Resort in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. This honor recognizes the outstanding contributions that Hieb has made to the Oregon banking industry, his community, and the state of Oregon.

Richard Hieb most recently served as PremierWest Bank’s senior executive vice president and chief operating officer and as the secretary of PremierWest Bancorp. Hieb started his banking career in 1963 with Idaho First National Bank, which later became US National Bank. In 1979, Hieb joined Western Bank and was responsible for administrative departments. Hieb served as the executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Western Bank until its 1997 acquisition by Washington Mutual. Joining Bank of Southern Oregon in 1998, Hieb became an instrumental force in transitioning the bank into one of the fastest growing banks in the Pacific Northwest, PremierWest Bank.

In banking, Hieb is admired for his strong leadership, ability to take on tough challenges and innovative thinking. To his colleagues outside of banking, Hieb is known for his selflessness and commitment to making Oregon a better place. Hieb currently serves as the secretary/treasurer for the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Southern Oregon, and as a board member of the Medford Chamber of Commerce and The Young Entrepreneur’s Success Fund (The YES Fund).

His work with the Consumer Credit Counseling Service has helped increase the number of volunteers providing assistance to low income seniors and people with disabilities who need help with money management. As a board member of The YES Fund, Hieb has helped craft a finance model to enhance the caliber and volume of loans available for young or first-time Oregon entrepreneurs.

In commenting about the induction, Linda Navarro, president and chief executive officer of the OBA, said, "From his service to his industry to his commitment to his community, Rich is a dedicated and accomplished banker. More than that, he is a genuine and generous person." She added, "He is a perfect addition to the Oregon Bankers Association Hall of Fame, which is the highest honor bestowed on an Oregon banker by his or her peers."

Since its creation in 1987, the OBA's Hall of Fame has inducted 67 Oregon Bankers who have made outstanding contributions to the Oregon banking community and communities where they live and work.

#### **About The Oregon Bankers Association**

Established in 1905, the Oregon Bankers Association is Oregon's only full-service trade association representing state and national commercial banks, thrifts and savings banks chartered to do business in Oregon. More information is available at [www.oregonbankers.com](http://www.oregonbankers.com)

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