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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Donna Gambrell, President & CEO of Appalachian Community Capital,
Announces Retirement**

Christiansburg, VA, [July 11, 2025] – Donna Gambrell, President and CEO of Appalachian Community Capital (ACC), has announced plans to retire at the end of 2025. Ms. Gambrell has served as ACC’s President and CEO since May 2017.

In 2013, the Appalachian Regional Commission made a lead investment in ACC of \$3.45 million in equity and operating support. In ACC’s start-up phase, the organization raised \$12 million in investments. Under her leadership, ACC--a CDFI wholesale intermediary--has grown from a start-up to a high-performing, mission-driven financial institution. Its membership has expanded from 12 to 41 community lenders, which now includes regional and national CDFI members. The members, whose assets under management total \$3.5 billion, have used ACC capital to finance small businesses, renewable energy projects, manufacturing sites, elder care facilities, restaurants, and ecotourism, among other projects.

Over the years, ACC has raised \$60 million in debt capital and \$80 million in grants, most of which was passed on to CDFI members and the small businesses that they support. In addition, 251 businesses have been financed using ACC capital. Members report that they have helped create or retain about 4,000 jobs. In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a \$500 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant award for ACC, marking a major milestone for the organization.

“Small businesses are the backbone of Appalachia, poised to provide the bridge to a resilient, diversified, and sustainable economy that builds wealth and assets within local communities,” said Ms. Gambrell. “However, without access to reliable financial resources and supporting capacity-building services, small businesses will continue to face barriers. ACC and its members have consistently provided the critical resources and services to help these businesses grow and thrive, and we will continue to do so.”

Ms. Gambrell previously served as Director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) where she was the agency’s longest

serving Director (2007-2013) and first African American woman serving in the post. Under Ms. Gambrell's leadership, the CDFI Fund experienced significant growth--more than doubling funding under its flagship program--and adding new initiatives targeted to underserved markets, including the Capital Magnet Fund, the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, and the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program.

Ms. Gambrell also served in several executive positions at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), including Deputy Director for Compliance and Consumer Protection, where she was responsible for overseeing the FDIC's national compliance bank examinations, as well as the agency's community affairs, consumer affairs, and deposit insurance programs.

"I've witnessed Donna's achievements and influences throughout her career at the FDIC, the CDFI Fund and ACC and in each place, she has given her heart and soul to make it better," stated ACC board chair Clint Gwin. "At ACC, the board charged Donna with bringing new sources of capital to the region, and she exceeded expectations. More importantly, she has positioned ACC as a leader in the region and a champion for underserved small businesses."

Gwin added, "The board knew this time would come eventually; in response, it developed a succession strategy over the last two years and will follow this plan in collaboration with CBIZ's Nonprofit Leadership Group, our executive search firm. We wish Donna only the best as she moves to the next chapter of her life."

About Appalachian Community Capital:

Appalachian Community Capital is a CDFI lending intermediary created to raise capital for its 41 member CDFIs and other mission-based lenders. The members, in turn, use ACC's capital to fund small businesses in underserved areas in Appalachia. The members, many of which have been in operation for more than 20 years, and their affiliates manage \$3.5 billion in assets supporting economic development in Appalachia.

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