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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Appalachian Community Capital Board of Directors Selects Daniel Wallace as new President and CEO**

Christiansburg, VA [December 2, 2025] – Appalachian Community Capital (ACC) is pleased to announce that its Board of Directors has selected **Daniel Wallace** as the organization's next President and CEO. Daniel will step into his new role on January 2, 2026, succeeding **Donna Gambrell**, who will retire at year's end after guiding ACC through almost a decade of transformative growth.

With nearly 30 years of rural business development and nonprofit leadership, Daniel's experience includes owning and operating a small business and serving as Executive Director of an arts organization. He leads with an entrepreneurial spirit, expertise in community development, and a passion for making a difference in rural communities.

Daniel joins ACC from the **Green Bank for Rural America**, an ACC subsidiary he has led since its launch. The Green Bank—established to accelerate investment in rural enterprises, community projects, and energy-resilient infrastructure—was seeded with an award of \$500 million in funding through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Under Daniel's leadership, the Green Bank identified more than \$328 million in energy-related businesses and projects.

"We are thrilled to welcome Daniel as the next President & CEO of Appalachian Community Capital" said Interim ACC Board Chair, **Marten Jenkins**. "His catalytic leadership in development finance—and his deep commitment to building pathways to durable prosperity—align perfectly with ACC's vision and the momentum we are building for the future."

Prior to his role at the Green Bank, Daniel served as **Chief Investment Officer at Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI)**, where he spearheaded new financing tools to expand access to capital for low-income communities and entrepreneurs overlooked by traditional financial markets. During his tenure, CEI's loan and investment portfolio grew to a **record \$78 million**.

"I've had the opportunity to work with Daniel over the past year in his role as President and CEO of the Green Bank," said **Donna Gambrell**. "I'm confident he will guide ACC into its next chapter, advancing our [Resilient Capital Campaign](#), expanding ACC's products and services, and strengthening our support for CDFI members and underserved communities across Appalachia and rural America."

"I'm honored to step into this role at such a pivotal moment for Appalachian Community Capital," said **Daniel Wallace**. "Across the region, there is a powerful opportunity to strengthen the economic backbone of our communities, expand flexible capital for underserved entrepreneurs, and build the long-term capacity that makes resilience possible. I'm excited to work alongside our CDFI members and partners to advance a more prosperous future for Appalachia and rural America."

#### **About Appalachian Community Capital:**

Appalachian Community Capital is a CDFI lending intermediary created to raise capital for its 43-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 \$4.5 billion in assets supporting economic development in Appalachia.

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