

# Capra Bank among the fastest growing banks

Comprised of local civic and business leaders, Capra’s Board of Directors is shaping the future of banking in Dubuque and beyond.



*Pictured from left to right: Tyson Leyendecker, Lynn “Tut” Fuller, Lynn “Butch” Fuller, Doug Horstmann, Mike Coyle, and Chad Chandlee*  
*Board of Director members not pictured: Rhonda McHenry, Greg Garland, and TJ Fuller*

It’s not very often that a place like Dubuque takes claim to housing one of the fastest growing banks in the country. Yet, with Capra Bank, Dubuque can stake that claim.

Since inception, Capra has been founded on the principles of using the power of banking to propel communities to new heights, and now it’s doing that with locations in Dubuque; Lubbock, Texas; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Capra makes use of industry leading technology and tools equal to or better than leading national banks, while providing the personalized service and local decision-making that used to be the hallmark of quality community banks. The blend of leading technology and talent has propelled Capra’s growth. Of the ~650 banks across Iowa, Texas, and New Mexico, Capra has been the fastest growing bank in 2023 and thus far in 2024.\* During that same period, Capra has been among the top handful of fastest growing banks out of over 4,500 banks in the United States. What’s more impressive is that all of Capra’s growth has been organic, whereas most fast-growing banks rely on mergers and acquisitions.

Local decision-making and empowerment has been key to Capra’s success. Not to be overlooked is the importance of local board members and quality board oversight. The Capra board has broad-based banking experience far surpassing that of most financial institutions. Meanwhile, the structural elements of the board, such as direct investment/ownership in the bank and placing the leader of each market on the board, legally solidify Capra’s commitments to the local markets it serves. According to its Founder, CEO, and Chairman Tut Fuller, “The definition of a local bank isn’t just having a building with employees.

That would mean Walmart is a local retailer, and McDonalds is a local eatery, and Harbor Freight is your friendly local hardware store. There is nothing wrong with those stores, but I don’t know a single person who would call them local.”

According to Capra President, Tyson Leyendecker, most people don’t realize that saying they support their local community and then not banking locally are two incompatible actions or thoughts. Studies have shown that money spent locally is circulated 3-7 times more than money spent non-locally. Most people forget there’s a bank in the middle of each of those 3 to 7 local transactions. If that bank isn’t local, the cycle breaks, and the money is taken out of one’s local community to support the money cycle in some other state or community.

Leyendecker states, “Banks take in deposits and lend them out to support businesses and projects. If you don’t bank local, the bank takes your deposits and then lends them to support a business or project that isn’t in your community.” The math says national and regional banks don’t lend money in the places Capra calls home, and the 60+ bankers who work for Capra have seen it first-hand. Protecting and growing the communities it calls home is why Capra was designed from the ground up to be the modern and technological version of yesteryear’s community bank. A local bank, locally invested, that can beat national and regional banks on service, products, and technology (while taking care of its employees). Fuller stated with conviction that “if you tell yourself or others that you support your local community, that means banking local.”

\*Data obtained from FDIC June 30, 2024 Market Share Report: <https://banks.data.fdic.gov/bankfind-suite/SOD/marketShare>

## Chad Chandlee joins Capra Bank’s Board of Directors

As an Iowa-based bank, Capra’s board has Iowa residents as a majority. Meet the newest member of the Capra board, Chad Chandlee. As President and COO of Kendall Hunt, one of Dubuque’s premiere companies, Chad has 26 years of experience in publishing at Kendall Hunt Publishing. He founded and serves as CEO & President at Great River Learning, and has been involved in many start-up companies, including his current board role at Victory XR, a virtual learning education company.

When asked about the move to Capra, Chandlee stated, “I was a client before I was a board member. I bank at Capra because I love that decisions are made here locally. If I have a question, the bankers know me, and they understand me. Capra’s ability to leverage technology and be able to play big, while maintaining its ability to move quickly and adapt to customer needs is why they are one step ahead of their competitors.”

Outside of running his businesses, Chandlee is committed to making Dubuque the best place to live, work, and play. He views his role at Capra as reinforcing this.



“I want to be a part of a company that believes in the Dubuque community. I want the ability to help shape our community for the better through banking, because we can drive the local money cycle, lending, and investment.”

Chandlee has been involved with numerous non-profits over the years and is currently focused on the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, the Boys and Girls Club, and other organizations focusing on kids in the tri-state area. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1995 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, is married to Laura, and has four children: Alec, Ana, Leah, and Maren.

Capra is excited to welcome Chad to the team and looks forward to his contributions.

