



# Pioneer Bank & Trust

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For Immediate Release

## **ICBA Names Pioneer Bank & Trust As One of the Top Performers for 2014**

**Washington, D.C. (June 2015)** – The Independent Community Bankers of America named Pioneer Bank & Trust in Western South Dakota one of the Top Performers for 2014.

“It is because of community banks like Pioneer Bank & Trust that our industry continues to flourish. Pioneer Bank selflessly serves its customers every day, helping your local communities thrive. There is no better representation of a community bank than the example you have set. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to this great industry,” Said Camden Fine, President and CEO of ICBA.

This year’s *ICBA Independent Banker’s* Top Performers rankings showed the importance of sticking to well-known industry fundamentals, embracing change and working smartly and effectively. This, partnered with energetically pursuing the most meaningful change for their customers, employees and shareholders, was a common theme amongst the highlighted banks.

“I am very proud of our team, the people that work here, the professionals throughout our ranks,” explained Kevin Whitelock, CEO of Pioneer Banks, “Our owners and board set a high standard for our performance practices, and I think this recognition is indicative of that. Part of being the local bank is to be a trusted bank, to perform at a higher level,” Whitelock concluded.

As part of its annual recognition of high-performing ICBA member institutions, *ICBA Independent Banker* pulled year-end FDIC data to identify the community banks with the highest performance metrics – those with the best return on average asset ratios and the best return on average equity ratios – in six asset-size categories. The rankings separately recognize top-performing Subchapter C corporation banks and Subchapter S corporation banks.

“Whether it’s a small community bank serving a rural area or a large community bank serving a metro and suburban area, you’ll find they operate with the same focus by always putting their customers and communities first,” said Chris Lorence, ICBA executive vice president and chief marketing officer. “The community banks featured on *ICBA Independent Banker’s* Top Performers listings know their local markets and thrive because they stay true to the principles of community banking while showcasing drive, passion and ingenuity. We congratulate the banks that are highlighted this year and wish them continued success.”

Pioneer Bank & Trust now has six locations in five communities in Western South Dakota with banks in Belle Fourche, Buffalo, Spearfish, two Rapid City locations and Sturgis.

ICBA – member community banks employ nearly 300,000 people in more than 20,000 locations throughout the U.S.

**Media Only: For more information or to set up an interview with Kevin Whitelock, please contact: Shane Funk- The HomeSlice Group 605-347-5336 ext. 15**