

Contact: [media.inquiry@bcu.org](mailto:media.inquiry@bcu.org) | 340 N. Milwaukee Ave. Vernon Hills, IL 60061 | [bcu.org](http://bcu.org)

# BCU PRESIDENT & CEO MIKE VALENTINE HONORED WITH 2025 HERB WEGNER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT

**CHICAGO** – October 23, 2024 – BCU is proud to announce that President and CEO Mike Valentine has been honored with the 2025 Herb Wegner Memorial Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement, the highest recognition bestowed by the National Credit Union Foundation (NCUF). This prestigious accolade celebrates Mike's visionary leadership and innovation, relentless advocacy for financial well-being, and his profound impact on the credit union industry.

The Herb Wegner Memorial Awards are often regarded as the "Nobel Prizes" of the credit union world, honoring pioneers who embody innovation, creativity, and bold leadership. Mike will receive this distinguished award at the NCUF's annual Foundation Dinner on March 3, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

## A Legacy of Leadership and Innovation

Mike's commitment to reducing people's financial stress, improving financial confidence, and acknowledging that financial, physical, and mental health are all critical components of a person's overall well-being, dates back 40 years. He always finds ways to deliver on the Credit Union's promise to help people discover financial freedom through partnerships with some of America's best workplaces including Target, UnitedHealth Group, GEICO, HCA Healthcare, Baxter and many more. Mike forged relationships with Company Partners that foster a people-first culture of caring that parallels the industry's people-helping-people philosophy.

The impact Mike has on people across the credit union system and beyond is truly inspirational. Multiple credit union CEOs have worked under Mike's tutelage, as have other senior credit union executives, League leaders, current and former board members, CUSO leaders, and business partners. They often tell stories of Mike being the perfect mentor who encouraged their development and connected them with others in the industry, advocating for them, or just being there to offer encouragement.



## Celebrating a True Changemaker

"When it comes to elevating others, I simply know of no one better in the credit union industry," said Brian T. Schools, Chartway Credit Union President and CEO. "[...] He's an exemplary leader, and everyone genuinely likes and respects him. A credit union movement that never had Mike's leadership fingerprints is a movement that does not fulfill its 'people helping people' philosophy on so many levels."

"As BCU celebrates Mike's remarkable achievement, his leadership continues to inspire us to pursue excellence and create meaningful change," said Jill Sammons, BCU Senior Vice President, Marketing & Strategic Growth. "His lasting influence on every BCU employee past and present, and on the credit union movement, is underscored by this recognition."

**About BCU:** BCU is a not-for-profit, member-owned Credit Union that is fiercely dedicated to Empowering People To Discover Financial Freedom. At just over \$6B in assets, BCU is driven by its commitment to providing a fast, easy, secure banking experience and extraordinary service for over 350,000 members. The BCU [field of membership](#) includes employees and families of large employers that are focused on the financial well-being of their workforce; those who live or work in northern Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and the island of Puerto Rico; and subscribers of BCU's wholly-owned Credit Union Service Organization (CUSO), Life. Money. You.® within communities and Fortune 100 workplaces throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. All BCU members enjoy lifetime access to financial services and well-being programming that inspire confidence through the brand promise "Here Today For Your Tomorrow."

To learn more about how we can help you realize your financial dreams, visit [BCU.org](http://bcu.org).

Members of the media can obtain more information by visiting [BCU.org/About-Us/Media-Relations](http://bcu.org/About-Us/Media-Relations).

Join Today

