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Dedicated Community Bank
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Ellen T. Berry Named 2026 Recipient of the IBSC Leadership Award

DARLINGTON, S.C. – August 6, 2026 – Dedicated Community Bank (DCB) is proud to announce that Ellen T. Berry has been named the 2026 recipient of the Independent Banks of South Carolina (IBSC) Leadership Award, recognizing exceptional leadership in community involvement and volunteerism.

The IBSC Leadership Award honors individuals whose vision, commitment, and service bring together citizens and organizations to create lasting, measurable improvements in the quality of life within their communities. Berry was selected for her outstanding ability to unite people, foster opportunities, and inspire meaningful change through her work with Community Connections of Darlington and numerous other organizations throughout the region.

“Ellen embodies the spirit of the IBSC Leadership Award through compassion in action, service without expectation, and an unwavering belief in lifting those who need it most. Her efforts have not only addressed immediate needs but have also laid the foundation for long-term community resilience,” said Jim Ivey, President and CEO of Dedicated Community Bank.

For more than 55 years, Berry has been a tireless advocate for the community, partnering with local businesses, schools, churches, and civic organizations to secure essential resources for individuals and families facing hardship. Her willingness to step forward whenever a need arises, coupled with her humble approach to service, reflects a true servant’s heart. Countless organizations and community initiatives have benefited from her dedication, generosity, and leadership.

“The IBSC Leadership Award honors leaders whose work reflects collaboration, meaningful impact, and a deep commitment to community well-being—and Ellen Berry is a perfect example,” said Henry M. Funderburk, Chairman of the Board of Dedicated Community Bank. “On behalf of Dedicated Community Bank’s Board of Directors, officers, and staff, I applaud her tremendous efforts and congratulate Ellen on this well-deserved recognition. We are grateful she has been part of our team since the beginning, and our customers continue to benefit from her kindness, dedication, and example of service.”

Dedicated Community Bank is honored to celebrate Berry’s achievements and the profound impact she has made on Darlington County and beyond. Her lifelong commitment to helping others serves as an inspiration and demonstrates the power of community leadership rooted in compassion, collaboration, and service.

About Dedicated Community Bank

Dedicated Community Bank is committed to building lasting relationships by providing exceptional financial services tailored to the needs of our customers and communities. We are committed to operating with integrity, supporting the growth and success of our employees, creating long-term value for our shareholders, and serving as a trusted community partner dedicated to improving the lives of those we serve.

About Independent Banks of South Carolina (IBSC)

The Independent Banks of South Carolina (IBSC) is the state's only association dedicated exclusively to community banks. IBSC provides a forum for collaboration among banking professionals, offers education and training opportunities, and promotes the vital role community banks play in supporting sound economic growth and a strong community banking system throughout South Carolina.

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