



The Society of Bank Executives is being established by State Banking Associations to provide senior bank executives with opportunities to enhance critical leadership competencies and build vibrant networks of peers so they can thrive in the unique and rapidly changing banking landscape.

Existing education and training programs focus on “hard skills,” or the “science” of running a bank, and produce bank leaders with superb technical know-how and expertise to run a profitable bank. However, the Society of Bank Executives will focus on the development of “soft skills,” or the “art” of running a bank, because in order to thrive, a bank leader must continuously improve their ability to lead, inspire and manage teams, build trust, create and nurture culture, and craft and implement a strategy.

These critical leadership competencies are not acquired through webinars, seminars, or convention speeches, but rather these “soft skills” are developed and enhanced through study, analysis, application, and interaction with peers over time.

This highlights the other primary focus of the Society, which is to help bank leaders develop and maintain a rich professional and personal peer-to-peer network with a wide variety of non-competing peers. There are a number of ways bankers have built these networks over the years, but many times this process has been left to chance: appointments to boards or committees, or attendance at an industry event. The Society of Bank Executives has been specifically designed to empower members to proactively build a vibrant network of peers and will include national peer groups for each executive role.

Out of respect for the demands on a bank leader’s time, the Society’s training is spread out over a four-month session and includes two sessions per year (Winter Session runs February – May, Fall Session runs August – November). Each session will incorporate the self-paced study of selected books and research, self-assessments, case studies, virtual expert presentations, and suggestions for in-bank application of principles. And during the 3rd month of each session, there will be an in-person* event in a fabulous location where members can build their network and share questions, observations, and ideas with their peers. Members of the Society can participate in as much or as little of the training offerings as they choose, yet still, attend the in-person events to build and maintain their network.

The Society will launch in January 2023, with membership limited to members of the bank executive management team. The direction and focus of the Society will be driven by members through member-led committees. Dr. Paul Godfrey, the William and Roceil Low Professor of Business Strategy at the BYU Marriott School of Business, will serve as the Academic Director of the Society and will curate each competency training session. Dr. Godfrey will identify thought leaders in each area of focus, facilitate the presentation of multiple points of view, moderate the discussion and debate of each competency, and provide members with suggestions for in-bank application of principles.

Our goal is to ensure the future of the banking industry by empowering bank leaders with the leadership competencies and relationships necessary to thrive in this rapidly changing banking environment. Visit www.executives.bank to apply today!

*Portions of these sessions may also be available virtually as required by public health trends