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November 2017

## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### **Bitz Joins Foundation's Board of Trustees**

Falcon National Bank market president brings lending, business expertise and a passion for workforce and early childhood initiatives

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. -- Matt Varilek, president of the Initiative Foundation, announced today that Jessica Bitz has been appointed to the Board of Trustees.

"Jessica and Falcon National Bank are long-time partners of the Foundation, and I'm thrilled that our partnership will deepen with Jessica as a Trustee," Varilek said. "Her leadership skills, lending and business expertise and rural background make her a perfect match for our distinguished board."

A cornerstone in Central Minnesota for more than three decades, the Initiative Foundation provides business financing and technical assistance, awards nonprofit grants, hosts Partner Funds and leads a variety of leadership programs that enable citizens to build stronger communities. Learn more at [ifound.org](http://ifound.org).

As market president of Falcon National Bank in Foley, Bitz shares the Initiative Foundation's passion for helping small businesses thrive and grow.

"Working for a small community bank in Central Minnesota for the past 15 years, I have seen how small businesses affect our region," Bitz said. "I want to continue this focus on business growth and development."

Bitz also hopes to contribute to the Foundation's workforce development and early childhood efforts.



**Jessica Bitz**

"I meet with a lot of small businesses, and the number one concern is finding employees to fill the positions they have," said Bitz.

Bitz is on the Foley Economic Authority board and the Thriving Communities Task Force. She is active with her church and local schools, and she volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the United Way of Central Minnesota.

A North Dakota native, Bitz grew up in the small town of Gackle on a beef and grain farm. She received her bachelor's degree from Valley City State University, a master's degree from St. Cloud State University and a graduate's degree in banking from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In her free time she enjoys running, gardening and spending time with her family, including her four children.

### **Resources**

Follow the links for a [web-ready](#) or [print-ready](#) photo.

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The Initiative Foundation exists to improve the quality of life and to build stronger communities within its 14-county region of Central Minnesota by offering leadership training, business loans, nonprofit grants and donor services. Since 1986, the Initiative Foundation has invested multiple millions in the region through targeted grants and business financing investments.

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