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## **Availa Bank Welcomes New Loan Officer to Pocahontas Branch** Sheila Akridge will take on the new role

Pocahontas, Iowa (June 6, 2023) – Availa Bank is pleased to announce the hiring of Sheila Akridge as a Vice President Loan Officer at the Pocahontas location. Akridge will mainly be focused on consumer, agriculture, and commercial lending responsibilities within the bank.

Akridge grew up in the Pocahontas area. She attended Iowa Lakes Community College and Buena Vista University and holds a degree in business management and administration. Akridge previously held a position as an Assistant Vice President at another financial institution.

Outside of work, Akridge enjoys being involved in the community and attending local events. She was previously on the Pocahontas Chamber board and worked with the Pocahontas County Economic Development Leadership Program.

Akridge has two sons, one still in high school and one recently graduated. In her spare time, she enjoys golfing, riding her bike, and traveling.

Steve Baade, Pocahontas Market President, is thrilled to have Akridge on their team. “I am very happy to have Sheila join our staff here in Pocahontas. As a native of Pocahontas County, Sheila is well-versed on the loan needs of our market and has been an active leader in the community of Pocahontas,” he says.

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About Availa Bank: Availa Bank’s roots date back to 1870 when it was originally chartered. Availa is the first three syllables of the word available, a word that defines the bank’s mission – to empower our team to inspire and enable our clients and the communities we serve to achieve financial success. Availa Bank locations are in the following communities: Ames, Ankeny, Carroll, Coon Rapids, Council Bluffs, Fort Dodge, Holstein, Jewell, Nevada, Pocahontas, Sioux City, and Webster City. For more information about Availa Bank, visit [www.Availa.Bank](http://www.Availa.Bank). Member FDIC.

