



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michelle Niven, Chair of the Board
530-895-4711
mniven@chicorec.com

Chico Chamber Welcomes Katy Thoma as President and CEO

March 27, 2019, CHICO, CA – The Chico Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce that longtime Chico resident and community leader Katy Thoma will serve as the President and CEO of the non-profit business organization.

Thoma's strong experience in non-profit leadership – including her past roles as Executive Director of The Jesus Center and the California State University, Chico Research Foundation – as well as her experience in local leadership roles for regional banks, make her uniquely qualified to lead the Chamber, which serves as the voice of business for community good.

Michelle Niven, Chair of the Board for the Chico Chamber of Commerce says, "Katy's ties to Chico are deep and rich, and her understanding of our community and its needs are multi-faceted. As we begin our long-term recovery efforts post Camp Fire, we are grateful for her specific knowledge and expertise of both the North State and the non-profit world. The Chamber Board feels that this mixture is a recipe for positive business community engagement and Katy is ready to roll up her sleeves and get to work."

Mark Francis, President & CEO of Golden Valley Bank, says, "Katy's long history in Chico and her experience in both the non-profit and for profit business world makes her an excellent pick for the Chamber. We look forward to working with her."

Thoma says, "As a longtime Chico resident, I am thrilled to join a team of professionals who are committed to leveraging the voice of business for community good. I look forward to working with local stakeholders on the housing, roads and public safety issues impacting our community in light of the Camp Fire."

Thoma was selected by the Chamber for this position, after a nationwide search was conducted, following the departure of prior President & CEO Katie Simmons in November 2018. Chico Chamber Associate Vice President Kelsey Torres has strongly and capably served as Interim President & CEO since that time and will resume her role as Associate Vice President.

Thoma will formally begin her tenure with the Chamber April 1.

###