



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brinn Pfeiffer, Accion Media and Communications Specialist
Direct: 720.498.3828, Main: 800.508.7624

John Ikard and Betty Arkell Join Accion's Board of Directors

Denver, CO (Feb. 1, 2017) – Accion, a nationally recognized, regional nonprofit organization, recently announced that John Ikard and Betty Arkell have been elected to the organization's 2017 board of directors.

"I am thrilled to be joining Accion as a board member and very much looking forward to supporting their efforts of financial inclusion and access to capital, especially right here in Colorado," said Ikard.

Ikard is president and CEO of FirstBank Holding Company, Lakewood, Colorado. Ikard started with FirstBank in 1981 and has served as president and CEO since 1999. After 35 years with the company, the last 17 years as CEO, Ikard will be stepping down from the CEO position during the first quarter of 2017 and will continue to serve on the FirstBank Board of Directors. In addition to excellent financial results, last year under Ikard's leadership, FirstBank was the 2nd largest corporate contributor to non-profits in the State of Colorado. Ikard has held leadership positions in a wide variety of organizations including, current chairman for Colorado Concern, board of governors for Colorado State University, past chairman of the American Bankers Association, board member for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and past chairman for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce.

"Accion's mission bolsters one of the key pillars of our economy, small business owners," said Arkell. "I'm honored to join Accion's board and support their work in our community."

Arkell is a partner at Holland & Hart with over 40 years of experience as a corporate and securities lawyer. Her clients include established and emerging growth companies as well as venture capital and private equity funds. During her career she has represented many entrepreneurs who started with a novel idea and grew their companies into thriving businesses. In addition to Accion, Arkell holds board leadership and advisory positions with numerous organizations including, Colorado Technology Association, Rockies Venture Club, Jobs Center for Entrepreneurship at CU Denver, Startup Colorado, Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network, and the Holland & Hart Foundation.

"We are honored to have John Ikard and Betty Arkell join our board," said president and CEO of Accion, Anne Haines. "John and Betty are outstanding community leaders and both share a passion for grassroots entrepreneurship. We are thrilled to have their expertise in helping advance Accion's mission in 2017."

Ikard and Arkell are joined on Accion's 2017 Board of Directors by the following business leaders: John Carey, president of the New Mexico Society of CPAs; Leslie Carlson, CEO of Carlson Advisors and COO of Jibu; Carol Cochran, principal of REDW Business and Financial Resources; Michelle Coons, president of First National Rio Grande and First National Santa Fe; Luis Duarte, investment director at Gary Community Investments; Greg Levenson, president and CEO of Southwest Capital Bank; Clarence

McAllister, CEO of Fortis Networks; Bob Murphy, executive director of the Economic Forum of Albuquerque; Yashoda Naidoo, president and owner of Annapurna's World Vegetarian Café Restaurants; Bill Ridenour, attorney of counsel with Fennemore Craig, P.C.; Richard Wadley, senior vice president of Bank of the West; Lorna Wiggins, president of Wiggins, Williams, & Wiggins PC; and Raymond Ziler of Raymond Ziler CPA.

###

About Accion

Founded in 1994 and serving the five-state region of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas, Accion has provided over 10,895 loans totaling more than \$102.5 million to fuel the growth of 7,003 businesses in our region. These businesses support an estimated 14,158 jobs. For more information visit www.us.accion.org or call 1-800-508-7624. We are a member of the Accion U.S. Network, the largest microfinance network in the United States. The network's four members have collectively made more than 59,000 loans totaling over \$500 million. Globally, Accion is a pioneer in microfinance, reaching millions of individuals through its international network of partners.