

Contact Information:

Austin Mertens
Marketing Coordinator, INOVA Federal
+1 574-400-4329
amertens@inovafcu.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INOVA Federal CEO Dallas Bergl Receives Sagamore of the Wabash Award

ELKHART, Ind., October 21, 2026 — INOVA Federal announced that Chief Executive Officer Dallas Bergl has been awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, one of Indiana's highest civilian honors, recognizing a lifetime of leadership, service, and a commitment to improving the lives of others.

Bestowed by the Governor of Indiana, the Sagamore of the Wabash recognizes individuals who have rendered distinguished service to the state or governor. The honor celebrates qualities of humanity, loyalty, wisdom, and inspirational leadership; values reflected throughout Bergl's military service, credit union leadership, and commitment to Indiana communities.

The recognition comes as Bergl prepares to retire in 2027 after a 37-year credit union career and more than 25 years as INOVA Federal's CEO. Throughout his tenure, he has guided the organization's growth while maintaining a strong focus on improving the financial well-being of members and communities. His leadership and advocacy on behalf of credit union members have earned statewide and industry recognition.

The INOVA Federal Board of Directors nominated Bergl for the award, highlighting both his accomplishments and the character behind his leadership. In its nomination letter, the board described him as "a servant leader whose integrity, humility, and dedication to others has earned the respect of colleagues, elected officials, community leaders, and citizens alike."

Before entering the credit union industry, Bergl served in the United States Army Infantry and the U.S. Army Honor Guard at Fort Myer, Virginia. His service included President Ronald Reagan's Presidential Escort, and he received the Army Superior Unit Award and other military decorations.

Throughout his career, Bergl has advanced the credit union movement at the state, national, and international levels, advocating for consumers, expanding financial access, and helping shape industry policy. His service has included leadership positions with the Indiana Credit Union League, Credit Union National Association, World Council of Credit Unions, and America's Credit Unions.

A dedicated advocate for consumers and credit union members, Bergl has worked closely with Indiana's congressional delegation and testified before the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on behalf of the Credit Union National Association. His advocacy has brought member and community needs into national discussions about financial services, regulation, and consumer protection.

Bergl's civic leadership has also made a lasting impact in Northern Indiana. His service includes the Northern Indiana Regional Development Authority Board, the Lerner Theatre Governing Board, and Friends of the Lerner. As the City of Elkhart's ambassador to Tongxiang, China, he helped strengthen international relationships, cultural understanding, and economic opportunities.

The Sagamore of the Wabash is the latest recognition of Bergl's contributions, adding to honors that include the Indiana Credit Union League's Professional Achievement Award in 2008, induction into the Indiana Credit Union Hall of Fame in 2021, and the Key to the City of Elkhart.

"This recognition is unexpected; however, it is especially meaningful to me because my Board felt that my efforts reflect the values that this award honors. Without the incredible support of my wife, my board, and the amazing team I work with, I would not have enjoyed the rewarding career that has led to this recognition," Bergl said.

As Bergl prepares to retire, the award marks a meaningful tribute to a career defined by service. His legacy reaches beyond the institutions he has led to the members, colleagues, and communities whose lives he has helped improve throughout Indiana and beyond.

About INOVA Federal

INOVA Federal Credit Union is a member-owned financial cooperative headquartered in Elkhart, Indiana. Established in 1942, INOVA serves more than 47,000 members and employees of over 500 companies nationwide. The credit union operates six branch locations and provides members with access to more than 5,600 shared service centers and 30,000 surcharge-free ATMs across the country.