

KAREN APPELGREN

**VICE PRESIDENT
COMMUNITY BANKING
RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
ZIONS BANK**



Karen Appelgren is a community banking relationship manager for Zions Bank and helps entrepreneurs with financing and business banking needs. She has over 12 years of experience as a small business advisor, including three years leading the Business Retention and Expansion team at the Idaho Department of Commerce. In that position, she helped companies from a wide variety of industries capitalize on opportunities and overcome challenges.

Prior to that, Karen spent nearly seven years developing and leading the Zions Bank Business Resource Center in Boise. Her business workshops and counseling led to new business startups, expansions, and access to capital for thousands of entrepreneurs. Previously, she helped launch an earlier iteration of an Idaho Women's Business Center, an SBA resource partner program.

For the last seven years, Karen has helped plan Boise Entrepreneurship Week, the largest entrepreneur event in the Pacific Northwest. She was one of the original mentors for Boise State University's Venture College and was ranked #6 on the 2020 Idaho Business Review's Power 25 List of Most Influential Men and Women Ushering the Startup Community in Idaho. She's also been recognized as an Idaho Business Review Women of the Year and an Excellence in Finance honoree. She serves as an advisory board member for the Idaho Manufacturing Alliance.

Karen graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northern Arizona University. She is a 2016 graduate of the Washington Bankers Association Executive Development Program.