



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ACCION TEXAS APPOINTS VETERAN HOUSTON-AREA BANKING EXECUTIVE
AS REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF LENDING**

HOUSTON – Accion Texas Inc. – the nation’s largest nonprofit microlender to small business owners – announces the hiring of Richard Gianni to serve as vice president of lending for the Houston region. Gianni brings with him extensive experience that he acquired during his 38-year banking career, including 20 years as a senior executive.

Most recently, Gianni served as the regional banking area president for the South Central market of Wells Fargo Bank in Houston, where he started working as an assistant vice president in 1983. Gianni got his start in banking in 1976 at the General Finance Corporation, where he served as a branch manager. Gianni retired from banking in 2013, but came out of retirement to work at Accion Texas.

“This opportunity was really appealing to me because I really believe in the mission of the organization,” Gianni said. “The focus on helping small business owners – whether they are startups or existing businesses that want to take their businesses to the next level, but don’t meet the lending criteria of conventional banks, but deserve an opportunity – our mission is to help them achieve their goals.”

In his new role, Gianni will be responsible for the development and performance of the loan program, and will be involved in the marketing and government and public relations for Accion Texas in the Houston region, which is one of the organization’s largest markets. Accion Texas has been providing small business microloans and loans in Houston since 1998 and has disbursed more than \$25.5 million through 1,958 loans to clients in the area.

“Richard brings extensive experience to his new role and we are looking forward to all that he can do to help us accomplish our mission of building the capacity of our clients,” said Accion Texas Chief Lending Officer Dan Lawless.



ABOUT ACCION TEXAS

Accion Texas Inc. is a nonprofit, multi-state microlending company and small business lender that helps new and existing entrepreneurs successfully grow their businesses. Through affordable lending and business development services, Accion Texas is committed to empowering diverse individuals and small businesses that have limited access to traditional sources of capital. Since its founding in San Antonio in 1994, Accion has made nearly 15,000 loans totaling nearly than \$165 million. Accion now operates in eight states: Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. To learn more about Accion's lending options, call 888-215-2373 or visit www.acciontexas.org.

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