



## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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### **Appointment of Steve Thomas and Andi Dirkschneider Bliss to Board Signals Home Builders Institute to Focus on Connectivity to Local Associations and Strategic Solutions to Affordable Housing in our Country**

Las Vegas, NV --- The Home Builders Institute (HBI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Steve Thomas and Andi Dirkschneider Bliss to their Board of Trustees. Their extensive expertise and unwavering commitment to the construction and real estate industries promise to bring valuable insight and leadership to HBI's mission of building careers and changing lives.

Steve Thomas is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of FutureWave Finance LLC, a rare minority-owned, mortgage correspondent lender deeply committed to developing mortgage loan products that expand homeownership opportunities nationwide. For over nine years prior to FutureWave Finance, Steve served as Senior Managing Director of Mortgage Capital Markets at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBC) and Chair of the MPF® Capital Markets Committee. Prior to FHLBC, Steve founded and managed the Mortgage Finance Group at CastleOak Securities which became the top-ranked minority-owned investment banking firm in residential MBS, commercial MBS, consumer ABS and Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and FHLB agency debt markets. Steve has also served in leadership positions at Fannie Mae and Countrywide Home Loans.

Steve Thomas brings a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of the real estate market to his new role at HBI. With a career that spans over several decades, Steve has been a prominent figure in the industry, known for his strategic vision and dedication to excellence. Steve's expertise will undoubtedly enhance HBI's efforts to advance workforce development and educational opportunities in the home building sector.

“I am honored to join the Home Builders Institute Board of Trustees and contribute to its critical mission of building careers and changing lives,” said Thomas. “Expanding access to affordable homeownership starts with a well-trained workforce, and HBI’s commitment to developing skilled professionals is essential to the future of our industry. I look forward to working alongside my fellow trustees to create strategic solutions that empower individuals, strengthen communities, and drive long-term success in the housing market.”

Andi Dirkschneider Bliss, President of Brookline Homes, has a significant background in homebuilding and real estate. Born into a family with a rich heritage in construction and skilled trades, Andi has followed in their footsteps, becoming a second-generation homebuilder and a third-generation construction professional.

Since joining Brookline Homes in 2016, Andi has gained experience in purchasing, sales, land acquisition, and more. She has also been a driving force in the Greater Charlotte HBA, founding the Greater Charlotte

Professional Women in Building Chapter and initiating the Girls Construction Summer Camp to inspire young women to consider careers in construction.

Her dedication to workforce development and mentorship is exemplified by her efforts with HBI's Charlotte BuildStrong Academy. Andi's leadership and vision will be invaluable assets to HBI's Board of Trustees.

“I am excited to join the Home Builders Institute Board of Trustees”, said Bliss. “Through its training programs, HBI is helping create a pipeline of skilled professionals to meet the rising demand for affordable housing and support the American dream of accessible homeownership for all. The impact HBI has in empowering students and transforming communities is truly inspiring, and I’m eager to contribute to a program that promotes opportunity in an industry I’m deeply passionate about.”

In addition to appointing the two new Trustees, the HBI Board also voted to elect Eugene Graf of Montana to serve as HBI Board Chair and voted Fernando Gil-Ensenant of Puerto Rico to serve as Vice Chair.

### **About HBI**

*HBI trains skilled workers for the building industry. It is the nation's leading nonprofit provider of trade skills training in residential construction. Through the organization's industry-recognized curriculum, HBI trains in a variety of skills including, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, building construction technology, HVAC, and masonry. In programs across the country, HBI provides pre-apprenticeship training and certification programs in middle and high schools; community colleges, technical institutes and training academies for middle and high school students, veterans and transitioning military, unemployed and displaced workers; and low-income, at-risk and justice-involved youth and adults.*

*The goals for all HBI programs, regardless of the population, is to train, credential and place students in industry-related employment or post-secondary education. These metrics, however, fall within the overarching goal we have for all those we serve – to provide individuals an opportunity to take control of their lives and become productive, self-sufficient citizens.*