



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST UNITED INSURANCE PARTNERS WITH INDEPENDENT INSURANCE GROUP

DURANT, OK — First United Insurance is excited to announce a merger with Independent Insurance Group, which is based in Dallas, Texas.

Howard McClure, president of First United Insurance shared, “We are thrilled to partner with Ricky Locke, Allen Sparks, and the team from Independent Insurance Group. They have built a talented team of insurance professionals that primarily focus on the construction industry. Independent is the best in the business. They also work with clients in the areas of retail, manufacturing, distribution and several other industries. Independent provides us with an opportunity to continue growing our insurance business in Texas.”

Allen Sparks will remain president of Independent Insurance once the merger is complete. Sparks shared, “We are excited to join the insurance team at First United Insurance and Universal (subsidiary in Oklahoma). Our culture is a perfect fit with their culture, and I believe our clients will benefit from their expanded portfolio of services like employee benefits and personal lines insurance. It will also provide us with the opportunity to expand our business in Dallas and beyond.”

“First United’s purpose is to inspire and empower others to Spend Life Wisely. I am excited to extend our reach and partner with a team I know can live out this purpose. Our values of faith, family, integrity, high performance teams, learning, relationships and community also align well with the culture they have built over the years,” said Mark Dawson, Chief Financial Services Officer at First United.

The decision to merge with a local insurance agency ensures the short-term and long-term success for all employees, customers, and communities they serve. First United Insurance currently has offices in the OKC, Tulsa, Durant and Plano markets and is excited for the opportunity to provide additional services to their customers throughout the state of Texas.

To learn more about First United’s purpose and culture, visit [SpendLifeWisely.com](https://www.firstunitedbank.com/spend-life-wisely).

About First United Bank:

Established in 1900, First United has more than 85 bank, mortgage and insurance locations throughout Oklahoma and Texas. It is one of the largest, well-capitalized banking organizations in the Southwest with assets of more than \$8 billion, and it is among the largest privately held community banking organizations in the U.S. First United provides a full range of financial services including banking, mortgage, insurance, and investment products and services, and is dedicated to inspiring and empowering others to [Spend Life Wisely](https://www.firstunitedbank.com/spend-life-wisely)®. Learn more at [firstunitedbank.com](https://www.firstunitedbank.com).