



As SEFCU's President and CEO, **Michael Castellana** believes the credit union's true purpose goes beyond providing financial services. Embracing the credit union philosophy of "people helping people," SEFCU's goal is to change people's lives. Under his leadership, SEFCU has given back to local communities more than \$28 million since 2008.

Castellana joined SEFCU in 1988 as a member of the executive team. During his tenure has directed the credit union's growth both geographically and in overall size. Currently the largest credit union in the Capital Region and the seventh in the state with more than \$4 billion in assets and more than 350,000 members, Castellana has successfully negotiated and completed 13 mergers throughout the Capital Region, the Southern Tier of New York, and the Buffalo Region. He also oversees SEFCU's two subsidiaries, SEFCU Mortgage Services, a NYS Mortgage Bank, and SEFCU Insurance Agency.

In addition to coordinating SEFCU business planning and asset management, Castellana serves as President of the SEFCU Foundation, a non-profit affiliation he formed to pool the time, talent, and financial resources of SEFCU staff in support of community causes. Under his community support programs, SEFCU provides millions of dollars in funding for community-based causes annually. He also saw his vision to provide free financial education come to life when SEFCU's Institute for Financial Well-Being, which provides free learning events to members and the general public, was established in 2017. The Institute was awarded the prestigious Desjardins award in 2018 for Youth Financial Education.

A recognized leader in the industry and in the community, Castellana has served as chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council and was past president of the Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. He was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the University Council at the University at Albany in 2013 and is currently serving as chairman. He was also the chairman of the University at Albany Presidential Search Committee that named the university's 20th president.

Castellana served as the inaugural co-chair of the Capital Region Economic Development Council, a position he was also appointed to by Governor Cuomo and served as the co-chair of the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, a working group of the Capital Region Economic Development Council.

Castellana gives his time and talent to many area organizations, including the Board of Directors of the Capitalize Albany Corporation (Chairman), Capital District Physicians' Health Plan, Center for Economic Growth (CEG), Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisory Board, the Governmental Affairs Committee of the New York Credit Union Association and as a Trustee of the Re-Igniting our Faith Foundation of the Albany Diocese. He also played a pivotal role in establishing a mentoring program at Arbor Hill Elementary School which emphasized reading skills and mentoring students.