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OU alumna named among '40 under 40'

By **Rebecca Wyatt**, OU Web Writer

Crain's Detroit Business recently released a list of the top "40 under 40" in the business world. Among the honorees was Oakland University alumna Heidi Kassab, who at age 33 has successfully assumed the duties of president and chief executive officer of **Cornerstone Community Financial**, an Auburn Hills-based credit union.

Kassab earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and computer science from OU and has been at Cornerstone Community Financial since 1999, first as executive vice president, and since April 2003, as president and CEO.

The credit union originally was founded in 1951 by Chrysler Corporation and called Motor Parts Federal Credit Union. Since Kassab's tenure as president and CEO began, she has changed its name to Cornerstone Community Financial, thus eliminated the connotation that it is available only to the auto-related community. She also has changed the charter to allow the credit union to expand its membership to 600,000 households.

Under Kassab's leadership, the organization's assets and loan portfolios are up and the employee turnover is down.

Kassab now is turning her attention toward expansion, including increased member services and a new branch in Lake Orion, adding to its current locations in Detroit, Centerline and Perrysburg, Ohio.

More than 200 people were nominated for this year's "40 under 40" honor bestowed by Crain's. The candidates must have a solid business career and professional achievement and be under the age of 40. A panel judges the recipients based on extensive careers and community activity information provided by the candidates and Crain's research.

SUMMARY

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