

PRESS RELEASE



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

SALUKIS



Banterra®

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BANTERRA BANK CONTINUES SIU NIL PARTNERSHIP WITH FOUR SALUKI ATHLETES FOR 2026-27

Marion, IL – Banterra Bank, one of the nation's largest community banks and headquartered in Southern Illinois, is continuing its name, image and likeness (NIL) partnership with Southern Illinois University by introducing four Saluki student-athletes who will serve as Banterra ambassadors during the 2026-27 school year. Through the partnership, the ambassadors will represent the Banterra brand, promote the official Banterra-SIU Saluki Visa® Debit Card and showcase the pride of Southern Illinois. This year's ambassadors include two returning NIL athletes who promoted Banterra last season - Mikaela Coburn (Women's Softball) and Luke Walsh (Men's Basketball), as well as two new athletes for Banterra - Jalen Haynes (Men's Basketball) and Reagan Miller (Women's Soccer).

"Our Saluki ambassadors bring the Banterra brand to life in a way that feels personal and genuine," said Jeff May, President and CEO of Banterra Bank. "They are dedicated competitors who understand the importance of teamwork, preparation and community. We look forward to supporting them throughout the year and creating opportunities for our customers and Saluki fans to get to know them beyond their sports."

Banterra's NIL program is part of the bank's long-standing relationship with SIU, anchored by its naming rights agreement for Banterra Center. The partnership also includes the official Banterra-SIU Saluki Visa Debit Card, which allows cardholders to show their Saluki pride while helping generate support for SIU scholarships and NIL opportunities through a portion of transaction revenue. Banterra has also extended their SIU support as Official Bank of SIU Alumni Association, a partnership that includes both financial and marketing support for the organization.

"Banterra's continued commitment provides meaningful opportunities for our student-athletes while strengthening an important connection between SIU Athletics and the region," said Tim Leonard, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics for SIU. "This year's ambassadors represent several Saluki programs, and we are excited to see how they will share their experiences and engage with supporters throughout Southern Illinois."

During the 2026-27 school year, Banterra plans to feature the ambassadors in television and radio advertising, social media content on the athletes' and bank's platforms, print materials, community appearances and other promotional initiatives.

About The Athletes

Mikaela Coburn (Women's Softball, Outfield) – Mikaela is from Paducah, Kentucky. A senior outfielder entering her second year as a Banterra NIL athlete, she brings consistency, speed and reliable hitting to the Salukis. In 2026, she started 41 games, hit .339 with an .842 OPS and recorded a perfect fielding percentage as SIU's primary center fielder. Before joining SIU, she earned JUCO All-American honors at John A. Logan College.

Jalen Haynes (Men's Basketball, Guard) – Jalen is from Lewisville, Texas. A sophomore guard, he brings athleticism and versatility to the SIU court. The 6-foot-4 Hebron High School graduate made an immediate impact as a freshman, averaging 7.9 points, 2.4 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game while appearing in all 32 contests.

Reagan Miller (Women's Soccer, Goalkeeper) – Reagan is from Bradenton, Florida. As a senior goalkeeper, she brings experience and leadership to the Salukis. She appeared in 12 matches with 11 starts in 2025, posting a 0.64 goals-against average, 35 saves and five shutouts while earning Missouri Valley Conference Goalkeeper of the Week honors twice.

Luke Walsh (Men's Basketball, Guard) – Luke is from St. Louis, Missouri. A redshirt freshman guard and returning Banterra NIL athlete, he brings a proven scoring touch and competitive drive to the SIU court. Before joining the Salukis, he starred at Vianney High School, earning Missouri Gatorade Player of the Year honors, three All-State selections and a McDonald's All-American nomination.

About Banterra

Banterra Bank began as a single bank in Ridgway, Illinois, in July 1975. Today, Banterra has more than \$3.3 billion in assets and ranks among the top eight percent of U.S. charter banks and the top six percent of Illinois charter banks by asset size. Banterra employs almost 500 people and has 40 locations in Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Utah, as well as specialty lending divisions serving customers nationwide, including Aircraft Finance, Machine Tool Finance, and RV and Marine Lending. For more information, call 866-BANTERRA (226-8377) or visit www.banterra.bank.