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## **2020 Ones to Watch: Laura Miller, Vice President, Portfolio Manger, Team Leader at Cambridge Savings Bank**

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Laura Miller  
Cambridge Savings Bank

What led you to your current profession? I knew from a relatively early age that I wanted to pursue a career in Finance, and always had an appreciation for Real Estate. My dad worked in the construction field throughout his early career and would share his interest of old homes, architectural design, and unique building structures. I was fortunate that the university I attended also had a four-year Real Estate program, which allowed me to bring both interests together.

Who or what inspires you? Inspiration can be found in events large and small, though I am most inspired by individuals and organizations that actively work to make a positive impact on others. This industry is about people, and the ability to focus on the human aspect of the real estate transactions and the benefit to communities makes what we do very rewarding. Being a part of CSB, an organization with a brand promise of “Always You.” and commitment to excellence, is inspiring in itself.

What advice can you offer to someone who is interested in a career in your industry? I believe that a positive attitude, hard-working mindset, and open communication can lead to success in most circumstances. One of my very first managers told me to “be a sponge” and take in as much as I can. Initially, it’s all just bits of information, but at some point it all comes together and just makes sense – from a project, finance, and business risk perspective. I would encourage someone interested in this field to read publications, attend workshops with career professionals, and actively engage in learning and dialogue. It takes time, but is very beneficial in the long run.

How have your life experiences impacted who you are professionally? I grew up in a very rural part of the Midwest. My parents were both very hard working people that instilled in me a strong work ethic and focus on education. Their support and guidance was instrumental in my achievements, including receiving a Masters in Finance and the opportunity to work in a position I am grateful for and thoroughly enjoy. I am fortunate to have found a company, Cambridge Savings Bank, which values its employees and customers above all else.

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