



*Sent from traditional, ancestral & contemporary lands of Ojibwe, Dakota, Northern Cheyenne & other Native people*

## NEWS

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## Northland Foundation announces three new Board Trustees

Northeast MN and Tribal Nation Lands – The Northland Foundation Board of Trustees has added three new members who begin their terms at the April 2024 board meeting. They join ten current board members hailing from communities across Northland’s service area which includes seven counties and all or parts of five Tribal nations.

“We are thrilled be adding these three individuals to the dynamic group of leaders on our board,” stated Northland Foundation’s President, Tony Sertich. “all of whom bring diverse perspectives to the table yet share one common quality: a passion for the places we call home.”

Find the full [Board of Trustees](https://northlandfdn.org) listed on the Foundation’s website, <https://northlandfdn.org>.



**Ben Benoit** is the Deer River District Ranger with the [USDA Forest Service Chippewa National Forest](#). Prior to becoming a ranger in early 2023, Ben worked in several key roles for the [Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe](#), of which he is a citizen. He served as interim Executive Director working directly with the Tribal Council implementing policy and procedure. Previously, he worked within the Leech Lake Division of Resource Management as Environmental Director for Natural Resource Management. Among Benoit’s past accomplishments was helping facilitate the government-to-government development of the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding relationship between Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and the Chippewa National Forest. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota College of Biological Science.



**Kenneth A. Reid** currently serves as the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs at [Lake Superior College](#) in Duluth, Minnesota. In this role, he supports student affairs/services departments, works collaboratively to increase student success, and evaluates policies and procedures impacting student retention, persistence, and completion. Before his appointment at Lake Superior College, Reid served in several other functional areas, including residence life, student conduct, and diversity, equity, and inclusion for nearly eight years at various institutions. He holds a B.S. in communication with an emphasis in advertising and public relations from Grand Valley

State University, and an M.A. in post-secondary education: student affairs from the University of Northern Iowa.



**Kristen Vake** is the Executive Director of the [Iron Mining Association of Minnesota](#) (IMA). She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and a master's degree from Northwestern University in Chicago. As a former TV news anchor and journalist, she brings vast storytelling experience to her role at the IMA, sparking meaningful conversations about iron mining and its role in our future. Vake grew up in Chisholm, MN. A proud Iron Ranger, she is driven to influence positive growth and change across the region and beyond. She helped create a nonprofit called ReGen to make sure young people in the region have a seat at decision-making tables. Vake also serves on the Minnesota Center for Mineral Resource Education board and volunteers for the United Way of Northeastern Minnesota as well as several chambers of commerce.

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