Michelle Ufford to join Northland Foundation as Director of Grantmaking

(May 24, 2023)

The Northland Foundation is pleased to be welcoming **Michelle Ufford** as Director of Grantmaking. She will officially start June 7th. Ufford steps into the role previously held by Erik Torch, who moved on to the Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation in April.

Ufford has extensive work experience in the region with nonprofits, schools, governmental agencies, and businesses. She comes to the Northland Foundation from Essentia Health where she has been the Director of Workforce Strategy & Talent Pipeline Development. Prior to that, she worked at the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, including 12 as its Executive Director and later worked as Director of Program Development/School-Business Coordinator.

"Michelle has worked in our region and with many of the same organizations with which Northland Foundation partners. Her deep understanding of the strengths and challenges of our communities is a great asset," said Northland Foundation President, Tony Sertich.

Ufford's résumé also includes a wide range of board service including Northern St. Louis County Family Collaborative Services Board, Iron Range Tourism Board, East Range Tech Prep/School to Work Board, and the Minnesota Governor's Workforce Development Board. She holds a degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota.

She is a proud Iron Range resident and lives in Eveleth with her family. "Having been involved in workforce development for over 22 years and as a 5th generation Iron Ranger raising a family here, I have a vested interest in ensuring our communities thrive today and in the future," stated Ufford. "Joining the Northland Foundation and leading its grant program offers a wonderful opportunity to further serve and strengthen the region I love."

The Northland Foundation was created in 1986 and makes grants, small business loans, and implements programs in a region of seven northeast Minnesota counties and all or parts of five Native nations.

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