

News Release
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Networks Northwest Board Announces Leadership Transition

TRAVERSE CITY, MI – Throughout 2017, Networks Northwest will transition to new executive leadership. Current CEO, Elaine Wood announced that she will retire at the end of 2017 after 42 years of service to the organization. During that time, she has held a number of roles and contributed significantly to the region's quality of life and economic prosperity. Most recently, her contributions as CEO are highlighted by the successful consolidation of the agency's two boards, one public and one private, into a unified board partnership. Networks Northwest is the only public organization in the state that has effectively consolidated workforce, business, and community programming under a single administrative entity, leading to greater efficiency and improved coordination among a variety of programs.

The Board of Directors extends their gratitude to Ms. Wood for her leadership and is pleased to announce the appointment of long-time Network's Northwest employee, Matt McCauley as CEO effective upon Ms. Wood's retirement in late 2017. The Board's action comes with the fullest confidence that Mr. McCauley will continue to advance Network's Northwest mission and act as a passionate advocate for the region.

Ms. Wood says, "It has always been an honor and a privilege to represent this organization and Northwest Michigan. The people and services of Networks Northwest are the best to be found anywhere. I'm looking forward to my final year with a smooth and seamless transition of leadership and I'm very pleased that our board recognizes the importance of this process. Matt will lead our agency to new levels of success."

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Board Chair, Gary Fedus (President, Mitchell Graphics) adds, “Networks Northwest has played a unique and vital role for the region as well as the state. It has demonstrated a strong return on investment for Northwest Lower Michigan over the years - in large part due to Elaine Wood’s leadership. The Board and I have great faith that under Matt McCauley’s leadership, the organization will continue to be a valuable asset for our region.”

McCauley received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Grand Valley State University in business administration and public administration respectively. In 2012, he was asked to testify before the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture on the value of rural economic development. In 2013, he was internationally recognized as a German Marshall Fund Urban & Regional Policy Fellow. In 2014, he was appointed to the National Association of Development Organizations Board. Mr. McCauley resides in Traverse City with his wife, Sara, and son, Emmett.

Mr. McCauley says, “I am truly honored to be selected as Networks Northwest’s next CEO. Strong roots in the region have given me a true appreciation for its past, present, and future. I’m looking forward to continued public-private collaboration to advance the success of Northwest Michigan and its residents.”

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: networksnorthwest.org/media

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities’ requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our web site, networksnorthwest.org

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.