

For Immediate Release: February 20, 2024

Contact:

Tim Ervin

Ph: 231-794-0089

Email: timervinassoc@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR VENTURE NORTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN – New faces and new officer positions are making news for the Board of Directors for **Venture North Funding and Development**, a tax-exempt nonprofit charged with deploying resources to help small businesses throughout northwest Michigan.

“Since inception fifteen years ago, Venture North has been blessed with leaders on our Board of Directors who bring immense talent and experience to our organization as well as a shared passion for our mission to provide assistance to start up and existing small businesses, particularly those in underserved areas” said Laura Galbraith, President of Venture North. “As with most nonprofits, our board is all volunteer and demands a lot of already busy people who serve in these positions.”

New board members include:

Andy Cole – *Senior VP, Northwest MI Region, Cunningham-Limp*

Chris Hackbarth – *Regional Manager, DTE Energy*

Louise Wenzel – *Chair, The Antrim Foundation*



New Venture North Board Members, l-t-r:
Chris Hackbarth, Louise Wenzel and Andy Cole.

New Board officers are:

Laura Reznich, Board Chair – *CFO, Plascon*

Carla Gribbs, Immediate Past Chair – *Formerly of DTE Energy*

Bill Byrne, Board Treasurer – *VP of Financial Planning and Acquisitions, Hagerty*

Other existing Venture North Board members and officers include:

Skip Simms, Loan Committee Chair – *Member, Michigan Angel Fund*

Lauren Harris, Marketing Committee Chair – *Employee Benefits Specialist, Advantage Benefits*

Warren Call – *President + CEO, Traverse Connect*

Mary Clulo – *Corporate Treasurer, Munson Healthcare*

Eric Gustad – *Community Affairs Manager, Consumers Energy*

Sakura Takano – *CEO, Rotary Charities*

Greg West – *Program Manager of Federal Programs, CDBG Michigan Economic Development Corp.*

“It’s a delight to serve on the Venture North board and support the work of an organization that is making a big difference in the lives of entrepreneurs and communities in northern Michigan,” said new Board Chair Laura Reznich. “The success of small businesses is crucial to the culture and prosperity of our ten-county region. It’s a privilege to serve on a dedicated Board for an organization that is one of the leading sources of financial support for small business growth and success.”