



DATE: May 14, 2025
TO: Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
FROM: Keith Rolof, Chair, Board of Regents, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
RE: Announcement of Presidential Finalists

The Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College (KBOCC) Board of Regents is pleased to announce that we have selected three (3) finalists for the President of KBOCC. We would like to thank the entire College community for your continued interest and support in the process to identify our next President. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the Presidential Search Committee for their exceptional insight, work, and effort.

The KBOCC President finalists are (in alphabetical order):

Karsten Henriksen, Ed.D. (expected July 2025), is the President of his own consulting firm, Bison Institute in Canada. Previously, Mr. Henriksen served as the President of Northlands College in Saskatchewan, Canada. He earned a Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Royal Roads University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Brandon University. Mr. Hendriksen is expected to receive a Doctor of Education from Gwynedd Mercy University in July 2025.



Johnny Jones, Ed.D., Ph.D., is an Education Services Specialist with the United States Department of Defense. Previously, Dr. Jones served as the Project Management Team Lead-Policy Advisor for the Mississippi Public Service Commission in Mississippi. Dr. Jones earned a Doctor of Education in Education Leadership and Policy from Berne University; a Doctor of

Philosophy in Education Administration and Supervision from Jackson State University; a Master of Education in Recreation and Tourism from Springfield College; and a Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, from Mississippi Valley State University.



Lester Sandres Rapalo, Ed.D., is the Ambassador and Global Advisor on Sustainable Education of the Organization for Poverty Alleviation and Development in New York. Previously, Dr. Sandres Rapalo served as the President of SUNY Rockland Community College in New York. Dr. Sandres Rapalo earned a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University; a Master of Business Administration from Syracuse University; a Master of Arts in Literature and Linguistics from the University of Massachusetts; and a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages from the University of Massachusetts.



Public forums will take place the weeks of May 19th and May 26th and each candidate will participate in a 1-hour forum. We invite and encourage everyone to participate in the open forums virtually or in-person. Forums will be made accessible to all faculty, administrators, staff, students, and the general public. There will be a brief introduction of each candidate, followed by a question-and-answer session. Forums will be conducted in-person in room: Room 400 – Cultural Room (Wabanung Campus – 770 N. Main St, L’Anse, MI 49946). All who attend will be asked to complete a feedback form and the completed forms will be given to the Board of Trustees for their review.

Open Forum Schedule:

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Dr. Lester Sandres Rapalo: 12:30pm - Room 400 - Cultural Room (Wabanung Campus)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84773187507?pwd=PyZbvugBKIWQjBMNuJAY0SuEJe0Qom.1>

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Dr. Johnny Jones: 12:30pm - Room 400 - Cultural Room (Wabanung Campus)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86105527703?pwd=zfmaB89QOXkuB8rin1xB8QNOpSR07W.1>

Friday, May 30, 2025

Mr. Karsten Henriksen: 12:30pm - Room 400 - Cultural Room (Wabanung Campus)

Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85141276807?pwd=V2i16tR4WbdaFDjAZL5Eg7hOFBq7LM.1>

We are looking forward to the successful completion of the presidential search process. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to our ACCT Search Consultant: Cindy Lopez, ACCT Director of Search Services and Tribal College Initiatives, at clopez@acct.org, (405) 255-2566.