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Arts & Agriculture Center
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KBOCC Mission Statement: *As a tribal land grant institution, Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College supports and uplifts all learners to achieve their goals through holistic education, while promoting Anishinaabe culture, language, and lifeways.*

DATE: September 10, 2025
TO: Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College
FROM: Keith Rolof, Board of Regents Chairman
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.

The KBOCC President finalists are (in alphabetical order):

Melissa Kiesewetter is the Tribal Liaison, Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement & Potential, of the State of Michigan. Previously, Ms. Kiesewetter served as the Education Director of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in Michigan. Ms. Kiesewetter earned a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from Michigan State University and a Bachelor of Science in English from Illinois State University.



Steven Meneses, D.M., is the Manufacturing Matters Executive Director of City Colleges of Chicago in Illinois. Previously, Dr. Meneses served as the Associate Vice Chancellor of Business and Technology Strategy of City Colleges of Chicago in Illinois. Dr. Meneses earned a Doctor of Management in Community College Policy and Administration from the University of Maryland University College; a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Public Relations from Gonzaga University.



Helen Zaikina-Montgomery, Ph.D., is the former President of Leech Lake Tribal College in Minnesota. Previously, Dr. Zaikina-Montgomery served as the Director of Assessment and Institutional Research of Leech Lake Tribal College in Minnesota. Dr. Zaikina-Montgomery earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Experimental Psychology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; a Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, San Marcos.



Public forums will take place on the week of September 15, 2025, 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. For those participating in-person, forums will be at the KBOCC Wabanung Campus, 770 N. Main St, L'Anse, MI 49946– Room 400. 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, September 16, 2025

Ms. Melissa Kiesewetter: 12:30 pm (ET) at the KBOCC Wabanung Campus – Room 400

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84396544894>

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Dr. Helen Zaikina-Montgomery: 12:30 pm (ET) at the KBOCC Wabanung Campus – Room 400

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88678844977>

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Dr. Steven Meneses: 12:30 pm (ET) at the KBOCC Wabanung Campus – Room 400

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83833956341>

We are looking forward to a 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.