

Waséyabek Development Company Welcomes Jennifer Turner, Interim CEO

Submitted by Terri Fitzpatrick, Waséyabek Development Company Board Chair

Waséyabek Development Company held a welcome reception on July 28 at FireKeepers Casino for newly selected Interim Chief Executive Officer Jennifer Turner.

Turner, a Michigan Native, brings 20 years of leadership and management experience to Waséyabek, with 13 years of Tribal business development expertise. Turner served in various business capacities for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe before becoming CEO for Migizi Economic Development Corporation, their non-gaming economic diversification arm, where she spearheaded the \$45 million Soaring Eagle Water Park and Hotel project, along with an RV park.

Most recently, Turner served as CEO of Grand Canyon Resort Corporation (GCRC) for the Hualapai Tribal Nation in Arizona. During her tenure as CEO, Jennifer led the corporation to a record setting financial year and broke visitation records, largely achieved through innovative media platforms developed by Turner's team. She also led the Tribe and Corporation through a Master Plan development, and led the development of a community

grocery store, gas station and a major renovation project to Grand Canyon West's Visitor Center. With Turner's guidance, GCRC developed their first leadership program designed to provide Hualapai Tribal Members opportunities to receive detailed education and workplace mentorship, promoting advancement opportunities within the Tribe and GCRC.

In brief statements made during the welcome event, Turner thanked NHBP for the honor and opportunity to serve the community as they pursue an economic diversification strategy. Turner has hit the ground running, and is currently leading the strategic planning efforts and Skasgé Power, LLC.

Waséyabek Development Company, LLC was formed last year to pursue economic diversification, to create jobs and revenue for the Tribal community. This model has been successfully utilized throughout Indian Country as a strategy for designing sustainable Tribal economies, guided by our seven generation beliefs.

Photo: Jaky Replogle



Vice Chairperson Rod Lanning, Secretary James A. TenBrink, Interim CEO Jennifer Turner, Chairperson Terri Fitzpatrick, Treasurer Chris Day.