



# STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

## NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

**Erich Heppner**

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the office of:

**Member (Higher Education Affiliation)**

**Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority**

Effective: April 9, 2025

Expires: January 1, 2029

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed April 4, 2025.

Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE



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President of the Senate

Filed April 4, 2025  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State, Steve Simon

Replacing: Mary Thao

# Application for the position Members (At Least 2 of Whom Reside Outside the Metro Area) Application Date: 11/20/2024 12:35:42 PM

If you have questions related to your application, would like to amend your application or upload additional documents, contact the Board Staff Support listed on the Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority agency page. The name and email link for the Board Staff Support person are listed in the upper right-hand corner of the board's website under CONTACT and again in the Board Staff Support section of the page.

## Part I: Position Sought

**Agency Name:** Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority

**Position:** Members (At Least 2 of Whom Reside Outside the Metro Area)

**Seat:** Member (Higher Education Affiliation)

## Part II: Applicant Information

**Name:** Erich Heppner

**Mailing Address:** 26211 130th St Staples 56479

**County:** Wadena

**Mn House District:** 09A

**US House District:** 8

**Phone:** (952) 807-3279

**Email:** ehppner@clcmn.edu

**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** Yes

## Part III: Appending Documentation

### Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

## Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

**Race and Natural Origin:** White or Caucasian

**Gender:** Male

**Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin:** No

**Heard about vacancy from:** Other

**Other reason:** Current Board Member

**Political Party:** No Answer (Default)

**Disability:** No

**Veteran:** No Answer

**Age when applied:** 38

## Part V: Signature

**Signature:** Erich Heppner

**Date:** 11/20/2024 12:35:42 PM

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President of the Senate

# Erich J. Heppner

704 Fir St. Staples, MN 56479

(952) 807-3279

[ehppner19@gmail.com](mailto:ehppner19@gmail.com)

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## *Education*

St. Cloud State University M.S., Higher Education Administration		St. Cloud, MN May 2021
College of St. Scholastica B.A., Organizational Behavior	RECEIVED	Duluth, MN December 2017
Central Lakes College Associate of Arts	APR 4 2025	Brainerd, MN May 2016
Central Lakes College Diesel & Heavy Equipment Technician	President of the Senate	Staples, MN December 2008
Central Lakes College Heavy Equipment Operations & Maintenance		Staples, MN December 2007

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## *Experience*

<b>Director of Student Life</b>	2008 – 2013
<b>Central Lakes College, Brainerd &amp; Staples MN</b>	2015 – Present

- Provided supervisory leadership and advisement to Student Senate, Student Ambassadors, Democracy Fellows, Executive Officers, and several professional staff members to assure compliance, opportunities for student leadership growth, and that students' basic needs are met.
- Managed the creation of vibrant spaces on campus such as student centers, food pantries, a multicultural center, and an outdoor recreation office.
- Developed and assessed Student Life programming to ensure the needs of a diverse student population were met.
- Coordinated all new student orientation logistics and programming.
- Created and implemented the annual Democratic Voter Engagement Plan.
- Established guidelines and goals for new student clubs, oversight of existing student interest clubs, and incorporated funding regulations which support policies of Minnesota State and Central Lakes College.
- Developed and administered the \$550,000 Student Activity Fee & Athletic Fee budgets.
- Co-managed official college social media channels.
- Hosted engagement activities for large group visits and notified potential students of housing options, community resources, recreational opportunities, student club options, and student leadership opportunities.
- Coordinated and assessed intramural, club sports, and outdoor recreation programming to ensure these opportunities are available for the student population.
- Oversaw the annual hiring, training, and professional development of 20-25 student workers and interns.
- Fundraised and wrote grants for the CLC Food Pantry and other student resources with \$650,000 raised since 2015.

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**Program Support Specialist  
University of Colorado Boulder**

2013 – 2015

**President of the Senate**

- Served as the class registration liaison for all department students and faculty members.
  - Coordinated marketing of department events and activities.
  - Facilitated the scheduling and operation of all department exhibition spaces.
  - Designed and implemented the usage of electronic forms.
  - Created departmental efficiencies and transparency with tools such as Google Docs.
  - Managed all department listserv email groups.
  - Administered the digital signage system for the Visual Resources Complex
  - Designed and oversaw the delivery of the weekly ARTblast e-newsletter.
  - Managed the department's presence on social media platforms.
  - Oversaw the scheduling and operation of all departmental meetings, the department chairs schedule, & special events such as commencement ceremonies.
  - Planned and coordinated monthly student activities for departmental community-building.
  - Served as an elected representative on the CU-Boulder Staff Council.
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***Honors***

- Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Four Under Forty Award 2024
  - Students Learn Students Vote National Award 2022
  - Rural Community College Alliance Community Engagement Award 2022
  - LeadMN, Student Senate of the Year 2022
  - Central Lakes College Culture of Caring Award 2021
  - LeadMN, Student Government Advisor of the Year 2021
  - LeadMN, Student Senate of the Year 2020
  - Central Lakes College, HAR-E Award 2016
  - MN State College & Student Association, Student Senate Advisor of the Year 2013
  - Central Lakes College, Staff Member of the Year 2010
  - Central Lakes College - Staples Campus, Student of the Year 2008
  - Central Lakes College - Staples Campus, Student Worker of the Year 2007
  - Central Lakes College, Heavy Equipment Student of the Year 2007
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***Additional Higher Education Leadership Experience***

- Blue Ox Leadership Academy 2024 – Present
- MinnState Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Council 2023 – Present
- Luoma Leadership Academy 2022 – 2023
- Students Learn Students Vote Advisory Board, SLSV 2022 – 2023
- Scholarship Board, LeadMN 2021 – Present
- Multicultural Center Steering Committee, CLC 2021 – Present
- Facility Master Plan Committee, CLC 2018 – Present
- Chair, Voter Engagement Coalition, CLC 2017 – Present
- Foundation Alumni Committee, CLC 2015 – Present
- Chair, New Student Orientation Day Committee, CLC 2015 – Present
- Behavioral Intervention Team, CLC 2015 – Present
- Advisor, Art & Art History Student Advisory Council, CU Boulder 2013 – 2015
- Art & Art History Program Curriculum Committee, CU Boulder 2013 – 2015
- Art & Art History Staff Committee, CU Boulder 2013 – 2015
- Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, CLC 2011 – Present
- Chair, Student Life Committee, CLC 2011 – Present

- Student Disciplinary Committee, CLC 2009 – 2011
  - Chair, Student Success Day Committee, CLC 2008 – Present
  - Technology Fee Committee, CLC 2008 – Present
  - Chair, Awards Day Committee, CLC 2008 – Present
  - Commencement Ceremony Committee, CLC 2008 – Present
  - Student Retention Committee, CLC 2008 – 2013
  - Green Team, CLC 2009 – 2012
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***Community Involvement***

- SPARKS Reading & Mentorship Program, ISD 2170 2022 – 2024
- MN Good Food Access Program Committee, Advisory Board Member 2022 – Present
- Students Learn Students Vote, Advisory Board Member 2022 – 2023
- Thomastown Township, Supervisor 2021 – 2024
- Innovative Schools Project, Board Member 2021 – Present
- Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee 2021 – 2024
- Wadena County Planning & Zoning, Board Member 2021 – 2024
- Staples Historical Society, Board Member 2021 – Present
- Batcher Block Opera House, Board Member 2021 – Present
- Ruby's Pantry, Site Leader 2020 – Present
- City of Staples Welcoming Community Team 2019 – Present
- City of Staples LEAP Board, Board Member 2019 – Present
- City of Staples Tourism Board, Board Member 2018 – Present
- Second Harvest Northland Food Bank, Vice Chair 2017 – Present
- Crow Wing County Food Shelf Coalition 2016 – Present
- Region Five Development Commission, Board Member 2015 – 2024
- Lions Club International 2015 – 2019
- MN Special Olympics 2008 – Present
- Red Cross, Blood Drive Coordinator 2007 – Present

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President of the Senate

Erich Heppner  
704 Fir St. Brainerd, MN 56401  
erich.heppner@clcmn.edu

952-807-3279

November 20, 2023

Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority  
860 Blue Gentian Road,  
Eagan, MN 55121

Dear Chair Rowland:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my name for consideration to serve on the Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority. With 15 years of leadership experience in higher education and a demonstrated passion for improving the college student experience, I believe that I have the background and skills necessary to be a valuable member of your team.

As the Director of Student Life at Central Lakes College, I have successfully advocated for facility improvement at our campuses, and I have been successful in helping create environments that are routinely held up as a gold standard for MN community colleges. To do this, I have had to master communication and relationship building with multiple campus and community stakeholders in an effort to move us towards the common goal of providing learning environments that meet the high expectations of our fellow Minnesotans.

I am fortunate to have served on several facility comprehensive plan formations as well as been an integral part of several college bonding requests. Through this experience, I realized that I had a deep desire to help ensure that our colleges and universities are designed in a way that is accommodating and welcoming to all learners.

Now, I am poised to combine my understanding of higher education in the MinnState System with my passion for facility improvements to serve on the MN Higher Education Facilities Authority. Having worked at both two-year and four-year institutions, I know how to successfully work with campus leaders to formulate ideas and designs that yield results. Finally, in talking with current member Mary Ives, I have arrived at a deep appreciation for the Authority's role and believe that I could be a helpful member of the team.

Thank you for taking the time to review my cover letter and resume. If you have any questions, or would like to speak further about my experience, please contact me using the information provided above.

All the best,

*Erich Heppner*

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