

Section II: Board of Director Nominee Information

***Full Name (Last, First)**

Laverdure, Michael Richard Lee

***Brief (200 words or less) biography of nominee that will be included in the Ballot mailed or emailed to each General Member. Include information related to affiliation with AISES and what the nominee will bring to the Board of Directors.**

Mike Laverdure. Migisi Migwan (Eagle Feather), Makwa Doodem (Bear Clan), is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, located in North Dakota. He is a registered architect and a Sequoyah member of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

Mike attended North Dakota State University's College of Architecture, graduating in 1996. He is currently a partner at DSGW Architects and President of a Native American owned planning firm, the First American Design Studio.

He has been a member of AISES since his junior year at Turtle Mountain Community High School and has served on the leadership council for the Region 5 professional chapter, NSAAP since its inception in 2010. Mike also serves on the board for the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce and is the President-elect for the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers.

Mike is a past award winner of the AISES Executive of the Year and has made it a mission in his life to promote Architecture and Engineering as valid and vital STEM careers for our Tribal Youth.

His mother, Betty Laverdure, instilled in him that giving back to our Tribal Nations should be at the core of what we do on a daily basis, and Mike has found that designing great places is a great way to accomplish that goal.

Please Answer the Following Questions

- 1. Why would you like to serve on the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Board of Directors? (150 words or less)**

AISES is like a family to me, every year when I attend the National Conference, I come away feeling recharged, with hope and energy to support the AISES mission. I have been spreading the word out why Architecture & Engineering careers are so important to helping build and design better places for our people to live, work & play. By attending AISES events, playing a leadership role in the North Star AISES Alliance & Professional Chapter and supporting our Native youth looking at STEM, I'm able to show by example the concept of giving back to Tribal communities through a profession. By adding my voice to the AISES Board of Directors, I can help shed some light on the importance of highlighting career options that aren't always front and center to many of our Tribal youth, yet they are still valid STEM careers.

2. What is your past experience/association with the AISES organization? (150 words or less)

I first joined AISES when I was a junior in high school and attended my first conference in 1994, in San Jose, California. Several years ago, I was invited to attend a meeting where a group of people were trying to reinvigorate the local professional chapter in Minnesota, for Region 5. Little did I know that I would walk out of that meeting as the Chapter President and be a helper with the Local Volunteer Committee at the Minnesota Conference. It was nice to be involved in AISES again, an organization for which I truly believe in the mission to support Tribal youth in STEM fields. Over the years, our small core of professional chapter members has raised tens of thousands of dollars and provided many travel scholarships to youth to attend the National Conference and Leadership gathering. I attend the conference yearly now and participate locally on a regular basis.

The AISES Board of Directors has determined that there are key skill sets needed to fulfill AISES' strategic goals. The questions below specifically address the needed skills, knowledge and experience.

3. Please elaborate on your fundraising and major gifts cultivation experience. (150 words or less)

As a registered architect and partner in a decent size firm, I have become adept at telling a story and selling my firms services. It's not hard to do when you love what you do. I think that will be the same with an organization that I love, AISES. Our regional professional chapter, the North Star AISES Alliance and Professional Chapter (NSAAP), has raised tens of thousands of dollars to promote many STEM activities. I have been in a leadership role in NSAAP since its inception several years ago and helped start up our annual golf tournament, which is in its 5th year. We send several AISES members to the annual conference using the proceeds from that golf tournament. Our chapter has received grants, which support other activities like NASA space camp, Project Lead the Way and science fairs to mention a few. Being an advocate and raising funds for AISES would be an honor.

4. Given the strategic goal of increasing value to all members, what skills and resources can you provide toward the success of this strategic initiative? List experience with program development, target populations and outcomes. (150 words or less)

I have been participating on the Professional Development Committee recently and am glad to see that AISES is finding that increasing value to all its members is important. It's nice that we focus on Native youth in STEM fields, but we also need to give back to our professional members, making their participation not just a one way street, but give them an opportunity to grow, learn and network. One of the tasks I do on a daily basis is to plan complex projects for my Tribal clientele. A successful architect has to be an efficient project manager, a skill that could be valuable to AISES. Furthering AISES' strategic initiative and planning any work efforts necessary is very similar to what I do daily. Also, as our professional chapter began to grow, I led a retreat to assist our members to define the Guiding Principles of our organization to set the path forward into the future.

- 5. Elaborate on your prior experience serving on non-profit Boards. Specify your understanding of the associated fiduciary responsibilities required of Board members. (150 words or less)**

I currently serve on three non-profit boards. I've been on the board for the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce since 2010, with my second term ending in 2018. I have also been involved with the North Star AISES Alliance & Professional Chapter since around 2010. I'm also on the board for the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers. Throughout my lifetime, I have participated on many volunteer boards and committees and understand the value that people of diverse backgrounds can bring to the table.

A board member's job is to guide the future of AISES, to assist the executive team and organizational staff to make the decisions that guide the future of the organization. Maintaining fiscal responsibility and providing leadership to ensure the sustainability of AISES is another large part of what a board member should do. Board members should provide leadership to ensure that AISES is in compliance with applicable laws & the organizations charter, respond to membership's needs and that AISES activities and efforts adhere to the core mission.

- 6. Have you visited the AISES website to view the AISES Board of Directors Roles, Responsibilities, Agreement, and Member Requirements at the following?**

<http://www.aises.org/about/board>

AISES Code of Conduct document at the following?

<http://www.aises.org/about/board>

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Section III: Two (2) Endorsements of Nominee (Required)

Endorsement #1

*Full Name (Last, First) Mark Bellcourt	*Phone	*Email
*Endorsement Date 7/19/2016	*Endorsement Method, explain (in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other) Via email	
Statement of Endorsement (Optional) (this will most likely be copied email text from the person making the endorsement to the person submitting this nomination form) (150 words or less) Michael Laverdure is the current Vice President (former president) of the North Star AISES Alliance and Professional Chapter, partner in DSGW Architectural firm, founder of First American Design, Vice President of the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers, and 2014 recipient of AISES Professional Executive of the Year. He specializes in designing culturally appropriate and functional spaces for Indigenous communities around the country from casinos, health facilities, to convenience stores. He is a long-time AISES member and supporter. He recognizes that architecture is more than just designing, it requires knowledge of engineering, materials science, and mathematics. Despite his academic accomplishments and professional credentials, he has not forgotten his ancestors – he is a proud member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.		

Endorsement #2

*Full Name (Last, First) Stephens, Rick	*Phone	*Email
*Endorsement Date 7/20/2016	*Endorsement Method, explain (in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other) Email	
Statement of Endorsement (Optional) (this will most likely be copied email text from the person making the endorsement to the person submitting this nomination form) (150 words or less) I am pleased to endorse Michael Laverdure as candidate for the AISES Board of Directors. As a “product” of AISES having joined early in his life, Mike has demonstrated his technical skills and abilities, but also his people and cultural skills that are so important to the success of AISES. His perspective, insights, experience and passion make him an excellent candidate for the AISES Board of Directors.		

Additional Endorsements (Optional)

Endorsement #3

*Full Name (Last, First)

Wren Walker Robbins, Ph.D.

*Phone

*Email

*Endorsement Date

7/21/16

*Endorsement Method, explain *(in person, by phone, by email, by postal mail, other)*

Email

Statement of Endorsement (Optional) *(this will most likely be copied email text from the person making the endorsement to the person submitting this nomination form)* **(150 words or less)**

Michael Lavedure is a longtime member of AISES, a Sequoyah Fellow, and Vice-president of the North Star AISES Alliance & Professional Chapter. He is a full partner in the DSGW Architectural firm, founder of the First American Design Studio, and board member of Minnesota's American Indian Chamber of Commerce. Mike is leader who continually steps forward to do the right thing for Native communities. He is a dynamic businessman and effective fundraiser. A community leader that builds consensus and excitement in any project he's part of. Mike is ethical, honest, and delightful to work with. I strongly support his nomination to a position on the AISES board of directors.