Zak Allen joins North Dakota’s Gateway to Science as Assistant Director

Bismarck - North Dakota’s Gateway to Science (NDGTS) welcomed Zak Allen to the staff as Assistant Director.

Allen served as General Manager and LLC Board President for Bismarck State College's Innovations Foundation, the goal of which was to provide technical energy education to international markets. He was involved in all phases of the business operations, from start-up to sustainable operations. In previous educational roles, he was responsible for the training and development of the energy workforce and the general population in topics including transmission systems, plant operations, renewable energy and smart grid, safety, instrumentation and control, and others.

"Growing up in Minneapolis, some of my best childhood memories are of the old Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul," noted Allen. "It was visits there that piqued my interest in STEM fields and ultimately led me to a career in the energy industry."

As Assistant Director, Allen will work closely with Beth Demke, Executive Director, to provide oversight of all day-to-day operations, programs, and personnel, policies, and procedures, safety compliance, customer service, volunteer coordination, and outside vendors. He will work in collaboration with all department directors to ensure all experiences are exceptional experiences of the highest quality that represent innovation and best practice in the industry.

"Providing STEM opportunities for our community and our state through education has been a part of my life's work," said Allen. "I look forward to continuing that with North Dakota's Gateway to Science."

NDGTS is North Dakota’s hands-on science center and is located in the Frances Leach High Prairie Arts & Science Complex, 1810 Schafer Street, Bismarck, North Dakota. In addition to an interactive exhibits gallery, they offer STEM educational outreach programs serving people of all ages, including out-of-school time clubs, camps, and workshops. North Dakota’s Gateway to Science is open Monday-Thursday 12-6pm; Friday 12-5pm; and, Saturday 10am-5pm. Visit www.gatewaytoscience.org for more information.

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