

**Nominees for the Board of Directors of BID #51  
February 2020**

**Eric Leaf**

Assistant Dean for Advancement

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences.

Eric is responsible for strategic initiatives, partnerships, external relations, outreach, and resource acquisition in support of the research and academic missions of the School of Freshwater Sciences. As assistant dean, he supports students and faculty-led initiatives while working to build a strong foundation for growth in the largest water-focused academic research institution on the Great Lakes. He serves on the dean's cabinet, was co-author of the University of Wisconsin System's proposed Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin, and oversees initiatives to secure funding to build the School's new Great Lakes Research Vessel, the Maggi Sue.

Eric has enjoyed a 20-year career working in higher education development. He began his work at Marquette University in 2000 and, as part of the *Magis* Campaign, helped raise funds contributing to the construction of the John P. Raynor, S.J., Library, the Al McGuire Center, and the Marquette Dental School. Later he joined UW-Whitewater's College of Business & Economics, working with alumni, business leaders, and other partners with a primary focus of securing private resources supplementing state support to construct the business school's Timothy J. Hyland Hall. At both institutions, and at UW-Milwaukee, Eric works to secure scholarship support, endowment, and other resources to grow academic programs and research initiatives. Previous to working in development Eric was a production coordinator and public relations writer at the American Society for Quality.

Eric earned his undergraduate degree in philosophy and history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has performed master's work in theology at Marquette University. He has two teenage boys and is a proud resident of Milwaukee's Walker's Point Neighborhood.