



## Marquette County Ambassadors

### Our mission:

To promote and foster economic vitality throughout Marquette County and the Upper Peninsula, to carry the story of the Marquette County area to others, and salute those who deserve recognition.

### Who we are:

The Marquette County Ambassadors is a privately funded group of business, education, community and government leaders from across Marquette County. We work collaboratively with the Lake Superior Community Partnership, an accredited economic development organization, serving Marquette County and the Upper Peninsula.

## Members

**Bradley Argall:** Owner, Country Village  
**Steve Balbierz:** COO, Upper Peninsula Health Plan  
**Jesse Bell:** President, Bell Financial Services  
**Michele Butler:** Owner/Manager, Vangos  
**Amy Clickner:** CEO, Lake Superior Community Partnership  
**Lisa Coombs-Gerou:** CEO, YMCA of Marquette County  
**Tom Edmark:** President, Iron Range Agency  
**Sam Elder:** VP, Elder Agency  
**Scott Erbsch:** County Administrator, Marquette County  
**Mike Fredrizzi:** Regional Manager, Blue Cross Blue Shield  
**Brett French:** Regional Manager, American Transmission Company  
**James Grundstrom:** President, Frei Chevrolet  
**Martha Haynes:** VP of Advancement, Northern Michigan University  
**Dale Hemmila:** Director of Public Affairs, Cliffs Natural Resources  
**Matt Johnson:** Manager of Government/Community Relations, Rio Tinto

**Dan Landers:** President, Cook Sign Services  
**Paul Lang:** VP Academic Affairs/Provost, Northern Michigan University  
**John Marshall:** Retired, President, LS&I Railroad  
**Bob Martin:** Owner, Marquette Mounts  
**Keith Moyle:** VP/ General Manager, Upper Peninsula Power Company  
**Gary Muller:** CEO, Marquette General Hospital  
**Steve Peffers:** Superintendent, Marquette Alger Regional Educational Service Agency  
**Christine Pesola:** Owner, Landmark Inn  
**Dave Puskala:** Owner, Northern Energy Solutions  
**Robert Raica:** Director of Community Services, Upper Peninsula Home, Health, Hospice and Private Duty  
**Jesse Schramm:** CEO, Checker Transport  
**Michelle Sellers:** VP, River Valley Bank  
**Dennis Smith:** CEO, Upper Peninsula Health Plan  
**Tom Tourville:** Owner, Tourville Apartments  
**Chris VanAbel:** Owner, VAST  
**Dennis West:** President, Northern Initiatives  
**Paul Wolfson:** President, Select Realty



## What matters to us?

Marquette County, Michigan is a vibrant and progressive community on the shores of beautiful Lake Superior. Our award winning community is not only rich in culture and natural resources but boasts many assets necessary for economic growth and prosperity, such as:

- Northern Michigan University
- United States Olympic Education Center
- Marquette General Health/Duke Life-Point
- Tourism
- Natural resource based industries
- Retail hub
- Four season recreation center

The Ambassadors know that retaining and growing these assets is critical for success. We also understand that the local, state and federal legislative and regulatory processes can impact this success which is why we continue to advocate for business friendly, environmentally sound activities that affect our community.

## What do we support?

As community and business leaders, we know what it takes to encourage investment within our community and to attract additional investment. In 2013, we will focus our resources in two major areas:

- Infrastructure (includes transportation, broadband, energy, cellular coverage)
- Talent (from early childhood education to workforce development)

We will advocate and take positions on issues and proposed legislation that impact the infrastructure and talent our region needs to sustain and grow.

## Fast Facts

**Population:** 67,884

**Geographic Area:** 3,425 sq. miles

**Median Household Income:** \$43,599

**Median Home Sales Price:** \$144,750

**Largest County in Michigan**

**Most Populous County in UP**

## How we achieve our mission:

For over two decades the Marquette County Ambassadors have made an annual trip to Lansing to meet with legislators and state department personnel. The purpose of the trip is to inform our elected officials and state staff of relevant issues affecting the Upper Peninsula, in particular Marquette County AND to hear their perspectives on activities related to state government.

We host elected officials and department heads when the opportunity is presented. Letters of support, comments and public hearing testimony are also tools used to make our position known.

