

# Discovery World News: Introducing Our Newest Leaders

---

This spring, we are pleased to welcome Dennis Krakau of Associated Bank and John Miller, President & CEO of Miller-St. Nazianz to our organization's board of directors, comprised of community leaders across all sectors who provide vision, oversight and governance to Discovery World.

## **Dennis Krakau**



With 30 years of experience in banking, eight of them at Associated Bank in Milwaukee, Dennis Krakau is currently the Market President for the Milwaukee Region for Associated and the Executive Vice President, East Commercial Banking, responsible for all commercial segments throughout southeastern Wisconsin, the Fox River Valley, Green Bay and north central Wisconsin.

As a renowned business professional throughout the state of Wisconsin, Dennis brings his passion for inspiring students and informing the community on innovation, technology, science and engineering that translate into career opportunities to Discovery World. "When I thought about joining the board at Discovery World, I saw an opportunity to support and influence an organization that looks to fundamentally improve the educational experience in our community by connecting the classroom to the real world and working to provide a spark that ignites the minds of our youth with motivation and excitement about their education," stated Dennis in a brief interview for this newsletter piece. "Providing exposure to technologies and creative thinking in a fun and innovative atmosphere helps to inspire students and make the learning experience meaningful. Influencing kids to be excited about learning and their futures is, in my view, key in helping to solve many of the issues we face as a community." Dennis hopes that Discovery World will provide him with the opportunity to be a steward of the resources he can provide to the organization while being a champion and advocate for an organization whose mission he feels strongly about.

His other aspirations as a newly inducted board member include becoming personally involved in program development and in introducing new partners to the organization. In regards to working as a team with the rest of the board, Dennis will remain committed to continuing the dedication to quality and creative programming while maintaining a stable operation at Discovery World. "The Board is diverse across backgrounds and industries,

and I look forward to the interchange and perspectives from this group, especially in discussing other organizational approaches to community involvement.”

### **John W. Miller**



John Miller comes to Discovery World with an impressive background in the agricultural machinery industry, serving as Vice President and General Counsel at Miller St.-Nazianz, Inc., before his appointment to President & CEO in 2008. Prior to joining Miller-St. Nazianz, John served for seven years in Washington, DC as the chief tax and budget policy advisor and Deputy Chief of Staff to a member of the U.S. House of Representatives sitting on the Committee on Ways and Means. As an employer outside the metropolitan Milwaukee area, John hopes to promote Discovery World to a larger audience. “Discovery World is a huge asset to our entire state and there are many opportunities to provide students from all parts of Wisconsin with a first class learning experience,” said John. “I’m also excited to climb aboard the *S/V Denis Sullivan* because I helped secure some initial funding for its construction in the late 1990s while working on Capitol Hill.”

Consistent with his passion for exposing youth to new experiences and getting them to break out of their shell, John hopes to utilize his experience as a successful entrepreneur to leverage the strengths of the educational experience that Discovery World offers to get more kids interested in careers in manufacturing. “As an employer in the region and as a father of three, I’m personally invested in Milwaukee and making our kids and community strong,” John commented on his personal interest in our organization. “Unique educational resources like Discovery World are another part of what makes this region a great place to live, work and raise our families.”

As an active volunteer in his community, John believes in the commitment to making a difference in the areas in which we live and work. “It is today’s young kids that are ultimately going to determine the fate of our local communities. We owe it to each other to give every young person the opportunity to thrive as adults. Discovery World is one way we can reach kids and help them open the doors that will lead to successful lives. That’s what motivates me to give back.”

Like Dennis, John looks forward to working collaboratively with a diverse group of individuals dedicated to strengthening the science and technology community and serving as leaders of Discovery World. “My hope is that we can each bring our unique perspectives

from our respective organizations to create an environment that continues to provide diverse learning experiences for the attendees.”