



David “Dave” Veneklas joined the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board in 2023. He brings nearly 40 years of experience working in higher education administration, including service as Executive Vice President for Organizational Development, Finance, Treasurer, and Chief Financial Officer at Davenport University. Coaxed out of retirement, Dave is currently serving as the Vice President for People, Culture and Strategic Initiatives at Cornerstone University, and also shares his expertise as an Executive Coach and Organizational Consultant for a private university.

Dave earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration (MBA) from Grand Valley State University. He also holds a Strategic Collective Bargaining Certificate from The University of Michigan—School of Business Administration, an Assessment Certification from the Center for Creative Leadership, and a Dale Carnegie Certification.

Ever active in his West Michigan community, Dave has previously served as chair of the Board of Directors for Gilda’s Club of Greater Grand Rapids and as treasurer for the Hello West Michigan (a division of The Right Place) Board of Directors. He is chair emeritus on the Board of Directors for Grand Rapids West Catholic High School and a former member of the Michigan Business Professionals Association Board of Directors.

Throughout his years of service, Dave has always worked for the betterment of West Michigan. His vast knowledge and connections in the Grand Rapids area are an asset to the Board and to the older adults we serve, and we value his expertise. Dave says he is excited to join the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Board because, “I am passionate about the mission to be an advocate for vibrant aging and serving our community. I look forward to serving together.”