

Our Board

Board Member Spotlight – Meet Kris Petersen

Board Chair, 2016-2022

Putting Leadership Theory into Practice

Kris Petersen: Founder & Board Chair of think2perform Research Institute



Kris Petersen is an accomplished executive, executive coach and leadership consultant with think2perform.com.

She is also the founder and board chair of [think2perform Research Institute](#). This article outlines why and how Kris founded the organization, and what the future holds.

In 2016, Kris Petersen recognized the need to elevate moral leadership and decision-making in business, in communities and around the world. Her desire was to expand the capacity of leaders by focusing on the moral competencies all humans share -- forgiveness, responsibility, integrity, and

compassion. Reflecting on ways to achieve this, Kris sought research on moral leadership. Not finding many resources, Kris got the idea for the think2perform Research Institute -- a non-profit organization that would leverage existing research channels by offering financial support to doctoral students studying moral leadership. The research would be shared at no cost with the public and be used for training by the for-profit entity, think2perform, to help make the world a better place.

After formulating the concept of think2perform Research Institute, Kris brought the idea to think2perform's CEO, Doug Lennick. Doug agreed with the importance of the effort, provided financial backing, and along with an early board member, suggested expanding the mission to include purposeful and emotionally intelligent leadership. Resulting in the organization's current mission: think2perform Research Institute advances moral, purposeful and emotionally intelligent leadership to inspire and engage current and emerging leaders.

Over the past six years, think2perform Research Institute has supported numerous research projects focused on enhancing leaders and leadership, [published here](#). The organization continues to attract strong doctoral candidates, junior faculty and senior scholars for its ongoing [Research Fellowship](#) program. The latest cohort of Fellows will be announced next month.

To extend the organization's reach, earlier this year think2perform Research Institute launched the [Future Leaders Academy](#). The program is designed to augment the talents of high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds and underrepresented communities to become exceptional, emotionally intelligent leaders in their communities, schools and workplaces. "In working with these young leaders, I'm excited by how open they are to learning, growing and looking at leadership differently," says Kris. "It's really refreshing."

As a moral, purposeful and emotionally intelligent leader, Kris values infusing new skills and knowledge into the organization which is why she is stepping down as board chair. "It's time for someone new to bring fresh ideas and a fresh perspective to our mission," says Kris. Her aspiration for the incoming board and the organization? "I hope they can work with more future leaders in Minnesota and beyond. I would love for t2pRI to be known for providing research around moral and emotionally intelligent leadership and ultimately be a source for helping people learn to be more moral."

Would you like to support our research and Future Leaders Academy?

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