

Dec 2023



New Board Members Inspired by Our Mission

As we look to grow our mission impact through the Future Leaders Academy and Research Fellowships in 2024 and beyond, we are delighted Colton and Valerie chose to join our organization. Please join us in welcoming two new members of our leadership team.

- Brian Hammer, Executive Director

Meet New Director - **Valerie Burke**



Driven by her purpose to create connections so communities in relationships can flourish, Valerie Burke brings her expertise and passion to think2perform Research Institute's board of directors.

Valerie retired from the Edina Public Schools in June 2022, where she served as Director of Community Education and Strategic Partnerships. For more than a decade,

Valerie provided innovative leadership in the development, implementation and evaluation of programs and services in the areas of early childhood programming, family involvement, youth programs, volunteer services, enrichment programs, and adult learning. Her prior role was as the Edina Resource Center and Community Volunteer Program Coordinator. Valerie received her Master's in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of St. Thomas in 2005.

With her extensive background and values of family, education, relationships, cooperation and service, Valerie is well suited to influence the growth of t2pRI, especially the Future Leaders Academy. In addition to benefiting from her partnership-building skills, t2pRI embodies Valerie's informed perspective on learning, leadership, and young people. "Almost every student really wants to be a part of their community and impact their community," says Valerie. "We really need to think about them as individuals and help cultivate the ideas they want to share in the ways they want to be involved."

Meet New Director - **Colton Wieck**



Over the past decade Colton has worked in the investment industry, serving in a variety of roles for both non-profit & for-profit organizations. A recent Minnesota transplant, Colton currently works in the Private Markets Middle Office space. In his previous role, he helped manage

the investment portfolio for a community foundation in Chicago.

Colton's financial expertise and unique skill set will prove invaluable as think2perform Research Institute continues to grow. He possesses extensive experience in and a deep passion for strategy development and implementation, community-based problem-solving, leadership training, and relationship-building — ideal competencies for advancing our board and development committee efforts.

Colton has a BSBA in Financial Analysis & Economics from Creighton University and currently resides in Minneapolis, where he spends his free time enjoying the outdoors, hiking, skiing, & spending time with friends and family.

Colton adds, "My interests in t2pRI's mission stems from my own personal belief in the need to advance and promote real, purposeful leadership through both individuals and organizations that seek to improve the world we live in." It's not surprising, then, that his top 5 values are Community, Excellence, Integrity, Leadership and Philanthropy.

Learn more about [Who We Are](#) and our [Mission](#)