

Biography of Matthew Nicolai

Matthew Nicolai was born in Bethel, and raised in the village of Kwethluk. He is a graduate of Chemawa Indian Boarding High School, Chemawa, Oregon. Mr. Nicolai has attended the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; Westfield State College, Westfield, Massachusetts, and earned a B.A. Degree in Economics from George Washington University.

Mr. Nicolai joined the Calista Corporation, a Native Regional Corporation in 1975 as Communications Supervisor. For over 30 years he has held various positions with the Calista Corporation, which include Assistant to the President, Assistant Vice President of Operations, Vice President of Corporation Affairs, President of Calista Business Investment Corporation (a 301(d) Minority Small Business Investment Corporation under U.S. Small Business Administration), President of Village Management Services, Inc. (a consulting company for village accounting and management services), and Senior Vice President of Business Development with Calista Corporation.

In 1994, Mr. Nicolai accepted the appointment as President of the Calista Corporation, which at the time had 57 employees in one state. Today under his leadership, Calista Corporation has over 800 employees in 25 states and Guam.

Mr. Nicolai is a Director of the Alaska Federations of Natives, Inc., ANCSA CEO Inc., Director of several title/escrow boards, Director of the Russian Orthodox Sacred Sites in Alaska.

Mr. Nicolai has served on the boards of Commonwealth North, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Providence Foundation, Chaired the Alaska Salvation Army Board, Alaska Public Interest Research Group, and the Alaska Democratic Party, and past President of Anchorage East Rotary Club.

Mr. Nicolai was nominated and honored as a distinguished Eagle Scout for the Western Alaska, Boys Scouts of America in 2000. He also received the volunteer award with the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Program, as well as the U.S. Department of Labor Job Service Award.