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Daniel Loepp Named Chairman of Mackinac Island State Park Commission

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Daniel J. Loepp was appointed chairman of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission by unanimous vote of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission at its meeting May 24.

Loepp, President and Chief Executive Officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan, was appointed to the commission in 2015 by Governor Rick Snyder. He replaces Chuck Yob as chairman, who resigned from the commission in April. Loepp becomes the 31st chairman in the storied history of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.

“The Mackinac State Historic Parks are among Michigan’s greatest historical gems,” said Loepp. “I’m proud to serve as chair of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, which is dedicated to protecting and promoting these treasured sites that have brought enjoyment to so many people for generations.”

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission is the seven-member governing body of Mackinac State Historic Parks. In 1875, the government land on Mackinac Island – encompassing 50 percent of the island – was designated the second national park in the United States. It was turned over to the State of Michigan in 1895, becoming Michigan’s first state park. At that time, the state legislature created the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to be stewards of the park and its many historic structures. Due to the commission’s efforts, parkland now encompasses more than 80 percent of Mackinac Island, which includes 1,800 acres. The commission also oversees and manages parks on the mainland. The Mackinac

Island State Park Commission is responsible for a combined 2,500 acres of parkland within the Mackinac State Historic Parks system, over 110 buildings, and approximately 1.7 million artifacts.

Commissioners, who serve six-year terms, are appointed by the governor of Michigan and are subject to confirmation by the Michigan Senate.

Loepp joined Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan (BCBSM) in 2000. He has played a major role in modernizing Michigan's health care delivery system, and oversaw the enactment of new laws that saw BCBSM become a nonprofit mutual insurance company in 2014. From 2011 through 2013 he served as board chair of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an organization that includes all 36 Blue Cross plans, and he continues to serve on the board today. He is now the chair of the BCS Financial Corporation board and serves as vice chairman on the board of the National Institute for Health Care Management. Loepp is the executive committee chairman for the Downtown Detroit Partnership board and serves as chairman of the Board of Directors for the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation.

Loepp has been honored as a 2016 recipient of the Edward N. McNamara *Goodfellow of the Year Award* and was selected as *Michiganiaan of the Year* by *The Detroit News* in 2013.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Historic Downtown Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Michilimackinac State Park and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at mackinacparks.com.

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