

Michael P. Hughes

Chair, NFTA & Chief of Staff for Kaleida Health

Michael is the Chief of Staff for Kaleida Health, Western New York's largest employer and largest provider of health care services. Recruited to Kaleida Health in 2004, he is responsible for the hospital system's external affairs including marketing, communications, and government affairs. He also oversees campus development, construction, real estate, planning and parking.

Active in the community, Mike has been named one of Western New York's most influential leaders, ranking annually in Business First's Power 250 list. In 2008, he was appointed by the State of New York to the board of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, becoming the youngest Commissioner in the history of the authority. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board and chairs the authority's Surface Transportation Committee.

Hughes has been named one of the community's most influential leaders, ranking annually in Business First's "Power 250" list. In 2022, he was nominated by New York Governor Kathy Hochul and became Chair of the board for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. He previously was the youngest Commissioner in the history of the authority when first appointed to the Board in 2008.

Prior to joining Kaleida Health, Mike was recruited to and served as the Public Affairs and Marketing Manager for Rural/Metro Medical Services, a national ambulance company (now American Medical Response). In that role, he oversaw all media, government and community relations, plus marketing, business development and contract compliance in upstate New York. He also served as the statewide public information officer for Rural/Metro's nationally recognized Disaster Response Team, including a weeklong stint in New York City on and through 9/11.

Hughes' awards include the West Seneca Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" for his 20+ years of volunteer work and community service.

In 2018, he was recognized nationally by the Public Relations Society of America, winning its highest award – the prestigious "Silver Anvil" – for he and his teams integrated communications and marketing campaign around the relocation, rebranding and grand opening of the former Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo (now Oishei Children's Hospital).

Hughes community service is long in tenure. Aside from the NFTA, he currently is a member of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency board of directors.

In 2021, Mike was a key member of the 11 Day Power Play team that broke the Guinness World Record for the longest continuous ice hockey game at 252 hours. The event raised \$2

million for local charities like Oishei Children's Hospital and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Institute.

He has previously served on boards/committees with the Buffalo Place, Inc., the Town of West Seneca Zoning Board of Appeals, Amherst Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Council, Mercy Flight, Buffalo Police Athletic League, Canisius College Board of Regents, Bishop Timon/St. Jude High School, Greater Buffalo Metropolitan Crime Stoppers, Buffalo Niagara Partnership Government Relations Committee, Canisius College Government Relations Advisory Board, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Government Affairs Work Council and the Buffalo F.B.I.'s Citizen Academy Foundation.

In addition to this, Hughes coached West Seneca Hockey and West Seneca Soccer for more than a decade.

Other awards Mike has won include the National Federation For Just Communities "Community Leader" (2017), the "Outstanding Practitioner" from the Public Relations Society of America Western New York Chapter (2016), Canisius College's "Marilyn Watt Alumni Award" winner (2010) and Business First of Buffalo's "40 Under 40."

Hughes completed Harvard Business School's executive program in Cambridge, Massachusetts concentrating on health care management. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree (MBA) from Medaille College as well as bachelors in Communication from Canisius College.