

LIFE LEADERSHIP *Is For* EVERYONE

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CHRISTINE LEHNERTZ

BIOGRAPHY

Chris Lehnertz is the immediate past superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park, one of the most famous and visited in the National Park system. She is the first woman to oversee Grand Canyon since it was first set aside as public space 100 years ago.

Chris begins her new role as President and CEO of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy on May 13. According to the Conservancy: “Lehnertz brings extensive experience managing some of America’s most iconic national parks and a passion for making parks relevant and accessible to all communities. ... Lehnertz’s distinguished career at the National Park Service (NPS) included serving as superintendent at both Grand Canyon National Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area, director of the NPS Pacific West Region, and deputy superintendent at Yellowstone National Park.”



As superintendent of the Grand Canyon National Park her primary task was to improve working conditions and morale among the park’s roughly 500 employees following a federal investigation that found “evidence of a long-term pattern of sexual harassment and hostile work environment” within the park. Other priorities include cultivating relationships with eleven Native American tribes long associated with the park and telling the story of climate change, an aim for the entire National Park Service.

Chris Lehnertz is a Colorado native and University of Colorado alumna. She is a graduate of the RIHEL Advanced Leadership Training Program from the Class of 2000 in which she participated during her tenure with the Region VIII office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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