

WOLVERINE CRANE
Overhead Cranes • Service • Inspections

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wolverine Crane Announces Transition to Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP)
Honoring the Legacy of Founder Richard "Rich" Kelps

Grand Rapids, Michigan — December 12, 2025 — Wolverine Crane, a leading provider of overhead crane solutions and service across the Midwest, is proud to announce its transition to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). This strategic move honors the legacy of the company's late founder, Richard "Rich" Kelps, while ensuring long-term stability, growth, and shared success for the hardworking team that built the business.

Rich Kelps, who founded Wolverine Crane on the principles of craftsmanship, integrity, and service, passed away in May 2021. Upon his passing, ownership of the company transferred to his two daughters, Nicole Kelps and Rachel Riemenschneider, who have worked closely with company leadership over the past several years to determine the best future for Wolverine Crane. Although not directly involved in day-to-day operations, both daughters have remained committed to preserving their father's vision and protecting the company's dedicated employees.

In October 2025, Bob Brzozowski was selected as the new Chief Executive Officer of Wolverine Crane after serving as Interim CEO since July of the same year. His leadership during the transition period played a key role in positioning the company for long-term success under the ESOP structure.

The decision to transition to an ESOP reflects the family's commitment to Wolverine Crane's people. Under the ESOP structure, employees will gain ownership in the company over time, reinforcing Wolverine Crane's culture of accountability, pride, and shared achievement—values that have been at the heart of the organization since its inception.

"Our father built Wolverine Crane with grit, passion, and a genuine belief in taking care of people. Turning the company into an ESOP felt like the most authentic way to honor who he was. We know he would be incredibly proud to see the team carry the company forward together."

— **Nicole Kelps**

"Wolverine isn't just a business—it's a family of incredibly skilled and committed individuals. This transition ensures that the people who show up every day, solve problems, and serve customers with excellence will directly benefit from the company's future. My dad would be so proud of his team and the work they have done to make this happen."

— **Rachel Riemenschneider**

"It's an honor to lead Wolverine Crane at such a pivotal moment in its history. This transition strengthens our foundation and empowers our employee-owners to build on the legacy Rich created. Our future will be defined by shared success, teamwork, and a renewed commitment to excellence."

— **Bob Brzozowski, President & CEO**

About Wolverine Crane

Wolverine Crane is a Michigan-based manufacturer and service provider specializing in overhead crane systems, inspections, maintenance, and custom material-handling solutions. Known for quality, safety, and a steadfast focus on customer success, Wolverine Crane has served industrial clients across the Midwest for more than 30 years.

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