

# RIVER CITY SIX RALPH

Ralph Kellogg

CENTRIS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Meet Ralph Kellogg, vice president, Human Resources at Centris Federal Credit Union.



## How did you get started in the business? -

Purely by chance. A very good friend of mine worked at Commercial Federal Bank and she encouraged me to apply, which is where I got my start in the banking and financial services industry. I then went on to work for an Omaha-area nonprofit and a mediation firm. In 2009 I began working for Centris and in 2012 I was promoted to my current role.

## What is the biggest challenge you've faced professionally? - I

have a diverse career history. Some of the positions I have held have been a result of my choosing, while others from circumstance. Regardless of the situation, I have always tried to put my best foot forward and be a positive contributor and leader. At a few points in my career, I suffered from Imposter Syndrome. I felt like at any moment my coworkers or superiors would realize that I did not know what I was doing and that my career would go down in flames. What I have learned is that no one has all the answers, even the leader/manager. One has to be willing to put ego aside and recognize that everyone can serve as a teacher and that it is not important to have all the answers, but it is important to listen and apply what is learned.

## What has been your most important achievement professionally?

- Being selected to lead HR at Centris without any formal experience. I will always be grateful to my manager, Ann Helm, for giving me a chance to prove myself and I've worked diligently to make sure her faith in me was not misplaced ever since.

## Tell us a little about your family. - I have been with my husband

Steve for 25 years. We have a wonderful immediate and extended family and we are very active in dog rescue. We have two dogs right now, Sophie and Daisy.

## What do you see as one of the biggest turning points in your life?

- I almost died when I was 27 years old. That experience taught me not to take people or life for granted. I promised myself that if I regained my health, I would contribute as much as I could to others, and carve out a meaningful life.

## What is your favorite thing to do on a day off? - Drink great coffee,

read a good book, and sit out on the deck, ideally when it's sunny and 70 degrees.

## What is the most unique or interesting thing about you that most

people probably don't know? - I am socially awkward. If there is a way to make something awkward I am your guy. I used to try and hide it, but that only made situations worse. So, I own it, but I also give people fair warning!

## What are you the most proud of? - The longevity of my relationship

with my spouse and that I was the first person in my family to graduate from high school and then college.

## If you could choose only one descriptive word to be remembered

as, what would it be? - Genuine.

## What local non-profit organization(s) are you passionate about

or involved with, and are there any special reasons why? - I have been involved with Inclusive Communities for several years, and this year I will assume the role as chairperson of their volunteer board. The focus of the organization is diversity, social justice, and inclusion.

## What is your favorite local restaurant? - Mantra in Benson.

## If our readers would like to contact you, how should they do

so? - Email: [rkellogg@centrisfcu.org](mailto:rkellogg@centrisfcu.org); Website: [www.centrisfcu.org](http://www.centrisfcu.org).

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