

Pine Ridge – Erin Plummer

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**Erin:** My name is Erin Plummer and I currently live in Naples, Maine with my family. I've been raising my two boys there, my husband and I. I've lived in Maine since I was four, so I consider myself a Mainer. I currently am the Marketing/Communications Director at [Hancock Lumber Company](#), and I've been in the business I guess for 12 ½ years.

And I have known Kevin since 1995, when he was my seventh-grade girl's middle school basketball coach. So I had the privilege of having him as my 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball coach.

**Interviewer:** Very cool. Can you tell me a little bit about your experience out here, this is your first time in the area? What has the area meant to you, and what has it meant to you from the perspective of reading and hearing about it from Kevin over the years, and then finally getting to experience it yourself?

**Erin:** So being out in South Dakota with Kevin has been more powerful than I could ever imagine. Honestly, it's a little bit breathtaking, and I feel speechless even trying to put into words what this experience has meant. I think having been so connected to Kevin's journey when he was going through his experience, seeing his pictures, getting snippets of the journal, and then that evolving into writing a book, and then really just seeing how much of an experience and how moving that was for him personally. Being out here directly has just taken it to an entirely different level and I am just so appreciative to be here learning, growing, having time and space as just an individual. I think that's really important in life, and that's what Kevin has been writing about, is how important it is to honor yourself, listen to yourself, to really take time to dig and figure out who you are and what you want to bring to the world. And like Kevin

says, find your own [Pine Ridge](#) and your own experience. But it's really been a blessing, it's been a pleasure, it's just a once in a lifetime.

**Interviewer:** Beautiful. You've worked alongside Kevin for quite a while now, how have you seen the transformation, based off of Kevin's experiences here, in the workplace? And what are some of the values that Kevin has brought back to the workplace from this area that you feel have made the biggest impact there?

**Erin:** Kevin Hancock is a true leader in every sense of the word, and he's been a mentor and a leader I think his entire life for people, so that hasn't changed. But the way in which he's lead and the way in which he has set an example, I think has been the most important transformation for our business. And for people to feel comfortable in their own self and contributing, and that every single employee in our 530-person company is important, is there for a reason, has something to contribute, has a voice. When you think about the momentum and the power in that, for our organization, it's been completely transformational. He has set a new way of thinking about leadership, and we're so lucky, honestly, to be able to have that right at home in Maine with our Hancock Lumber family.