

**Mark Ricks**

Mr. Ricks owns Double Wood Farm, an equestrian sanctuary for retired show horses, in Bluemont, Virginia. From 2005-2017, Ricks was director of global protective operations at Mars Inc. in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Ricks is a 1989 graduate of Appalachian State University, who holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the university's College of Arts and Sciences. "Appalachian State University means the world to me, and I'm so pleased to be able to accelerate the progress of App State Athletics," Ricks said on the occasion of his most recent gift of \$10 million.

**Casey Cooper**

Mr. Casey Cooper is the chief executive officer of Cherokee Indian Hospital (CIH) in Cherokee, NC. The CIH serves approximately 14,000 members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI).

As an enrolled member of the EBCI, Cooper has been involved in American Indian health care for 25 years. He has served the EBCI and its community since 1993 as a primary care nurse, community health nurse, nurse educator, and nursing manager. As the health director of the EBCI from 1999 to 2004, he helped shape public health policy with a focus on chronic disease prevention and led a community wide initiative to assume the management responsibilities of the CIH from the Indian Health Services through an Indian Self-Determination Agreement.

Cooper is a graduate of Gardner-Webb University, holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Cooper is a current member of the Western North Carolina Health Network, the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Health Committee, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) Tribal Technical Advisory Group, NC Medical Care Advisory Committee, Indian Health Service Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board, Mountain Area Health Education Center Board of Directors, and the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board.

At WCU, Cooper currently serves on the Board of Visitors and recently served on the WCU Chancellor Search Committee.