



Special thanks to Farmers/Foremost Insurance for hosting and sponsoring this evening's event!



Business Leaders Linked to Encourage New Directions

Mission

To foster an environment of growth and belonging, where young professionals of color can connect with each other, develop professionally, and contribute to the local community.

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presents

a Professional Development event
hosted and sponsored by



A Life in Development

Birgit Klohs, President & CEO

The Right Place, Inc.

Tuesday

November 16, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Farmers/Foremost Insurance

5600 Beech Tree Lane

Caledonia, MI 49316

BL²END | Business Leaders Linked to Encourage New Directions

P.O. Box 3505 | Grand Rapids, Michigan | 49501

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Mix...Mingle...BL²END

Birgit Klohs



Birgit Klohs is President & CEO of The Right Place, Inc., a position she has held since 1987. The Right Place, Inc. is the regional economic development organization for the retention, expansion and attraction of businesses to the West Michigan Area. Ms. Klohs, a native of Germany, came to The Right Place, Inc. from Grand Valley State University (GVSU), where she served as Assistant Director of the Office for Economic Expansion. Prior to her association with GVSU, Ms. Klohs was affiliated with Prince Corporation in Holland, Michigan. Her economic development career began in 1977 as an Industrial Consultant with the Economic Development Corporation of Berrien County, Michigan. Following her experience in Berrien County, she joined the Michigan Department of Commerce as an Account Executive for the West Michigan region.

Klohs is a graduate of Western Michigan University, where she earned her B.A. degree in Corporate Finance. She is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute of the University of Oklahoma; and completed the professional economic development finance program through the National Development Council. She also attended Harvard University's program on negotiation. Ms. Klohs is a frequent speaker at national and international economic development conferences and seminars. She has lectured in France, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, China, Australia and Israel.

Birgit is involved in numerous local and state-wide activities. Ms. Klohs enjoys cooking, gardening, reading and travel.

Birgit's Recommended Reading List

- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- *Can't Wait to Get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg
- *Game Change* by John Heilemann & Mark Halperin
- *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
- *The Post-American World* by Fareed Zakaria

Program

6:00 - 6:40 p.m.

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Networking and Refreshments

6:45 p.m.

Welcome

Janean Couch

President, BL²END Board of Directors

Mike Bigelow

Vice President of Business Integration, Farmers/Foremost Insurance

Introduction of Event

Maxine Gray

Professional Development Chair, BL²END Board of Directors

Introduction of Speaker

George Bosnjak

Business Development Manager, The Right Place, Inc.

7:00 p.m.

Dialogue

A Life in Development

Birgit Klohs

President & CEO, The Right Place, Inc.

7:50 p.m.

Closing remarks

Maxine Gray

Professional Development Chair, BL²END Board of Directors