



Special thanks to Varnum 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.

BL²END Board Members

Alicia Adell

Janean Brown

Ronnie Frelix, Jr.

Maxine Gray

Marnique Harris

Cynthia Offutt

Brian Parks

Celeste Sanchez

BL²END Advisory Council Members

Floriza Genautis, Management Business Solutions

Joe Jones, E.E. Milestone + Associates, Inc.

David Luna, Saint Mary's Health Care

Susan Morales-Barias, Grand Valley State University

Tanja Oquendo, Spectrum Health

Monday

August 23, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Varnum

Bridgewater Place

333 Bridge Street NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Kimberly Coffman



Kimberly Coffman leads Herman Miller's award-winning Supplier Diversity initiative, which is designed to include the best U.S. suppliers to enhance the supply chain and support corporate and customer diversity goals. She has received recognition for her supplier diversity efforts including being named one of the 100 Women Impacting Supplier Diversity by *Women's Enterprise* magazine; one of the Champions of Diversity by *DiversityPlus* magazine; and the 2009 Outstanding Advocate for Minority-Owned Business by Holland Chamber of Commerce's Business Connections Committee.

Coffman holds a Master of Management degree from Aquinas College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Telecommunication from Michigan State University. She is an active member of the Council of Supplier Diversity Professionals, a corporate member of the Women's Business Enterprise Council – Great Lakes and the National Minority Supplier Development Council. Coffman serves on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council and is a member of the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau's Multicultural Advisory Council.

Recommended reading list: Leadership is an Art by Max De Pree; Leadership Jazz by Max De Pree; Doing What Matters by James M. Kilts; The Rise of the Creative Class by Richard Florida; The Eagle's Secret - Success Strategies for Thriving at Work & in Life, by David McNally; Girl, Get Your Money Straight! by Glinda Bridgforth; Empowering Yourself, The Organizational Game Revealed by Harvey J Coleman.

Valencia Cooper



Valencia Cooper currently serves as Executive Business Consultant, for the Michigan Minority Business Enterprise Center (MMBEC). She enjoys working with the minority business community to identify new customers & markets and grow their local economic footprint. As a consultant, she is able to work one-on-one with clients to advise on financing, public and private contracting and strengthening internal processes. Prior to joining MMBEC, Valencia was the Director, Regional Operations, West Michigan for the Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council. Her responsibilities included assisting local corporations in developing Supplier Diversity programs; identifying certified Minority Business Enterprises; developing local networking activities and business forums; and supporting development for certified minority businesses.

Cooper earned an MBA from Wright State University and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication at Central State University in Ohio. She has also been involved with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, 100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland, National Council of Negro Women, Heart of West Michigan United Way and is a life member of the CSU General Alumni Association.

Recommended reading list: Personal reflection: No More Mondays, by Dan Miller; Professional growth: The World is Flat, by Thomas L. Friedman; History: Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, by Frederick Douglass; Entertainment: (any book) by Carl Hiaasen.

Program

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres

Mix...Mingle...BL²END

6:50 p.m.

Welcome

Janean Brown

Board President, BL²END

Carroll Velie

Human Resources Director, Varnum

Introduction of Event

Maxine Gray

Professional Development Chair, BL²END

Introduction of Speakers

Floriza Genautis

Advisory Council Member, BL²END

7:00 p.m.

Dialogue

"Leadership through Service"

Kimberly Coffman

Manager, Supplier Diversity, Herman Miller, Inc.

Valencia Cooper

Executive Business Consultant, Michigan Minority Business Enterprise Center

7:50 p.m.

Closing remarks

Maxine Gray

Professional Development Chair, BL²END