

## **Fawzea Abusalah**

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Fawzea Abusalah is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan, where she was vice president of student government and treasurer of the Arab Student Union as well as a member of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee and the ACLU.

Abusalah is currently a legal assistant at Ayad & Associates in Dearborn.

## **Lu Battaglieri**

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Lu Battaglieri has been president of the 157,000-member Michigan Education Association since 1999. Prior to his election, he was president of MEA/NEA Local 1, which represents school employees in Wayne and Macomb counties. He also served as a member of the MEA and the NEA boards of directors and as regional director for the National Council of Urban Education Associations.

Battaglieri taught social studies, math, and computer classes as well as classes for at-risk students in the Fraser public schools from 1974 to 1992. During that time he served as his association's building rep, grievance chairperson, vice president, and president. He was named WDIV Teacher of the Year in 1989.

Battaglieri holds an undergraduate and master's degree from Michigan State University.

## **Richard E. Blouse Jr.**

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Richard E. Blouse Jr. joined the Detroit Regional Chamber as president and CEO in 1994. With over 20,000 members, the Detroit Regional Chamber is largest chamber of commerce in the United States. Prior to joining the Chamber, he was president and CEO of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce in Greenville, S.C.

Blouse was previously owner and president of the R. E. Blouse Group of Lancaster, Pa., an independent consultant serving the nonprofit, education, and small business markets in organizational consulting, training, planning, and group problem solving. He was also a partner in Greenfield Associates Ltd., of Lancaster, a managerial consulting firm providing market and strategic planning, management assessment, organizational assessment, and human resource development in the eastern United States. In his early years, Blouse taught chemistry and science for five years and was co-owner of a camera shop in Hanover, Pa.

Blouse serves on the boards of numerous civic organizations, including: the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (chair, 1999–2000); the Arab-American and Chaldean Council Advisory Board; Civic Executives (City of Detroit); Greater Detroit and Windsor Japan-America Society; Greater Detroit Area Health Council; Michigan Chamber of Commerce Executives (president, 2002–2003); The Nature Conservancy—Michigan Chapter; the Southeast Michigan Consortium for Water Quality Task Force; and Wayne State University’s Research & Technology Park Board. He received the Community Leadership Award from the Arab-American Chaldean Council in 2002.

Special assignments include participation on the Detroit/Metro-Wayne County Airport Authority Commission (1996–2002); Mayor’s Economic Development Transition Team City of Detroit (2001); Sustainable Renaissance Committee for the City of Detroit (1997); the Casino Advisory Committee of the City of Detroit (1996–97); Cultural Affairs Advisory Committee (City of Detroit); Michigan Information Technology Commission; University of Detroit Mercy’s Commission on the Future; and Wayne County Airport Commission

Blouse holds a BS in education and a MED in physical science from Millersville University. He is a Certified Chamber Executive.

## **Elizabeth Bunn**

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Elizabeth Bunn was elected secretary-treasurer of the UAW at the UAW's 33d Constitutional Convention held in June 2002, the highest post held by a woman in UAW history. As secretary-treasurer, Bunn is the chief financial officer of the UAW.

At the bargaining table, Bunn has been a leader of negotiating teams that have achieved many collective bargaining breakthroughs. Highlights include innovative programs for families including child and elder care referral services, parental leaves for school events, and the creation of sick banks which allow workers to share leave time with other workers facing family emergencies; improved pay equity protections for state workers in Michigan; and joint training and health and safety programs modeled on the UAW's Big 3 contracts for public sector workers. She has also been an outspoken advocate for service workers on a broad range of public policy issues.

Bunn holds a BA from the University of Michigan and a JD from the Wayne State University Law School.

## **Sandy Caul**

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Serving in her third term, Sandy Caul was first elected to the House of Representatives in November 1998. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, she currently serves as chair of the higher education subcommittee and the state police and military affairs subcommittee. Caul also serves on the community health and capital outlay subcommittees.

Caul was active in the Isabella County Republicans for 25 years. She was first elected to public office in 1989 as an Isabella County commissioner and served as both the chairman and vice chairman during her tenure. A member of the Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, she also served on its legislative committee.

During her first legislative term, Caul was appointed assistant whip for the Republican Caucus, and to the fifth annual Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership and Development. She also was a member of the governor's Long Term Health Care for Senior Citizens work group.

## **John D. Cherry Jr.**

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The legislative career of John D. Cherry Jr. spans more than 20 years before his election to the post of lieutenant governor in 2002. He has served as Senate Democratic leader since 1995. Prior to that, he served as Senate Democratic floor leader from 1990 to 1995. He was first elected to the Michigan Senate in 1986, after serving two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Cherry's interest in politics began as a teenager. At the age of 18, he formed a political group for young people, sparked by the national turmoil of the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement. His political activism carried over into his work life, as he took a job as administrative assistant to former State Senator Gary Corbin. He later served as the Michigan political director for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, until his election to the Michigan House.

As a legislator, Cherry has focused on such issues as families, quality of life in Michigan, and the environment. He has authored and co-sponsored several Michigan laws dealing with workers' rights, environmental protection, and conservation. He has received many awards and honors during his career, including recognition from *The Detroit News* as one of Michigan's Most Effective Legislators.

Cherry holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration, both from the University of Michigan.

# Irma Clark-Coleman

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Irma Clark-Coleman was elected to the Michigan Senate in 2002. One of the first African-American women to hold a management position at the Wayne County Road Commission, Clark-Coleman began working there in 1967. For seven of her thirty-one years of employment at the county, she simultaneously served on the Detroit Board of Education, where she was president for three years. In 1998, she retired from the county, leaving the position of director of human relations. Her retirement also marked the end of her tenure as president of the Detroit Board of Education.

That same year, Clark-Coleman was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives, District 11. She served two terms. While in the state House, she sponsored legislation to limit classroom size for kindergarten through third-grade students. She also sponsored legislation to ease the requirements for grandparents who adopt or become foster parents to grandchildren of whom they have custody.

In 2002, Clark-Coleman was elected to the Michigan Senate, where she is now in the second year of her first term. She sits on the Banking and Financial Institutions, Education, Families and Human Services, and Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs committees. She has sponsored legislation to implement higher standards for pupil promotion and to allow students in theology, divinity, or religious programs to receive grant funds.

Clark-Coleman is a former member of the boards of directors of the National School Board Association, Michigan Association of School Boards, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators. Her civic and political affiliations include: life member, NAACP, God Land Unity Church, Trade Union Leadership Council, 14th Congressional District Precinct Delegate, United Way, Detroit Goodfellows Drive (co-chair), and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Clark-Coleman has received several awards for her dedication to the City of Detroit and its children. She has also been recognized for her influence in the business community. Her honors include: the Michigan Girl Scouts "Tomorrow Power" award, Mana de Michigan's Adelita (sister) award, the American Business Women's Association award, the Women of Wayne State University Alumni Association "1997 Headliner" award, and the Women Informal Network "1997 List of 150 Most Influential Black Women in Metro Detroit" award.

She earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Wayne State University in Detroit.

## **Brian Cloyd**

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Brian Cloyd is director of Corporate and Community Relations for Steelcase North America, a division of Steelcase Inc., headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Named director in 2002, Cloyd is responsible for all community and corporate relations at the local, state, and federal levels. Previously, as Director, North America Human Resources, he was responsible for all human resources practices and process for Steelcase North America locations.

He joined Steelcase in 1978 as an employment representative. Since then he has held various positions in employment and human resources including employment supervisor; employee relations manager; manager, Human Resources, Planning, and Assessment; director, Human Resources, Stow Davis Furniture; director, Human Resources, Steelcase Design Partnership; and director, Diversity and Staffing Services. Before joining Steelcase, Cloyd worked for the City of Grand Rapids as a supervisor. His primary objective was job training for economically disadvantaged people.

Cloyd holds a bachelor's degree in history and a master of arts in public administration from the University of Detroit.

Cloyd serves on the boards of directors for the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, the Economic Club of Grand Rapids, the Student Advancement Foundation, the Workforce Development Organization, and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Chamber's Diversity Council and the Regional Issues committee, and the City of Grand Rapids Pension Board. In addition, he is co-chair of the Education Reform Initiative and belongs to the West Michigan Center for the Arts & Technology.

# Mary Sue Coleman

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Mary Sue Coleman is president of the University of Michigan. As a biochemist, Coleman built a distinguished research career through her research on the immune system and malignancies. She authored numerous articles on her findings and directed funded research projects supported by various federal agencies.

She served for nineteen years as a member of the biochemistry faculty at the University of Kentucky. Her work in the sciences led her to administrative appointments at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of New Mexico, where she served as provost. From 1995 to 2002, Coleman was president of the University of Iowa.

Coleman also holds appointments as professor of biological chemistry in the University of Michigan Medical School and professor of chemistry in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1997, she is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She recently co-chaired a major policy study of the Institute of Medicine, examining the consequences of uninsurance.

Coleman earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Grinnell College, where she currently serves as a trustee of the college, and her doctorate in biochemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## Paula D. Cunningham

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Paula D. Cunningham was appointed president of Lansing Community College in 2000. Prior to becoming president she served the college as vice president of the Planning and College Relations Division; executive director of marketing, community, and board relations; director of professional development; assistant personnel director; and a faculty member in the Careers Division.

Throughout her career, Cunningham has been actively involved with various community organizations. She was appointed by Governor John Engler to the Council on Technical Excellence and by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Michigan Education Trust Board of Directors. She currently serves on the boards of directors of the Economic Development Corporation, MBI Corporation, MI Works Career Connection, Capitol National Bank and Ingham Regional Medical Center. She is also a member of the Tax Increment Finance Authority, Capitol Area United Way, Rotary Club of Lansing, Michigan Workforce Policy Reinvention Project, and United Negro College Fund.

Cunningham's dedication to education and community has been recognized by several organizations. Among her most recent honors are the Excellence in Education Award from SBC Ameritech (2003), the Vocational Excellence Award from the Rotary Club of East Lansing (2002), and the Honorary Achiever of the Year Award from the YMCA (2000). In 1999, the *Lansing State Journal* voted her one of Lansing's Outstanding Women. She has also been awarded the Master Teacher Award by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development.

Cunningham holds a BS in journalism and a MS in labor/industrial relations from Michigan State University.

## **Dan L. DeGrow**

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Dan L. Degrow is currently superintendent of the St. Clair County Intermediate School District, following more than 20 years serving in the Michigan Legislature. He began his political career as state representative in the 76th House District in 1981 and was state senator to the 27th District from 1983 to 2002. During that time he served as senate majority floor leader and subsequently senate majority leader from 1999 to 2002. He joined the St. Clair County ISD in 2003.

DeGrow holds an associate's degree from St. Clair County Community College, a BA from Michigan State University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a juris doctor degree from Wayne State University. Before entering politics, he was a practicing attorney and partner for several years.

## Steven K. Hamp

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Steven K. Hamp is president of The Henry Ford. Since he began his career at the museum in 1978, he has served in a variety of leadership roles, including director of educational programs, director of programming, chairman of collections, and chief curator of archival and library collections. He has been involved in the development and implementation of every aspect of the institution's educational program and business agenda, including conceptualizing, planning, coordinating, and implementing many of the museum's major exhibitions, presentations, and visitor amenities and launching of the Henry Ford Academy, a public high school.

Hamp holds a BA in American history from Butler University, an MA in folklore/folklife from Indiana University and a master of museum practice degree from the University of Michigan, and has completed additional graduate work in the Program in American Culture at the University of Michigan. He has lectured and published widely on issues relating to education and the public role of the cultural community.

Committed to community service, he serves on numerous boards and chairs the Michigan Travel Commission, the Cultural Tourism Task Force, and the Board, Henry Ford Academy, among others.

In 1999, Hamp was recognized as Michiganiaan of the Year by the *Detroit News* and in 2000 was honored as the first recipient of the Helen and William Milliken Distinguished Service Award by the Michigan Environmental Council. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Michigan and the Civic Leader Award from the Governor's Art Awards in 2002.

## David Hecker

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David Hecker is president of the Michigan Federation of Teachers & School Related Personnel (MFT&SRP-AFL-CIO), a statewide union of 93 locals and 35,000 members representing K–12 and intermediate school districts, community colleges, universities, and state and municipal governments. Prior to being elected president, Hecker served as secretary-treasurer of the state federation.

He also serves as executive vice president of the Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO, and chair of the Labor Council's Strategic Solidarity Committee.

Hecker works on education issues on a daily basis. He serves on the American Federation of Teachers Pre K–12 Program and Policy Council, is an active member of Michigan's Education Alliance, and works with affiliated locals on the school district level.

Hecker serves on the boards of the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders and the Jewish Community Council; the Board of Visitors for the Wayne State University College of Urban, Labor, and Metropolitan Affairs; and the National Board of the Jewish Labor Committee. He is an officer of the Michigan Democratic Party and past president of the Metro Detroit chapter of the Industrial Relations Research Institute. He received the 2002 "Champion of Hope" award from the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

Hecker has a PhD in industrial relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has served as an adjunct professor of labor studies at Wayne State University.

## **Lawrence Hidalgo Jr.**

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Lawrence Hidalgo Jr. is a graduate of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) apprenticeship program. As a journeyman inside wireman, he has instructed apprentices on the job and has taught labor studies and electrical classes at Lansing Community College. In addition, he has been the training director for the Lansing Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee since 1990, helping apprentices become journeyman inside wiremen.

Hidalgo received his BA from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in social studies education and his JD from Thomas Cooley Law School.

## David C. Hollister

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David C. Hollister was appointed as a Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services director in January 2003 by Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm.

Hollister has dedicated his entire life to public service. He began his career as a high school teacher in the 1960s after graduating with honors from Michigan State University. His political career began during his tenure as a teacher in the Lansing Public Schools, when he was elected in 1968 as a Democratic Ingham County Commissioner, serving through 1974.

In 1974, David Hollister launched a successful campaign for the Michigan House of Representatives, where he served until 1993. As a Democratic State Representative, Hollister quickly became recognized as one of the top ten legislators, serving on the powerful Appropriations Committee for 16 years and chairing the Appropriations Subcommittee on Social Services for over a decade. He also served on the Mental Health, Public Health, and Education Appropriations subcommittees. Hollister authored over twenty public acts (laws) in his career and played a key role in developing most major social, mental health, public health, and open government policy while in the legislature.

In 1993, Hollister ran a successful campaign for mayor of the City of Lansing and was re-elected to his third term in November 2001. As mayor, Hollister created a vision that Lansing become a “World-Class City.” To achieve this goal, he developed a three-part strategy of economic development, neighborhood improvement, and infrastructure investment.

Hollister earned both his BA and MA from Michigan State University.

# Wayne Kuipers

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Wayne Kuipers was elected to the Michigan Senate in 2002 after serving two terms in the House of Representatives. He represents the 30th District, which encompasses Ottawa County and the City of Grandville and Sparta Township in Kent County.

Kuipers chairs the Senate Education Committee, bringing a wealth of experience to that position after serving as chair of the House Education Committee for two years. He also serves as vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor and the Senate Transportation Committee.

While in the House of Representatives, Kuipers was appointed to chair the House Republican Task Force on Government Waste and the select committee on Strategies to Reduce Teen Pregnancy and was a member of the Michigan Virtual High School Advisory Council—all in addition to his standing committee assignments. He currently serves as a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council's Education Task Force, a committee made up of legislators from across the county who are devoted to promoting excellence in education.

A lifelong resident of the Holland area, Kuipers worked at Hollandia Gardens Inc. since 1983, serving as a project manager, general manager, and vice president. He currently serves as a management consultant for Bosch's Landscape and Lawn Specialties, Inc.

Kuipers is an active member of the Holland Area Chamber of Commerce and has served on its board of directors and on the Leadership Holland Executive Committee. He was also on the board of directors for the Holland Home Builders Association, as well as chair of its Legislative Committee.

Kuipers is an honorary Rotarian and a past member of the Holland Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. He is actively involved in educational service programs including Kids in Career Kaleidoscope, a mentorship program for local youths; Lakeshore Link, a job shadowing series; and the Holland Special Education Ministries. He also served as director of Kids Hope, a program in which he still participates that matches volunteer tutors from community churches with disadvantaged youths from area schools.

He earned his BA in special education from Calvin College in 1983 and a master's degree in management from Aquinas College in 1995.

## **Mary A. Lannoye**

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Mary A. Lannoye is director of the Office of the State Budget for the State of Michigan, a position she also held from 1998 to 2001. Lannoye returned to her job as director in 2003 after serving, between 2001 and 2002, as principal, Health Management Associates, Inc., a private consulting firm that advised and assisted clients in public sector finances, governmental relations, financial viability studies, cost containment ideas, and strategies to maximize reimbursement.

Lannoye also served the state as deputy director, Budget and Financial Management (1995–98) and chief, Bureau of Finance and Administrative Services (1991–95). Her career in public service also included serving as budget director of Wayne County (1987–91), deputy controller for Ingham County (1983–87), and administrator, Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney (1982–83).

Lannoye received her BA and a master of public administration from Michigan State University.

## Jack Litzenberg

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Jack Litzenberg is program director and senior program officer at the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, located in Flint, Michigan. He is responsible for program development and grantmaking activities for the foundation's workforce development and micro-enterprise portfolios. He also mentors other program staff on the Poverty Team on grantmaking and portfolio management. In addition, he serves as underwriter for program-related investments for the foundation.

Litzenberg has worked with others to design evaluations to assess enterprise development grant portfolios and suggested ways to improve performance, and disseminate findings to the field. The micro-enterprise portfolio has been discussed before congressional committees, featured in several publications (including *Newsweek*). He has been instrumental in funding several national micro-enterprise demonstrations, as well as participating in the design of and funding the support infrastructure for the field.

Litzenberg was one of the early strategists on sectoral employment development, a workforce development program aimed at connecting low-income people to the regional labor market through a career development approach. He manages three national demonstrations on the strategy.

In 1994, Litzenberg received the Council of Foundations' Robert W. Scrivner Award for innovation and creativity in grantmaking, the highest award bestowed by the council on a grantmaker.

## **Albert L. Lorenzo**

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Albert L. Lorenzo is president of Macomb Community College. Serving since 1979, he is the longest serving community college president in Michigan. After beginning his career in public accounting, Lorenzo turned his interests to higher education. He joined Macomb's staff as an assistant professor and later served as the college's business manager, controller, and vice president for business.

Lorenzo holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, a master's degree in business administration, and a doctorate in administration from the University of Detroit.

Lorenzo has served on several corporate boards and policy commissions. He was invited to be part of five state and national advisory groups, Governor Engler's Workforce Commission, and the Board of Michigan Economic Development Commission. He was also appointed by Governor Granholm to be a member of her Council of Economic Advisors.

Lorenzo has taught accounting, management, and educational administration and has lectured at more than a dozen universities around the country. His pragmatic approaches to leadership, planning, and organizational development have been the focus of a number of publications and national speaking engagements. He has contributed to nearly three-dozen books and monographs, has served on two editorial boards, and is a member of the World Future Society.

National recognition of his achievements includes ten major leadership awards and two honorary doctoral degrees. He received the national "Tom Peters Leadership Award and the March of Dimes "Citizen of the Year" award, and was named "President of the Year" by three national associations.

## **Paul Massaron**

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Paul Massaron owns a consulting firm in Southfield, Mich., that specializes in the areas of community development, governmental affairs, and labor education. In 1999 he retired from the International Union, UAW, where he was executive administrative assistant to the president of the UAW, after a career spanning 31 years devoted to labor relations, negotiating contracts, arbitration, grievance handling, labor education, and political action.

Massaron is a member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors elected statewide in 2000, serving a second term as chair of the board. Among many community activities, he is chair of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Building Sustainable Communities at University of Detroit Mercy and a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute for Local Government at the University of Michigan, Dearborn Campus.

He will be teaching as an adjunct instructor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture in the fall.

## **Mark A. Murray**

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Mark A. Murray became president of Grand Valley State University in 2001, following a two-decade career in state government and education. He is the third president in the history of Grand Valley, which was founded in 1960. The university operates campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Holland and continuing education centers in Muskegon and Traverse City.

During his years in state government, Murray held a variety of posts. He was state treasurer, state budget director, director of the department of management and budget, and acting director of the Family Independence Agency. As special policy advisor to the governor, Murray was responsible for a variety of initiatives aimed at K–12 public school reform. He directed the state’s Merit Scholarship Award program. He served as a member of the Board of Education for the City of Detroit, the state’s largest public school district. Murray also served as vice president for finance and administration at Michigan State University.

Murray holds a bachelor’s degree in economics and a master’s degree in labor and industrial relations, both from Michigan State University.

## **Robert H. Naftaly**

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Robert H. Naftaly has served as chair of the State Tax Commission since May 9, 2003. He is the retired president and CEO of PPOM, an independent operating subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM). Previously, he was senior vice president, chief financial officer, and treasurer for BCBSM.

Before joining BCBSM in 1998, Naftaly, a CPA, served as vice president and general auditor for Detroit Edison. He also served as director of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget from 1983 to 1987. Prior to serving the State of Michigan, he had been a managing partner and founder of Geller, Naftaly, Herbach & Shapero, a certified public accounting firm.

Naftaly is a member of the board of governors of Walsh College and former member of the board of governors of Wayne State University.

## **Juan R. Olivarez**

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Juan R. Olivarez, president of Grand Rapids Community College since 1999, is a native of Benavides, Tex., and grew up in Gary, Ind. He began his career in education in 1971 as a teacher with the Grand Rapids Public Schools.

His work for the Grand Rapids Public Schools spanned 20 years, during which time he also spent two years with the Detroit Public Schools. Olivarez has held positions as a teacher, school psychologist, supervisor of elementary special education, director of high incidence programs and services for special education, and executive director of research and development. In 1991 he became dean of institutional research at Grand Rapids Community College and was promoted to CEO of the Community Learning Enterprise in 1996.

Olivarez serves on the boards of many state, local, and national educational and civic organizations, including: the Connect Michigan Alliance, the Delta Strategy Advisory Board, the Economic Club of Grand Rapids, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, the Grand Rapids Community Foundation, the Michigan Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (appointed by governor), and the National Institute For Literacy (appointed by President George W. Bush).

Among numerous other awards, Olivarez has received the Community Empowerment Leadership Award, Faith in Humanity Award from the Hugh Michael Beahan Foundation, the Communicator of the Year Award from the Association of West Michigan Communication Professionals, the 1999 Distinguished Community Trustee Award from Leadership Grand Rapids, and Master Presenter Recognition from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development.

He received his PhD in family and child ecology from Michigan State University, an MA in education from Wayne State University, and his BA from Aquinas College.

# John W. Porter

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John W. Porter, former state superintendent of schools and president of Eastern Michigan University, opened many doors during his distinguished career in education. He was the first black professional hired by the state education department, starting out as a researcher and becoming the nation's first African American superintendent of schools. His many accomplishments include setting up the Guaranteed Student Loan Program for college students and the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), which is used to test students throughout the state.

Beginning in 1979, Porter was for ten years the president of Eastern Michigan University (EMU). In 1989 he was asked to help out Detroit Public Schools as temporary superintendent. Porter balanced its budget and came up with an improvement plan for the struggling district.

He returned to EMU in 1991 as president and CEO of Urban Education Alliance, Inc, from which he recently retired. Porter remains active in matters related to urban schools and in the school reform movement.

At EMU, the College of Education building, an urban education department professorship, an undergraduate scholarship, and a distinguished service award are all named in his honor. Porter holds ten honorary doctorates, and has been named both an Albion College Distinguished Alumnus and a member of Albion College's Athletic Hall of Fame. He served on the Albion College board of trustees for 15 years and is now an honorary trustee.

U.S. Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter all appointed Porter to commissions and councils addressing higher education, employment, and mental health. He has held leadership positions and served on the boards of numerous national organizations, including the Council of Chief State School Officers; the American Council of Education (Educational Credit Commission); the National Advisory Council on Social Security; the National Urban League; and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Porter's accomplishments and career have been recognized and honored by organizations as varied as the Michigan State Legislature, the Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated, and the Michigan Education Hall of Fame.

Porter, who received his undergraduate degree from Albion College, earned a master's degree in counseling and guidance and a doctorate in higher education administration from Michigan State University.

## Philip H. Power

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Philip H. Power is founder, owner, and chairman of the board of HomeTown Communications Network Inc. (HTN), a group of community newspapers throughout Michigan, around Cincinnati, Ohio, and in the upper Midwest. His company also publishes various local “yellow pages” telephone directories, specialty publications and shopping guides. The company is engaged in linking community newspapers, telephone directories, and the Internet into the HomeTown Communications Network. In September 2000, the company launched *The Livingston County Daily Press & Argus*, the first new daily newspaper started in Michigan in 45 years.

Power served as regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1998. As a regent, he led the effort to rewrite U of M rules governing the transfer of technology from university laboratories into the commercial world.

From 1983 to 1990, Power chaired the Michigan Job Training Coordinating Council. He was a member of Michigan Governor Blanchard’s cabinet Council on Human Investment and Commission on Jobs and Economic Development and served as a primary advisor to the governor on human investment and job training. Power is widely recognized for his innovative redirection of Michigan’s job training programs as well as for the development of an integrated human investment policy for the state. His work is featured in David Osborne’s book, *Reinventing Government*. In 2000, Governor Engler appointed him to the Executive Committee of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; he is now the vice chair of the MEDC and chair of the Finance Subcommittee.

In 1991, Power helped found the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, a not-for-profit organization that helps communities, states, employers and others achieve world-class workforce development systems. He currently serves as its chairman.

Power is a director of SenSyTech Technologies Inc., chair of the Michigan chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and president of the Power Foundation, and a member of the board of the University Musical Society, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Power graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Michigan. He received a Marshall Scholarship to study at Oxford University in England, where he received a MA in philosophy, politics, and economics.

He was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Public Service, by Eastern Michigan University in 2003 and received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from the U of M Alumni Association in 2000. In 1993, he received the Leshner Award, the highest honor in the suburban newspaper industry. His award-winning column appears regularly in his Michigan newspapers.

## **Glenda D. Price**

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Glenda D. Price is president of Marygrove College. Appointed July 1, 1998, she is the college's seventh president and the first African American to hold this position. Prior to coming to Marygrove, Price was provost, Spellman College, Atlanta, Ga., 1992–98; dean, School of Allied Health Professions, University of Connecticut, Storrs, 1986–92; and assistant dean, School of Allied Health Professions, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa., 1979–86.

Price holds a BS in medical technology, a MEd in educational media, and a PhD in educational psychology from Temple University. Active in community and professional organizations, she is currently on, among others, the board of directors of the Council of Independent Colleges, ArtServe Michigan, and New Detroit, and on the board of trustees of Alma College. From 1999 to 2002, she was a member of the Detroit Public Schools Reform Board.

Recognized for her many contributions to her community, in 2002, Price was named one of Detroit's 100 Most Influential Women by Crain's Detroit Business. Among her many other honors, she received a Phoenix Award from the Gabriel Richard Society in 2002 and a Living the Dream award from Ameritech in 2001, and was named one of 95 Most Powerful African-Americans by Corp! in 2002 and a Cultural Luminary by DTE in 2003.

## **Jay B. Rising**

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Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Jay B. Rising as State Treasurer, effective January 6, 2003. Rising oversees the collection, investment, and disbursement of all state monies. In addition, the Treasurer administers major tax laws, safeguards the credit of the state, and distributes revenue sharing monies to local units of government. Before accepting his appointment, Rising practiced law with Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC. Practice areas included public law, state and municipal finance, public securities, and development finance. Rising also served as deputy state treasurer for policy development and finance and as chief deputy state treasurer between 1983 and 1991.

Rising holds a law degree from Wayne State University. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

## **Gary D. Russi**

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Gary D. Russi has been president of Oakland University since 1996 and was interim president from 1995 to 1996. Prior to joining Oakland, he served Drake University in key leadership positions.

Russi has received numerous honors and awards for his many achievements, including the George Wibby Athletic Award from Oakland University (2002), Distinguished Alumni Award from Southwestern Oklahoma State University (1998), and Honorary Member of Golden Key National Honor Society at Oakland University (1993).

Russi currently chairs the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan and the board of directors, Rochester Hills Strategic Planning Process; and is chair and president of the Mid-Continent Athletics Conference Presidents Council. He is vice chair of the Automation Alley Executive Board and the Oakland County Business Roundtable. Russi also serves on the boards of directors of Michigan Virtual University and cyberstate.org and on the board of trustees of Crittenton Hospital.

Russi earned his BS in pharmacology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and his PhD in pharmacology and toxicology from University of Kansas.

## **Lou Anna Kimsey Simon**

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Lou Anna Kimsey Simon will serve as the 20th president of Michigan State University, effective January 1, 2005. She is currently provost and vice president for academic affairs at Michigan State University, a position to which she was appointed in 1993. Simon is one of only nine women to hold the position of chief academic officer among the 62 leading research institutions that compose the Association of American Universities (AAU). She also serves as provost of the Michigan State University-Detroit College of Law.

After earning her doctorate in administration and higher education at MSU in 1974, Simon became a member of the MSU faculty and assistant director of the Office of Institutional Research (now the Office of Planning and Budgets). From there she moved into a variety of administrative roles, including assistant provost for general academic administration and associate provost. Simon has taught graduate seminars in the College of Education on evaluation, planning, and budgeting. Her recent publications have focused on university-community collaboration.

Since 1999, Simon has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), an academic consortium of 12 major teaching and research universities in the Midwest including the 11 institutions that compose the Big Ten, along with the University of Chicago. She was elected chairperson of the CIC in 2000, a position she currently holds. She is also on the board of directors of the Council on International Educational Exchange and the American Council on Education Task Force on the Education of Teachers.

Simon holds a BA in mathematics and a MS in student personnel and counseling, both from Indiana State University.

## **Lee Sprague**

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Lee Sprague is a member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. He is a consultant at the University of California Berkeley on curriculum development.

Sprague graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in international indigenous law. He has worked with junior colleges and universities on retention and tutoring programs.

## **Shirley R. Stancato**

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Elected president and chief executive officer of New Detroit on January 13, 2003, Shirley R. Stancato is the first woman in the coalition's history to be elected to this position. Prior to her tenure with New Detroit, Stancato spent more than 30 years with Bank One, formerly known as NBD Bank. She began her banking career as a college student and rose through the ranks to senior vice president.

A lifelong Detroit resident, Stancato earned a BA in sociology from Wayne State University and an MA in industrial relations from WSU's College of Urban, Labor, and Metropolitan Affairs. She received the Wayne State University Organization of Black Alumni Award in 1998 and the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Association of Community Leadership in 1997. In 1998 Stancato was recognized as one of Crain's Detroit Business Top 100 Black Business Leaders, and in 2002, as one of Crain's 100 Most Influential Women. In 2003 she was named by Corp! Magazine as one of Michigan's Most Powerful African-American Women and by Crain's as a 2003 Regional Power Broker.

Stancato serves on the boards of the Detroit Zoological Society, Coleman A. Young Foundation, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Schools of the 21st Century, City Connect Detroit, The Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, and Detroit Black Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she is a member of the Board of Visitors Wayne State University College of Urban, Labor, and Metropolitan Affairs, Tourism Economic Development Council, Super Bowl XL Host Committee, University of Michigan Dearborn Advisory Board, and the St. John Health System. Stancato is the chair emeritus of Alternatives for Girls and past chair of the boards of the Detroit Urban League and Operation ABLE.

## **Dennis J. Stanek**

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Dennis J. Stanek, superintendent of the Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District, has served public school education for 36 years as a high school teacher, high school principal (Class D and Class A schools), assistant superintendent and superintendent (Class D school district and Intermediate School District). In addition to his public school duties, he has served as adjunct professor for graduate studies in educational administration for Northern Michigan University for the last seven years.

Stanek received a bachelor's degree in secondary education and a master's degree in secondary administration from Northern Michigan University, an educational specialist's degree from Michigan State University, and a doctorate of education from Western Michigan University.

Educational experiences outside K-12 and higher education include membership in several community organizations and a variety of presentations to local service clubs and state and national organizations.

## **Kathleen N. Straus**

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Kathleen N. Straus is president of the State Board of Education. First elected in November 1992, she is currently serving her third term as president.

Until her retirement in 1991, Straus was president of the Center for Creative Studies, a nationally recognized arts education institution in Detroit. Prior to that, she was director of government relations for the Michigan Association of School Boards and served as staff director of the Education Committee of the Michigan Senate. She was the executive director of PRO Detroit (People and Responsible Organizations for Detroit), a communitywide coalition of business, labor, civic groups, and schools established to assure that court-ordered desegregation would be implemented smoothly and peacefully. She also worked in the administration of Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh and for the Southeast Council of Governments.

An active community leader, Straus serves on several boards. She is a longtime member of the board of trustees of the Detroit Science Center. She is also on the board of directors of Art Serve Michigan and the National Conference of Community and Justice and is a past president of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit.

Straus formerly served as a board member of the Michigan Women's Studies Association. She is a former president of the League of Women Voters of Detroit and a member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters in Michigan.

Straus began her career as an economic analyst for the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington, D.C., and also worked as an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

She earned her BA in economics from Hunter College, New York, and was a member of Alpha Chi Alpha Social Science Honor Society. She has pursued graduate studies at several universities.

## Teri Takai

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Teri Takai, director of the Michigan Department of Information Technology, joined the administration of Gov. Jennifer Granholm in 2003 from EDS Corp., where she was managing director of the global supply chain.

Takai joined EDS in October 2000 after several years at Ford Motor Co., where, among other jobs, she was director of supply-chain systems for Ford Automotive Operations. While there, she also led the information-technology due diligence for Ford's acquisition of Volvo, Land Rover, and Daewoo.

Among her awards and honors, Takai was named one of the top 100 emerging business leaders in Southeast Michigan by *Detroit Magazine* and to the Crain's Detroit Business list of the 100 Most Influential Women. In addition, the Association for Women in Computing presented her with the "Top Michigan Women in Computing" award.

Takai serves on the Walsh College President's Advisory Council and the boards of directors of Junior Achievement, the Michigan Virtual University, and the Oakland University Meadowbrook Art Gallery.

Takai earned her BA in mathematics and master of management degree from the University of Michigan.

## **Gail F. Torreano**

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Gail Torreano is president of SBC Michigan. She is responsible for regulatory, legislative, and external affairs, as well as community and industry relations throughout the state of Michigan.

Torreano's experience before joining SBC (then Michigan Bell) in 1991 includes serving as associate director of the Michigan Special Olympics in Mount Pleasant and working for the then-Senate Majority Leader John Engler in Lansing. She was responsible for all operational functions of the statewide Special Olympics organization, including accounting, communications, development, and fundraising. In her work with Engler, Torreano served in many capacities, including chief of staff.

Torreano is chairman of the board for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and a board member of Detroit Renaissance. In addition to being corporate chair of the Metro Detroit READS program, she is a member of the board of trustees for New Detroit and Central Michigan University. She has been a member of the boards of directors for the Michigan Political Leadership Program, the Central Michigan Development Board, the State Board of Canvassers, and the State of Michigan Sesquicentennial Commission.

Torreano has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant.

## **Maria Vaz**

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Maria Vaz is associate provost and dean of graduate programs and professor of physics at Lawrence Technological University. Prior to becoming associate provost and dean in 1998, Vaz was chair of the Natural Sciences Department (Physics and Chemistry) (1992–94) and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1994–98).

As an associate provost Vaz is responsible for the assessment program of the university as well as the quality and consistency of the graduate programs offered. She works closely with the provost, deans of the colleges, and vice-presidents to accomplish the goals of the university.

Vaz is interested in science education and has received several grants from the Michigan Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Education, and private foundations to improve science education in the schools. In partnership with the Detroit Zoo and the Cranbrook Institute of Science, Lawrence Tech developed, under Vaz's direction, a unique and innovative master of science education program for middle school teachers.

A native of Portugal, Vaz has lived in the United States for the last 25 years. She received her undergraduate degree in physics from the University of Lisbon, Portugal, and her master's degree and PhD in physics from Kent State University.

# Tom Watkins

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Tom Watkins is Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction. He is a strong advocate for quality, public education for all young people. His diverse background includes leadership roles in the for-profit, nonprofit, and public sectors.

Watkins started his professional career with Youth Living Services, Inc. (now Starfish Human Services), where he established Counterpoint, a shelter that provided emergency housing for troubled youth and counseling for their families.

While serving as acting executive director of Wayne (mental health) Center (1980–81) and as a management consultant with Plante and Moran (1981–82), Watkins was elected to serve on the Wayne County Charter Commission. Members of that commission created the County Executive form of governance that exists today. In 1982, he served as deputy campaign manager in Governor Blanchard's first successful gubernatorial campaign.

In 1983, Governor Blanchard named Watkins as his deputy chief of staff. Soon thereafter, he was appointed deputy director of administration in Michigan's Department of Mental Health. He served as chief deputy director of that department from 1984 to 1986, and in 1987, he was appointed department director. Working with David Adamany as special assistant to the president for public school initiatives at Wayne State University (1991–96), Watkins played a key role in creating Michigan's first charter school.

From 1996 to 2001, Watkins served as president and CEO of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Florida, a coalition of 135 top CEOs dedicated to improving the quality of life for Palm Beach County residents and businesses. Concurrently, he served as executive director of the Education Partnership of Palm Beach County from 1996 to 1999.

Watkins received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University and a master's degree in social work administration from Wayne State University. Currently, he is completing requirements in the doctoral program in education administration at Wayne State University.

## Gretchen Whitmer

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State Representative Gretchen Whitmer was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2000. She is the Democratic vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee and serves on the House Fiscal Agency Governing Committee and the following appropriations subcommittees: community health, economic development, higher education, fiscal oversight, and capital outlay.

Prior to her election to the legislature, Whitmer was a corporate litigator in Lansing specializing in administrative and regulatory law. She practiced administrative law before the Ingham County Circuit Court and the Michigan Public Service Commission. Whitmer has also completed internships with the Office of Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III; Anna Diggs Taylor, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan; and the Michigan State AFL-CIO. Prior to attending law school, Whitmer also worked as a policy analyst for the House Democratic Policy Staff.

She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Ingham County Bar Association, the House Democratic Women's Leadership Caucus, and the Women's Economic Club.

Whitmer holds a BA in communications from Michigan State University and earned her law degree, *magna cum laude*, from the Detroit College of Law at MSU.

## **Leola Wilson**

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Leola Wilson is president of the Saginaw branch of the NAACP. A native of Saginaw, she is a member of the Saginaw Intermediate School District Board of Education as well as several other community organizations.

Wilson retired in 1998 after 24 years as a caseworker with the Family Independence Agency.