

**Richard E. Blouse Jr., CCE
President and CEO
Detroit Regional Chamber**



A combination of skill, leadership, vision and collaboration has carried Richard Blouse through his distinguished career in both the public and private sectors.

In his fifteen years as president and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber, he has transformed the organization into a regional, national and international force and the largest chamber of commerce in the United States. Blouse's vision of a united region has bridged the city/suburb divide and fostered a dynamic and cooperative regional policy that has resulted in the creation of the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership, Coalition for Regional Transit and One D: Transforming Regional Detroit.

He is also a leader in organizational turnaround. Since Blouse assumed leadership of the organization, the Detroit Regional Chamber has grown from 10,000 to over 20,000 members and risen from a deficit to a daily cash flow of \$8-million plus. While chair of American Chamber of Commerce Executives, a national professional organization also faced with budgetary problems, he recognized the need to stop the bleeding and it has since returned to not only profitability, but credibility as well under Blouse's internal restructuring plan.

His understanding of the importance of partnerships and diversity has set an example for chambers throughout the United States. Under his leadership, the Detroit Regional Chamber is now in partnership with nine diverse business organizations throughout the region working together as a common voice and as a means to help all businesses succeed through expanded services and opportunities.

His unyielding devotion to the importance of regional cooperation has led to the business and religious communities' effort to join forces on impacting Detroit Public School reform issues, among other public-policy efforts. Other collaborations have yielded millions in revenue for the Chamber and benefits for members.

He brings with him an intuitive sense of how to create unique organizations and high-performing teams, always on the cutting edge of strategic planning, goal setting and employee motivation programs. He believes in the importance of creating a work environment that recognizes the strength and talent of each individual and the contributions they bring to the organization. He understands that training and development are critical to the success of an organization. Additionally he promotes the business imperative of embracing diversity and employee wellness, leading to award-winning

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programs. He has been called upon to lead and facilitate strategic thinking processes for other nonprofits, as well as for-profit organizations and government and academic institutions.

As president and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber, as well as participation in other civic organizations, Blouse has a solid understanding of the Regional Detroit community and its key players.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1994 – Present Detroit Regional Chamber Detroit MI
The largest chamber of commerce in the United States with over 20,000 members, a \$16 million annual operating budget and a staff of close to 100.

President & CEO:

As the leader of the executive management team responsible for the overall operations of the Chamber including its vision of leading business growth and member success. Reports to a 68-member board of directors and supervises a chief operating officer, a chief financial officer, 2 executive vice presidents, 6 senior vice presidents and a staff of close to 100.

- Transformed the organization into the largest chamber of commerce in the United States.
- Created the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership and Coalition for Regional Transit.
- Established partnerships with nine diverse business organizations.
- Increased the Chamber’s financial stability, which includes a daily cash flow in excess of \$5.6 million.
- Created the Design Regional Detroit Initiative which evolved into the One D consisting of eight business and civic organizations involved in spearheading a visionary process.

PREVIOUS JOB HISTORY

1991 - 1994	Greenville Chamber of Commerce	President & CEO
1990 - 1991	R.E. Blouse Group	Owner & President
1988 - 1990	Greenfield Associates, Ltd.	President & COO
1979 - 1988	Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry	President & CEO
1977 - 1979	Pottstown Area Chamber of Commerce	President & CEO
1974 - 1977	Oil City Area Chamber of Commerce	Exec. Vice President
1972 - 1974	Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce	Exec. Vice President
1970 - 1972	Gettysburg High School	Chemistry Teacher
1967 - 1970	Southwestern High School	Science Teacher
1967 - 1972	Hanover Camera Shop	Co-Owner

CURRENT CIVIC BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

American Chamber of Commerce Executives Benefits Trust Committee (Term Expires 2012)
Center for Global Leadership and Understanding Global Advisory Board
Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Board
Governor's Council of Economic Advisor (Appt. Oct. 2003- Oct. 2011)
Greater Detroit and Windsor Japan-America Society
Greater Detroit Area Health Council Board (Past Chair)
Lt. Governor's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth
Michigan Economic Development Corporation Executive Committee (MEDC)
Michigan Future Inc. Board of Directors
Michigan Supply Chain Management Development Commission (June 2009 - Dec. 2010)
Oakland County Zoological Authority (Appt. 5/2008)
One D Founding Committee
Southeast Michigan Consortium for Water Quality Task Force
U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Transportation Infrastructure and Logistics Committee (2008-09)
Techtown Board of Directors
University of Michigan College of Engineering National Advisory Committee
Wayne County Economic Development Corporation
YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

1983	Certified Chamber of Commerce Executives Documentation
1985 & 98	American Chamber of Commerce Executive Chairman Professional Leadership Award
1998	Edward H. McNamara's Outstanding Community Leaders Award
2000	ACCE Chairman of the Board Recognition (October 1999-September 2000)
2001	Diversity Champion Award
2002	Arab American Chaldean Community Leadership Award
2004	Detroit Executive Association's Executive of the Year Award
2005	Sterling Heights Chamber of Commerce Spirit Award

- 2006 Marketing and Sales Executives of Detroit Executive Leadership Award
- 2006 Southeast Michigan Council of Government's Regional Ambassador Award
- 2009 International Institute Foundation's Heritage Hall Award

EDUCATION

- 1969 Millersville University, Master of Education Degree Millersville, PA
- 1967 Millersville University, Bachelor of Science Degree Millersville, PA

11/2/09