



DETROIT EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORPS

VOLUNTEER
CONSULTANTS
FOR NONPROFITS

BoardWalk: Built to bolster YOUR success

The Detroit Executive Service Corps takes great pride in collaborative relationships built to deliver effective programs to the nonprofit community. Four years ago, when the Detroit area lacked an effective Board training program, DESC brought together partners to restart the highly effective BoardWalk instructional series, "Developing Board Leaders Through Training."

Along with the Accounting Aid Society, the Center for Nonprofit Management at Lawrence Technological University and United Way for Southeastern Michigan, the fourth year of the BoardWalk series began in November.

These seven workshops are held on the campus of Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. Continental breakfast is provided. Classes are handicap

accessible and parking is free. Each workshop is available for \$35. A certificate is awarded for completion of all workshops.

BoardWalk workshops include Boardmanship Essentials, Financial Responsibilities of the Board, Making Your Strategic Plan Work, Fund Development for Board Members, Building Your Board, The Effective Board Team, and Leading Together: The Executive Director and Board Chair.

Volunteers present all trainings with expertise in nonprofit Board development. Brownrigg Companies sponsors part of the cost of the sessions, so participation is affordable. To learn more about this training, visit uwsem.org or call Pat McCann at 313-226-9416.



Planning grant targets financial competency goals

The standards and expectations for financial accountability practices for charitable nonprofit organizations are undergoing a time of dynamic and complex change.

Catalysts for these changes include the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, ongoing Congressional hearings, IRS review of Form 990, actions by state attorneys generals, watchdog groups like Better Business Bureau and a growing media interest.

Charitable nonprofit organizations in

southeast Michigan vary greatly in their awareness of such changes or they may struggle with how to respond. This is particularly the case for small- to medium-sized nonprofits, because they lack monetary resources or the organizational capacity to address them.

Moreover, with limited nonprofit management support available to provide education and training programs, they have no place to turn and run the risk of falling behind in adopting the financial practices they

must have in place to meet newly evolving standards.

In response to this perplexing situation, and after extensive discussions with key stakeholders in southeast Michigan, DESC secured a planning grant from Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan. This grant allows DESC to study the issues and develop a program to strengthen the financial competencies of nonprofit organizations.

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DESC Board has new leader, members

Myron Frasier has taken on the responsibility of Chairman of the DESC

New on the DESC Board of Directors

Teresa Sebastian
Assist. General Counsel
and Corporate Secretary
DTE Energy

Brian Glowiak
Vice President & Secretary
DaimlerChrysler Corp.Fund

Dr. Bahman Mirshab
Dean, College of Business
Administration
University of Detroit-Mercy

James Suhay
Retired Manager,
Ford Motor Company

William Reminder
President & COO
Extang Corp. of Ann Arbor

Board of Directors at a critical time in the life of the organization. There are big leadership shoes to be filled with the passing of longtime Chairman Bill Adams, followed by an unforeseen interruption of Harvey Tull's initial term.

The new chairman became interested in becoming a DESC volunteer in 1996, following his retirement from Ameritech, where he served as Director of Network Technical Training.

Frasier has a resume loaded with demonstrated leadership skills, including contributions to the community, especially in Southfield, home to his family for the past 20 years.

He has served since 1992 as both an appointed and a twice-elected member of the Southfield City Council. He's also served the Southfield Planning Commission.

Additionally, he's been active on the Board and various other aspects of the Michigan Cancer Foundation/Karmanos Cancer Institute for 20 years.

In 1999, he was awarded the United Way/Community Service Heart of Gold for outstanding volunteerism.

At DESC, Frasier has enjoyed working on strategic planning teams. Another favorite activity has been participation in the Corps' popular Leaders Circles.



Myron Frasier

The new chairman sees expanded funding efforts and getting the DESC story out to the community as two areas of immediate interest. (A speakers bureau is one possibility.)

Frasier and wife Ann celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in November. They have four adult children.

McGraw elected to national position

"The Future is Now" was the theme of the Executive Service Corps Affiliate Network (ESCAN) national conference held Oct. 27-29 in Cincinnati. This year's conference was attended by DESC President Deanna McGraw and Board members Suzanne Dibble and Gene Jacoby.

During the conference, McGraw was elected as ESCAN's Board Chair. ESCAN is a nationwide network of 34 nonprofit consulting groups.

Each ESC affiliate is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities they serve. They accomplish this by providing a variety of high-quality, affordable services to nonprofits, schools and government agencies.

ESCAN also works to strengthen each member's ability to provide services to clients, while maintaining an autonomous, community-driven focus.

ESCAN develops effective methods for sharing best management practices, establishes a national presence to increase name recognition, and promotes strategic partnerships with national nonprofits and government agencies.

On her election to the post, McGraw said, "I am honored to be selected as the Chair of our national organization. The work contributed by volunteers is vital to our communities. I believe a larger national presence will bring clients, volunteers and sup-



Deanna McGraw

port to DESC and other affiliates across the nation."

ESCAN Executive Director Tom Young noted, "Deanna has been a Board member for just over a year and has already brought leadership to the national effort. She has a vision for ESCAN that I support, and I look forward to working with her."

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MISSION

To enhance the effectiveness of nonprofits, governmental organizations and schools by transferring the knowledge, skills and expertise of retired and working executive volunteers.

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Reserve your space in DTE Leaders Circle series

The quality of leadership, more than any other factor, determines the success or failure of an organization. Informed, inspired and committed leaders who possess a shared vision build successful nonprofit organizations and communities.

As a partner in strengthening leadership in the nonprofit community, the DTE Energy Foundation has provided a two-year grant for DESC to implement the DTE Energy Foundation



Leaders Circles program. This program creates an environment where leaders meet, interact, collaborate and facilitate achievement.

DESC designed the DTE Energy Leaders Circles program to provide leaders of all levels with an interactive leadership training

experience. This program requires a six-month commitment to develop and hone leadership skills.

Nonprofit executive directors, supervisors, department heads, front-line staff, first-time as well as experienced supervisors, and any staff member who is in a leadership/management role will benefit from participation in a Circle.

The program combines leadership training to increase

knowledge with peer interactions that convert that knowledge to skill in daily operations.

The first of four Leader Circles series began in November; the start of the second series is planned for early spring 2006. Space is very limited, so early reservations are suggested.

To learn more, visit our web site or contact DESC President Deanna McGraw at 248-395-2840.

Thank You, Donors, for Your Investment!

The Detroit Executive Service Corps extends sincere appreciation to the following corporations, foundations and individual donors who have supported Corps initiatives this year. As a partner you have played an integral role in our ability to make a difference in the communities we serve.

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SEE: Exploring similarities, diminishing differences

Whether in the workplace or our own communities, we encounter a broad mix of individuals from diverse backgrounds, cultures and experiences. Understanding and embracing these differences is essential to building strong communities. A key to ensuring our region continues in this direction is our children – they are our future, not only as our workforce, but as our leaders.

Clientspeak

“The consultants from DESC are very professional and knowledgeable of nonprofit governance and management issues. They have helped us in a tremendous way to fine-tune our organization. We appreciate their help and look forward to continuing our work with them in the future.”

Mary C. Taylor, Executive Director
Learning Institute of Family Education (LIFE)

DESC’s latest educational outreach initiative – School Exchange Encounter (SEE) – addresses this very issue. The goal of the SEE program is to promote a greater understanding between students from diverse backgrounds through interaction, exploration and discussion.

SEE brings together students who spend two days discussing diversity, culture and other issues of interest. These encounters provide students with an opportunity to not only meet new peers, but to have frank discussions that lead to the realization that there are more similarities than differences between ethnic groups.

This fall, through the support of the Pepsi Bottling Group, DESC will be hosting another SEE between Detroit’s Farwell Middle School and Grosse Ile Middle School. DESC plans to expand this program as funding support becomes available.

To learn how you or your company can sponsor a School Exchange Encounter, call Lynne Nagy at 248-395-2840. Join us in helping to ensure that metro Detroit continues to develop viable communities!

Planning grant targets financial competency

continued from front

The Nonprofit Center at Lawrence Technological University and Accounting Aid Society have collaborated with DESC in the development of this program.

In September, DESC conducted seven focus groups to understand the needs of the stakeholders in the nonprofit community and how to improve the situation.

Fifty-five organizations participated and data is being organized to develop the program model.

We expect to submit the plan to the Community Foundation in early 2006 and seek funding for a three-year demonstration grant to implement the services.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON ...



Craig Orr has been involved with the Detroit Executive Service Corps for several years, the most recent two on the Board of Directors.

After receiving his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Missouri, Orr went on to receive his MBA in Finance from Southern Illinois University. In 2001, he received an additional Masters degree in Education, Adult Instruction and Performance Technology from the University of Michigan Dearborn.

Orr has spent the last 28 years with Ford Motor Company. After 17 years in Corporate Finance, he moved to Purchasing, where he finished out his tenure as the Purchasing

Manager for Body and Exterior Commodity Management. In this role he led a staff of 13 and was responsible for an annual budget that exceeded \$1 billion.

Orr retired from Ford Motor Co. on Nov. 1, 2005, and soon expanded his role with DESC by joining two additional task forces.

An active participant in DESC’s Round Table Dialogues, he has also served as a Financial Skills Mentor and has spent the last two years as a Leaders Circle Facilitator for Detroit principals in the New Visions for School Leaders Program.

In addition to work with the DESC, Orr has been



CRAIG ORR

involved in other nonprofit organizations, including the Ford African American Network, City of Detroit Youth, Leadership Detroit, and the National Black MBA Association.

An avid tennis player, DESC’s spotlight volunteer has three grown sons living on the East Coast. He and wife Connie currently reside in Novi.