

## BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

### LAURITA THOMAS

Laurita Thomas is the Associate Vice President for Human Resources at the University of Michigan. The University is a community of more than 5,300 outstanding faculty members, over 54,000 talented students and more than 22,000 committed staff members. She is responsible for recruitment, benefits administration, total compensation, academic, staff and union relations, organizational effectiveness, work/life services, employee assistance programs, records and information services, and affirmative action/diversity.

She gained a deep understanding of human resources at the University of Michigan as the former Administrator of Human Resources and Director of Allied Health Education in the U-M Health System, a complex enterprise with more than 13,000 staff and faculty members. In that capacity, she planned and directed the operations of Health System Human Resources, the Occupational Health Programs, the Program for Multicultural Health, the UMHC Child Care Center, and the Office of Allied Health Education.

Her professional human resources career spans roles in the financial industry, higher education and healthcare. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan in political science and economics. Her graduate work is in guidance and counseling and business administration. Among her many awards are the 2005 Laurita Thomas Diversity Champion Award, the Charles D. Moody Award for Highest Achievement of Diversity and Excellence, the Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council Women of Distinction Award, the University Distinguished Service Award, the University of Michigan Woman of the Year in Leadership, the Washtenaw County ETCSG Leadership Award and the Larry Warren Multicultural Health Achievement Award.

Recent presentations include "Establishing Strategy as a Leader" for the New Millennium Series and Women of Color Conference, "Measuring HR Value", Building a Successful Diversity Effort, Workforce Planning and Cultural Integration. She has published articles and book chapters, the most recent of which is *Inside the Minds, The Role of Human Resources*, Aspatore Books, 2005.

She is a leader in professional organizations including the University Health System Consortium (UHC) Human Resources Officers Council where she served as Chair, Medical Center Employee Relations Association President (MCERA), Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), the Human Resources Planning Society, American Society Healthcare Human Resources Administration (ASHHRA), and in the community through service organizations. She has held civic appointments on the Mayor's Commission on Increasing Safety for Women; the Executive Committee of the Washtenaw County Workforce Development Board; SOS Community Services Board Director Emeritus; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; President, Ann Arbor Chapter of the Links, Inc. and is the church school superintendent at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Ann Arbor, which was selected as the Michigan Conference Church School of the Year 2002-2003.

