

Panelists

Brian Balasia, Founder & President, Digerati:

Brian Balasia has devoted his career to helping businesses and communities achieve better outcomes through the implementation of process improvement methodology. As Founder and President of both Digerati and The MORE Program, he has developed initiatives that foster collaboration among diverse institutions including national organizations, regional foundations and local communities. Balasia's efforts have produced technologies and resources to help increase Michigan's intellectual capital and give its entrepreneurs, innovators and business owners the tools they need for success. Brian Balasia was selected as one of *Crain's Detroit Business 20 in their 20's* in 2008 and in 2010 he was named a *Marshall Memorial Fellow* as one of the emerging leaders in the United States.

Brian frequently works with international leaders, often hosting dignitaries on behalf of the US State Department and has spoken abroad for groups including the National Science Foundation's Middle East Conference on Women in Science and Engineering. He has held appointments on the University of Michigan Committee for Entrepreneurial Environments and Programs for Students (CEEPS), the Alumni Board of Governors at the University of Michigan and the United States Department of Labor's *WIRED Board for SE Michigan*. He also serves as a board member for the Detroit Regional Chamber and was recently appointed as a board member of the Michigan Council for Labor & Economic Growth. Balasia received a BSE in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Michigan.

Elliot Forsyth, Chief Operating Officer, Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC):

Elliot Forsyth is Chief Operating Officer of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Joining MEDC in May 2011, Forsyth will help drive best practices and operational effectiveness to support business growth and the creation of new and better jobs throughout Michigan.

Professional Background:

Forsyth joined ProQuest in 2002. As senior vice president of human resources and business services, he was responsible for creating best practices in global human resources, procurement, facilities, internal communications, and continuous improvement. Forsyth also served as acting vice president for content operations.

Prior to ProQuest, Forsyth was vice president of operational human resources for Excel, PLC, leading HR support for more than 200 locations across North and South America. His earlier experience includes Rubbermaid, where he was responsible for international human resources and work site improvements. In addition to managing labor relations, Forsyth drove world-class manufacturing practices across the company's two largest manufacturing facilities. He also led full business integration across European operations and due diligence and integration of acquisitions and joint ventures in Mexico, Japan, and Europe.

Forsyth is a member of the Society of Human Resource Management, American Society of Training and Development, and is past president of local Society of Human Resource Management Chapters. Named Volunteer of the Year by the March of Dimes of Southeast Michigan, Forsyth serves as chair of the Michigan board of directors. He is also a member Board of Directors, Focus:HOPE.

Education.

He received his bachelor's degree in communications and business from the University of Mount Union as well as numerous certifications in Human Resources Management and Lean/SixSigma.

Sherry Irwin, Partner, The Hunter Group:

Sherry has nearly 25 years of experience as an executive search professional. Sherry began her career with General Motors, developing a variety of skills in human resource areas including personnel administration and development and industrial relations. She was subsequently recruited by Landen, Wells and Associates, a consulting firm specializing in organization development and union-management relations. While there, she consulted with clients in the automotive, steel, and aerospace industries. In 1995, Sherry co-founded The Hunter Group LLC as a retained executive search firm.

Sherry graduated summa cum laude from Wayne State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and was the recipient of the Dow Jones/Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award.

Sherry focuses on executive and technical searches in a wide range of fields including sales and marketing, engineering, manufacturing, supply chain management and quality.

“Workforce Crisis: Maneuvering the Baby Boomer Hole & the Generation Gap”

Sherry is active in numerous professional groups including the Automotive Women's Alliance Foundation (AWAF), where she serves on the Board of Directors as co-chair of the Membership Committee and Co-Chair of the 2010 golf outing - "Swinging FORE Scholarships"; the Marketing | Sales Executives of Detroit (MSED), where she was a past board member and vice president of PR and communications and currently serves on the Membership Committee; Inforum; and the Wayne State University School of Business Alumni Association. Sherry also sings in the Chancel Choir of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester.

Michelle Salvatore, Director of Recruiting, Quicken Loans:

Michelle Salvatore is the Director of Recruiting for Quicken Loans and its Family of Companies. In this role, she is in charge of recruiting, sourcing, candidate screening and interviewing, team member placement and referrals, along with developing marketing programs to attract potential recruits. Recently, Michelle developed Quicken Loans Veteran Hiring Program, providing all the resources needed for former military members to transition into a career with Quicken Loans.

Michelle joined Quicken Loans in 2004 as a recruiter focused on mortgage banking. She rose through the ranks and earned her current position as Director of Recruiting in 2006.

Tiffany Woznak, Director, Human Resources - NA, Behr America, Inc.:

Tiffany Woznak is Director, Human Resources – N.A. at Behr America and is based in Troy, Michigan.

Behr America is a subsidiary of Behr GmbH; a German based state-of-the art developer and manufacturer of vehicle air conditioning and engine cooling systems. Behr America has 2800 employees in four locations in the United States and one in Mexico.

Ms. Woznak joined Behr in 1999 as Human Resources Manager for the Michigan location. In 2002, she was promoted to Corp. Human Resources Manager and then in 2008 she was promoted to her current position. She has overall human resources responsibility which includes employee and labor relations, employee and organizational development, safety, international, staffing, compliance, compensation, benefits, and HRIS.

Prior to joining Behr America, Ms. Woznak held the plant Human Resource Manager position at Zenith Industrial Corporation in Roseville, Mich., from 1997 to 1999. She also served as Human Resources Rep. for Comerica Bank in Detroit, Mich., from 1995 to 1997.

Ms. Woznak holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science from Michigan State University and a Master of Arts in Industrial Relations from Wayne State University. She serves on the OESA HR Council and is a member of the Society of Human Resource Management.

Moderator

Wim van Acker, Partner, The Hunter Group:

Wim is a global recruiting expert who has built high performance management teams for a variety of companies.

After achieving a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, he began his career with the chemical corporation AKZO Nobel, where he took on increasingly more responsible management positions in engineering and strategy development. Wim then spent 18 years in strategy consulting, with A.T. Kearney and then Roland Berger Strategy Consultants, focusing on increasing performance of client organizations by strategy development, organizational development and operations improvement initiatives.

Fluent in six languages, Wim has lived and worked around the world, including Europe, North and South America, Asia and the Middle East.

Wim has extensive experience in the Engineered Products industry, the Integrated Logistics sector, the Energy and Waste Management sectors, Renewable Energy, and the Global Automotive Industry.

Currently, Wim serves on the Walsh College President's Advisory Council and the Board of Directors of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit.