



The Minority Business Alliance of Southwest Michigan
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www.minoritybusinessalliance.ws

MBA Board of Directors

Nathan Bolton – Bank of America

Mr. Bolton comes to us with a host of board experience. He currently serves on the Big Brother, Big Sisters Board and serves as their finance chairperson person, the Griffin Place Board and the Mt. Zion Baptist Church Safe House Board. Nathan's passion for joining the MBA Board is two fold. One is his strong interest in working with the small minority and women owned businesses to offer them assistance in understanding the financial institutions banking processes, and two is his compassion for at-risk youth.

Orma (Erma) Gordon – Minority Business Alliance

Ms. Gordon is the Executive Director and founder of the Minority Business Alliance of Southwest Michigan (MBA) and is responsible for being the first to bring the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) curriculum to Michigan through her program for at-risk youth called KIDBIZ Young Entrepreneurs. She received her Associates degree in Liberal Arts from Kalamazoo Valley Community College, her Bachelors from Spring Arbor University and completed coursework in Social Work at Western Michigan University.

As a life-long resident of Kalamazoo County, she has been highly involved with the community in various forms. She is currently sitting on City of Kalamazoo Community Relations Board, the Downtown Development Authority Board and the Governor's Emerging Business Leaders and Resource Partners Council.

MonaLisa James – Bronson HealthCare Group

Ms. James holds the position of Manager of Diversity and Inclusion. Ms. James holds a Bachelors of Art (BA) in Business Management from the University of Phoenix, On-Line: James has experience in creating and implementing 5-10 year strategic plans on program/organizational levels with associated scorecards. In addition she has been trained in trouble- shooting and administering training strategies to improve leadership and organizational performance. Her

Professional and Community Volunteer experience includes but not limited to:

Past member of the YWCA Board and Anti-Racism committees, Greater Kalamazoo American Red Cross, Center for Disease Control, CO-Chair of Healthy Babies, Healthy Starts, Member of the United States Health and Human Services Department, Healthy People 2010, Eliminating Disparities Work Group. Ms. James is also a Graduate of Leadership Kalamazoo. Currently she is a member of the NAACP of Kalamazoo, Volunteer, Greater Kalamazoo County Holiday Food Drive, Member of the Wolverine Baptist State Convention since

UNITED TOGETHER FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS
The Minority Business Alliance of Southwest Michigan advances minority and women owned businesses to successfully compete in all market sectors through networking, resource development and education with cultural sensitivity, identifying hidden potential.

1982 and she is a Member of Second Missionary Baptist Church. She is also the cousin of LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Christopher Macon – Fifth Third Bank

Mr. Macon is the Assistance Vice President and Director of Affirmative Action/Community Relations at Fifth Third Bank. He has a passion and a will to work within communities and has served on boards such as Blodget Family Hospital, Family Children Services, Urban League and the Grand Rapids NAACP Board of Directors. Mr. Macon comes to us on loan from Fifth Third Bank and has served MBA well

Bob Swartout –Bobs Ext. Contract, Inc

Mr. Swartout is a graduate of Ferris State University with a BA Degree in Technical Education, and a Degree in Diesel Technology/Heavy Equipment. This expertise will enhance MBA's ability to work with our business construction industry. He has also served as the Tribal Chairman of the BURT LAKE BAND of Indians. We are currently trying to increase interactions within the Native community with his help. He worked with a community based project in Battle Creek, MI in the development of inner city restoration of disadvantaged properties.

Gene Wright – B & W Charters

Mr. Wright is a graduate of WMU and is a retired teacher of 33 years in the Kalamazoo Public School system. He brings to MBA a wealth on community knowledge and knowledge of being a small business owner. Mr. Wright has been in business for over 30 years. His familiarity in networking, resource management and his insight into the community enhances MBA's ability to help educate small minority and women owned business owners.

Board Members Contact Information

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