



Special thanks to Cornerstone University for hosting this evening's event!



*Business Leaders Linked to Encourage New Directions*

Mission

*To foster an environment of growth and belonging, where young professionals of color can connect with each other, develop professionally, and contribute to the local community.*

BL²END Board Members

- Alicia Adell*
- Jamon Alexander*
- Janean Brown*
- Ronnie Frelix, Jr.*
- Maxine Gray*
- Marnique Harris*
- Cynthia Offutt*
- Brian Parks*
- Celeste Sanchez*


BL²END Advisory Council Members

- Floriza Genautis, Management Business Solutions*
- Joe Jones, E.E. Milestone + Associates, Inc.*
- David Luna, Saint Mary's Health Care*
- Susan Morales-Barias, Grand Valley State University*
- Tanja Oquendo, Spectrum Health*

BL²END | Business Leaders Linked to Encourage New Directions

[www.grblend.org](http://www.grblend.org) | [info@grblend.org](mailto:info@grblend.org)

*Mix...Mingle...BL²END*



*presents*  
a Professional Development Event  
**hosted by**



*Cornerstone University*

---

*"Global Leadership Experiences & Opportunities"*

BL²END  
BUSINESS LEADERS LINKED TO ENCOURAGE NEW DIRECTIONS

**Monday**  
**November 2, 2009**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Cornerstone University**  
**Gainey Conference Center**  
**1001 East Beltline Avenue NE**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49525**

# Sandra Upton, Ph.D.



**Sandra Upton, Ph.D.** received her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University, a Master's degree from Western Michigan University, and earned her doctorate degree in Strategic Leadership Studies from Regent University.

**Dr. Upton** is the Dean of Business Programs within Cornerstone University's School of Graduate and Professional Studies (PGS) Division. She serves as the lead administrator for undergraduate and graduate level business programs. In addition, she teaches research and organizational management and leadership courses in the MBA program. She has also written several curricula in the areas of organizational behavior and development. Sandra has a strong passion and interest in teaching and studying leadership around the globe. As part of her doctoral studies at Regent University, and her work with Cornerstone's Global Business Experience (GBE), she conducted research regarding expatriate leadership in South Africa.

**Sandra** also serves as President of Upton Consulting, a management consulting firm based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has over fifteen years of experience in Organization Development and has facilitated organizational learning in the following areas; Leadership Development, Organization Development and Program/Curriculum Evaluation and Development. Dr. Upton has had consultancies with a variety of corporate and nonprofit organizations. A partial list of past and current clients include: The Apollo Group, Bouma Corporation, Calvin College, Cornerstone University, Davenport University, Gordon Food Services, the Holland Chamber of Commerce, Kent County Health Department, Louis Padnos Metals, Meijer Corporation, Ottawa County, Pathfinder Resources, and Priority Health. She has also worked on community projects such as Workpaths.com, the Obesity Forum and the Literacy Summit.

**Upton** lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan with her husband, Robert, and their two children, Alexis and Devin.

---

## Sandra's Recommended Reading List

Cohen, E. (2007). **Leadership Without Borders: Successful Strategies from World-Class Leaders.** Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Friedman, T. (2006). **The World is Flat.** New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. New York, NY.

Livermore, D. (2009). **Leading with Cultural Intelligence: The New Secret to Success.** American Management Association. New York: NY.

Obama, B. (1995). **Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance.** New York: Crown Publishers.

Silvoso, E. (2002). **Anointed for Business.** Ventura, CA: Regal Books.

# Program

6:00—6:30 p.m.

## Hors d'oeuvre's

*Mix...Mingle...BL<sup>2</sup>END*

6:30 p.m.

## Welcome

Jamon Alexander & Janean Brown

*BL<sup>2</sup>END, Board Co-Chairs*

## Introduction of Dr. Sandra Upton

Maxine Gray

*BL<sup>2</sup>END, Professional Development Chair*

6:45 p.m.

## Dialogue

### **"Global Leadership Experiences & Opportunities"**

**Sandra Upton, Ph.D.**

*Dean, Business Programs*

*Professional & Graduate Studies Division*

*Cornerstone University*

7:45 p.m.

## Closing remarks

Maxine Gray

*BL<sup>2</sup>END, Professional Development Chair*