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BL²END

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.

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P.O. Box 3505 | Grand Rapids, Michigan | 49501

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Presents:

A Professional Development event

hosted and sponsored by



**“Best Kept Secrets to Success: How to Manage People,
Select the Best Opportunities and Leverage your
Experiences”**

Monday

November 12, 2012

5:30 p.m.

Gordon Food Service Home Office

1300 Gezon Parkway SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49509

Program

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Hors d'oeuvres, Tours
and Recruitment Table

Mix...Mingle...BL²END

6:30 p.m.
Welcome

Maxine Gray
President
BL²END, Executive Board

Randy Plekker
Executive Vice President/Chief Strategy Officer
Gordon Food Service

Mindy Ysasi Castañon
Professional Development Chair
BL²END

Introduction of Speaker

Khumbo Siwela
Internal Auditor
Gordon Food Service

6:45 p.m.
Dialogue

"Victim or Victor?"

Clif B. Charles Jr.
Director of Diversity / Employee Relations
Gordon Food Service

7:50 p.m.
Closing Remarks

Brian Parks
President-Elect
BL²END, Executive Board

Clif B. Charles Jr.



Director of Diversity / Employee Relations
Gordon Food Service

In 1993, Clif joined Gordon Food Service as a non-food merchandiser at the corporate headquarters. He was then promoted to Product Manager for the non-foods category. Over the last 19 years Clif has held numerous positions with Gordon Food Service including: Marketing Services Manager, E-Business Manager, Training and Development Manager and Employee Relations Manager. Three years ago, he accepted the position of Director of Marketing for Gordon Food Service Great Lakes West Division.

Clif is a Chicago native and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Alma College and a Master's of Management from Aquinas College. Upon his graduation from Alma College he began his foodservice career with Saga Food Service where he had the opportunity to direct the day to day operations for several colleges in Michigan and Indiana.

Clif served as President of the Grand Rapids Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi. He has also served at the Province Level as the Achievement Chairmen and at the National Level as a Commission Member on the Laurel Wreath Commission, the highest award that a member of Kappa Alpha Psi is able to receive. He has also served on several community boards including the Grand Rapids Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Convention Arena and Authority Board in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Convention Arena Board was responsible for managing the construction as well as overseeing the grand opening and daily operations for the DeVos Convention Center. Clif is an active member of First Community A.M.E. where he has served as President of the Steward Board as well as a member of the male chorus the "Voices of Thunder". He is also an active member of Sigma Pi Phi (Boule) in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Clif has received numerous awards including the Bob Gordon Achievement Award, the Outstanding Officer Award from the Decatur Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, and is the 2006 Giant Award recipient of the W.W. Plummer Award.

Recommended Reading List

Leading with Cultural Intelligence, Dr. David Livermore
The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, Patrick Lencioni
When Generations Collide, Lynne C. Lancaster and David Stillman

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