



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BL²END hosts Professional Development Event sponsored by Cascade Engineering**

*Young Professionals of Color impacting the Greater Grand Rapids community*

**Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 21, 2008** – BL²END, *Business Leaders Linked to Encourage New Directions*, an emerging young professional of color organization, **hosts a professional development event, Tuesday, October 28 at 5:30 p.m. The event will be sponsored and hosted by Cascade Engineering, in their Learning Community building, located at 3400 Innovation Court SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.** The Career Panel will feature local executives of color who will share their educational, professional and community leadership experiences responsible for shaping them into influential leaders.

The Career Panel will feature *Sonali Allen*, Vice President of Community Development (Mercantile Bank); *Kenyatta Brame*, Senior Vice President, Department of Business Services (Cascade Engineering); *Floriza Genautis*, CEO & Founder (Management Business Solutions); *Mark Iverson*, Director, Organizational Integrity (Saint Mary's Health Care/Trinity Health); *Karen Morris*, Senior Vice President, Human Resources and Government Relations (Meijer, Inc.); *Patrick Miles, Jr.*, Member (Dickinson Wright PLLC); *Lauri Parks*, City Clerk (City of Grand Rapids) and *Jonse Young*, Donor Services Director (Grand Rapids Community Foundation). *Shaquanda S. Gordon, PHR*, Manager, Human Resources - Eastern Region, at Priority Health, will serve as the Panel Moderator.

For more information regarding BL²END, and upcoming events, visit [www.grblend.org](http://www.grblend.org).

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*The mission of BL²END is 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.*