

## **Lori Blaker, President/CEO of TTi Global**

### **Global Entrepreneur**

In 1979, Lori Blaker began editing training manuals at her father's company S&J Tech Data Service Company, which did technical writing for automotive companies and opened in 1976.

In 1984, S&J added a training subsidiary - Technical Training, Inc. (TTi) - to its portfolio, and in 1991, Lori became president of TTi. When TTi and S&J merged to form one company a few years later, Lori added CEO to her title.

Under Lori's leadership, the services of TTi, now named TTi Global, were expanded to emphasize high-quality contract personnel and outsourcing, training systems design and e-learning. She also redefined the concept of "training services" by creating company-specific, Internet-based instructional programs. As President/ CEO of TTi Global, Lori Blaker oversees operations on five continents with offices spanning the globe including; Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, India, Japan, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, Venezuela, UK and most recently Afghanistan.

Blaker leads an expanding workforce which currently staffs over 2000 employees in international operations. The company's core focus is automotive and offers a wide range of tailor-made services designed to drive business goals including; business consulting, workforce development, learning solutions, research and staffing,

Recently, Blaker has expanded TTi Global's role in emerging markets by building agreements among government, higher education and manufacturers to upgrade training programs, including successful workforce developments program in Mexico and India. In 2012, Lori was a part of the first ever US Department of Commerce trade mission to Afghanistan.

### **Former President of Metro Detroit Chapter of US National Committee for UN Women**

Lori Blaker has long been a strong advocate of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the workplace. Her many travels abroad deepened her commitment to these issues and as a result, Blaker launched the Metro Detroit Chapter of US National Committee for UN Women in the fall of 2013 and is acting as the chapter's first president,

The Metro Detroit Chapter work on the local level to build awareness of the UN Women efforts for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; empowerment of women; and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

Blaker is called upon to speak at many women's events throughout the United States and globally. Most recently, Lori was asked to speak at the National Council of Women of the US, in honor of the council's 125 anniversary. This council was established by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1888, continues its work beyond women's suffrage addressing the diverse concerns of women in pursuit of social, economic and political equality.

## Corporate Leadership and Recognition

Under Blaker's leadership, TTI Global has experienced an unprecedented growth. Her leadership skills continue to garner recognition for corporate achievement. TTI Global was ranked as one of the fastest growing private companies in America (according to Inc. Magazine.)

Additionally, TTI Global was ranked as one of Michigan's fastest growing privately-held companies (as recognized by *Crain's Detroit*). TTI Global also ranks consistently among the "Top 25 Woman-Run Businesses in the USA" as recognized by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council.

Blaker leads by example and continues to receive recognition for her business achievements. She was named a "2008 Entrepreneur of the Year" by Ernst & Young. Lori received the "Enterprising Women of the Year Award" from the prestigious *Enterprising Women* magazine in 2010 and recently in 2012 received the "Leader of Leaders" Leadership Award from Leadership Oakland.

More recognition came in 2017 when Lori was honored by *Crain's Detroit* as one of the 100 Most Influential Women in Metro Detroit. In the same year, Lori received the 2017 Community Excellence Award from the Mayor of Rochester Hills for her outstanding accomplishments in Afghanistan.

In 2018, Lori received the globally recognized 2018 Oslo Business for Peace Award, which is selected by an independent committee of Nobel Prize Laureates in Peace and Economics. She won the award for her work in Afghanistan, opening an automotive service center so she could develop a special training program for local women to learn management skills in an industry they would traditionally be barred from. She was one of three people chosen, joining the ranks of past winners including Tesla's Elon Musk and Richard Branson of the Virgin Group. The Oslo Business for Peace Award is dubbed the "Nobel Prize of Business".

## Mentor and Advocate

Despite the responsibilities of running a global company, Blaker believes it is important to give back. Lori Blaker has made a significant commitment to the community by mentoring disadvantaged young women in Detroit, through the Women of Tomorrow program.

The Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program empowers at-risk young women and challenges them to live up to their full potential through a unique mentoring and scholarship program. The participants have a 92 percent graduation rate, and over 90 percent of participants pursue higher education after completing the program.

The company has a strong history of giving back to the community. Last Thanksgiving over thirty TTI Global employees volunteered at Forgotten Harvest re-packing center in Oak Park. Additionally, TTI Global supported the **Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation's Adopt-A-Family** program and supplied requested Christmas presents to low-income children.

## Personal History

While attending Oakland University, in 1979, Lori Blaker began editing training manuals at her parent's company S&J Tech Data Service Company, which did technical writing for automotive companies. In 1984, S&J added a training subsidiary - Technical Training, Inc. (TTi) - to its portfolio. Eventually the two companies merged and Blaker became both its President and CEO, upon the sudden death of her father

in 1992. Lori Blaker is a single mother of four sons. She has raised her sons and grown her international business. She enjoys travel, cooking, and working on the farm in Metamora.