



Monday, March 20, 2017



Rosalynn Bliss
Mayor, Grand Rapids



Teresa Weatherall Neal
Superintendent,
GR Public Schools



Birgit Klohs
President & CEO,
The Right Place, Inc.

Moderator: Mary Kramer, former Publisher of Crain's Detroit Business

Topic: "A Mayor, Superintendent and Economic Development CEO: How to Collaborate for a Vibrant City"

Education, economic development and a highly functioning city government; find out how all three are integral to the success of a city. This panel of area CEO's represents three important sectors relevant to the success of our city and region. They will participate in a discussion about how important and inter-dependent their responsibilities are and how their success helps create a thriving community for all of us. A more than 20 year perspective will be offered as to where we were, where we are now, and where we are headed. What were the challenges of the past and what challenges lie ahead? How has Grand Rapids become the envy of the nation with these three stewards?

Mayor Bliss became the City of Grand Rapids' first female Mayor when she took office January 1, 2016. She previously served as a Second Ward City Commissioner for 10 years. She is also an adjunct professor at GVSU School of Social Work.

Birgit Klohs, President and CEO of The Right Place, Inc., has held this position since 1987. The Right Place, Inc. is the regional economic development organization for the retention, expansion and attraction of business to the West Michigan Area.

Teresa Weatherall Neal, Superintendent of GRPS, has worked for GRPS for 40 years. She has worked in numerous capacities throughout the district prior to her appointment as Superintendent. She is a product of Grand Rapids with deep roots in the city and has charged her staff with the statement, "These are our students, our schools, and this is our City."

Mary Kramer, former publisher of Crain's Detroit Business, is a Grand Rapids native. Her extensive knowledge of issues and challenges the east side of the state has faced will contribute greatly to this discussion.

MEETING LOCATION:

International Ballroom
JW Marriott
Open Seating

TIME:

Luncheon begins: 12 noon
Adjournment: 1:30pm

PRICING:

\$35 members
\$45 guests

TO REGISTER:

Click on Club website:

<http://www.econclub.net/>

Select "Buy Tickets" for this meeting.

Website also provides information about the Club and future meetings.

RESERVATIONS REQUESTED BY THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH

No Cancellations accepted after noon, Thursday preceding the luncheon - substitutions allowed.

PARKING:

Self Park - in the JW Marriott Parking Ramp. Bring your parking ticket for \$6 validation and easy exit.

ADDRESS:

JW Marriott
235 Louis Campau, NW
Grand Rapids, 49503

SEASON PARTNERS:

