

BIRGIT M. KLOHS - BUSINESS & INDUSTRY WINNER

Grand Rapids has experienced amazing economic expansion in recent years. Our Business & Industry Winner is a woman who can be very proud of her role in contributing to that growth.

Born in Koblenz, West Germany, our winner brings a cosmopolitan perspective to her position as the executive director of The Right Place Program, the economic development arm of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. Under her leadership, The Right Place Program has been directly involved in the creation of thousands of new jobs and millions of dollars in new investment in West Michigan. Most recently, she was instrumental in guiding a German firm, the Behr Company, to Alpine Township as the site for their new plant. Her energy and skill have made The Right Place Program a model for economic growth in the State of Michigan.

She was recently described in a Grand Rapids Business Journal article as displaying "tenacity blended with just the right amount of patience which enables her to excel in the arena of economic development on an international scale."

Our business winner has led the development of constructive coalitions among business and public interest groups throughout the area. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the Research and Technology Institute of West Michigan and the Economic Club of Grand Rapids. She is a graduate of Leadership Grand Rapids and serves on the Board of the Foreign Trade Zone Authority.

Nominated by John Canepa, we congratulate TRIBUTE Business & Industry Winner, **BIRGIT M. KLOHS.**