

Bio.



DeDe Esque.

Leadership Coach, Suzann Foerster Leadership Coaching

Experienced in transitions herself, DeDe Esque brings thirty years of experience to her work as an independent consultant, facilitator and Certified Hudson Institute Coach. While her most recent work was in the non-profit sector as President and CEO of a private foundation, much of her formative professional experience took place in the retail and finance sectors concentrating in the areas of: human resources operations, training and organizational development, management and team coaching, program design, and leadership development - specifically with High Potentials.

DeDe is a consultant who focuses on transition and change in organizations through capacity building practices, facilitation of healthy discussions, and coaching leaders ready for change. Her sensitivity, empathy and thoughtful intuition create safe environments within which clients find awareness, explore possibilities and make transformational changes. Because of her personal experiences as a leader in transitional situations, DeDe utilizes thoughtful skills needed to work within complex and emotional change.

Throughout the last 17 years DeDe has served in various leadership and board roles for local organizations and within the last several years in the Arts sector, harkening back to her family's musical roots*. She serves on the boards of Actors' Theatre and the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus, while doing contract work for the Girls Choral Academy. Her community stewardship also includes working for 8 years in leadership roles for a local private foundation and serving on the board of directors for an international member organization, the Women's Funding Network. DeDe received her Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, is certified through the Hudson Institute of Coaching and is credentialed at the ACC level with the International Coach Federation.

DeDe is particularly proud of her work with a community-based initiative called *The Prostitution Round Table* and co-founding the League of Women Voters in Grand Rapids. She was awarded a 2010 *Making a Difference Award* (MSU Extension Master Naturalist program), a 2009 *Leadership Award* (Young Non-profit Professional Network), a 2007 *Tribute Award* in Advocacy (YWCA), the 2006 *Woman of E-Quality Award* (Women's Resource Center) and was profiled in The Grand Rapids Press for her activist work in the women's community. She lives on seven acres with Henry Pyper, her partner of twenty-two years, a coonhound-mix named Otis along with all the creatures that share the land with them.

* DeDe grew up in a house filled with a dad playing Buck Owens, Charlie Pride and Loretta Lynn records, along with a mom who got much joy from dancing in the kitchen. She studied piano and the recorder (!) from an early age, but never sang in a choral setting until 2009 when she was welcomed into the Grand Rapids Women's Chorus.

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