

# Connecting Human Resources to the Board

## CTPartners' 1st Annual Board of Directors Institute on Human Resources

### **LAURA E. KOHLER | Senior Vice President, Human Resources, Kohler Company**

Laura E. Kohler is Senior Vice President-Human Resources for Kohler Co. and a member of the company's Board of Directors.

She is responsible for the company's worldwide Human Resources organization. Specifically, Ms. Kohler oversees global talent management, compensation and benefit programs, Learning, Organizational Development, Diversity, Labor Relations and Security. She also leads Kohler Stewardship – Kohler's global corporate social responsibility program which drives ethics, respectful workplace, engagement, sustainability, community partnerships and associate giving.

Ms. Kohler began her career at Kohler Co. in 1995 as Director-Public Affairs. She was appointed Vice President of Communications in 1998. In 1999, she was named Vice President of Human Resources and elected to Kohler Co.'s Board of Directors. She was promoted to Senior Vice President of Human Resources in 2002 with the addition of Labor Relations.

Prior to joining Kohler Co., Ms. Kohler served as Executive Director of the Kohler Foundation, Inc., for two years. Earlier in her career, she facilitated team development as an Outward Bound facilitator for clients such as Quaker Oats, Wharton Business School and the University of Chicago; managed National Players, a classical theater company in Washington, D.C.; and worked for Youth Guidance, a Chicago agency providing artists to Chicago Public Schools.

Ms. Kohler received her bachelor's degree in political science from Duke University, Durham, N.C., and her master's degree in fine arts from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Kohler serves on the Advisory Board of the Center for Global Business Studies for the Graduate School of Business at Pennsylvania State University. In addition, Ms. Kohler serves as the Board Secretary, HR Committee Chair and is an Executive Committee member of the John Michael Kohler Arts Center; is Chair of the Kohler Trust for Arts and Education and the Kohler Trust for Preservation; and a current member of the Kohler Foundation, Inc. Ms. Kohler is a Director of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. She serves as a Director of Friendship House, a group home for at-risk boys. She also currently serves as a member of the Kohler Public Schools' Board of Education and the Kohler Village Strategic Plan Committee. Prior service includes Campaign Co-Chair of the 2003 Sheboygan County United Way Campaign, Kohler Schools' Pride Committee (2004) and Strategic Planning Committee (2005), board seats on Firststar Bank Advisory Board and Camp Evergreen Board (1999 – 2004). In 2005, Ms. Kohler was the co-recipient of the Wisconsin State Superintendent's "Friends of Education" Award.