

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Michael W. Lewis

PERSON

Lewis, Michael W., 1949-

Alternative Names: Michael W. Lewis;

Life Dates: September 15, 1949-

Place of Birth: Ferndale , Michigan, USA

Residence: Olympia Fields, IL

Occupations: Corporate Executive

Biographical Note

Corporate executive Michael Ward Lewis was born on September 15, 1949 in Metropolitan Detroit. He was one of Martha and Ward Lewis' eight children. Lewis graduated from Ferndale High School before going on to receive his B.B.A. degree from Western Michigan University in 1971. Lewis then attended Indiana University in Bloomington where he earned his M.B.A. degree in 1976.

Immediately after graduate school, Lewis joined Harris Bank as a commercial banking trainee. He then moved up to a commercial banking officer before being named assistant vice president of Harris Bank in 1981. Two years later, Lewis was named vice president of Harris Bank and soon after, the bank was acquired by the BMO Financial Group. In 1986, Lewis was promoted to team leader in the Special Industries Group and took responsibility of the Healthcare, Education, and Tax-Exempt Institutions Team in the bank. Still rising, in 1994, Lewis became senior vice president and market executive. Since 1998 he has served as an executive vice president of Harris and currently is a district executive in the retail banking area.

Lewis is a member of the Harris Bank Diversity Council as well as the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association and the Zoning Board for the village of Olympia Fields. In 2007, Lewis served as Chairman of the Board of Chicago United and in 2009; he became Co-Chair of the BMO U.S. Sustainability Counsel at Harris. For the past three years Lewis has participated in Harris Bank's "Volunteer Day" in partnership with non-profit organizations. Lewis also sits on the Board of Directors for the Western Michigan University Foundation, a position he has held since 2009. He is also a past reader in the Chicago Public Schools "Real Men Read" program and has participated in several "career day" events in local public schools. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, he was recognized as a "Business Leader of Color" by Chicago

United and ‘Who’s Who in Black Chicago.

Michael Lewis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 26, 2010.

Related Entries

Ulysses S. Grant Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ferndale High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Western Michigan University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Indiana University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.B.A.

Detroit Bank & Trust [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197208 to 197408]

Operations Analyst

Indiana National Bank [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197506 to 197508]

Intern

Harris Bank [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 197606 to ?]

District Executive

BMO Harris Diversity Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Chicago United [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Local Initiatives Support Corporation [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Haworth School of Business’ Business Advisory Council [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisor

Western Michigan University Foundation Board [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Board of Directors Member

Real Men Read [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Reader