

MARY BONTRAGER – is Executive Vice President of Regional Talent Development for the Greater Des Moines Partnership where she oversees all areas of talent recruitment and development, diversity/inclusion and education relations.

Mary first joined The Chamber (now known as The Partnership) in 1992 as Membership Services Manager. She left The Chamber in 1994 to join Savage-Ver Ploeg and Associates (SVPA) as director of marketing and interior design. In August of 1995 Mary rejoined The Chamber staff as Vice President of Business Growth and was named Senior Vice President in 1998. Since moving to Des Moines in 1979 she has also worked for The Weitz Company and Storey-Kenworthy Company.

Bontrager currently serves on the Grand View University Board of Trustees, Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa Board, Iowa Collage Access Network (ICAN) Board, the Governor's South Central Region STEM Advisory Board, Project Iowa Board, State of Iowa's High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) Task Force, Education Attainment Division Advisory Council for the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), Central Campus Advisory Council, Business Advisory Board for the Drake Chapter of Enactus, Central Iowa Workforce Investment Board, and the Leadership Council for United Way's OpportUNITY initiative. She is a 2008/09 alumni of Leadership Iowa and a graduate of Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute where she also served on the Board. Bontrager is also a member of the Rotary Club of Des Moines. In 2001, she was named to the Des Moines Business Record's "Women of Influence."

Mary grew up in Exira, Iowa and attended the University of Northern Iowa majoring in Interior Design and Marketing.

Bontrager says she "is very fortunate to be able to *work* her passion to grow and promote Greater Des Moines. The opportunities for all to live, work and thrive in greater Des Moines are endless and it's The Partnership's role to help individuals and companies realize those opportunities."