

## **Biography: Jan Varner, CEO United Way of Kitchener Waterloo and Area**

Jan Varner was appointed CEO of the United Way of Kitchener Waterloo and Area in May 2005. In addition to this role, she is a part-time lecturer with Wilfrid Laurier University's School of Business and Economics – a position she has held since 1995. She is also co-owner of an entrepreneurial venture called Innersee Initiatives Inc., for which she has held the title of VP, Business Development, since 1997.

Jan is an active volunteer in the community, largely at the leadership level. Current and recent involvements include: Secretary of the Board of Directors of Sustainable Waterloo, Steering Committee member with the Waterloo Region Immigrant Employment Network (WRIEN), Chair of the Advisory Team of the Tides Canada Community Innovations Initiative, Treasurer of the Steering Committee for the Women of Waterloo Region Event, and Chair of the Board of Directors for The Centre for Rural Leadership.

Prior to joining United Way, Jan spent 12 years with Laurier Business and Economics as Director of the Laurier Institute for Executive and Management Development. She also worked for 10 years as a Cooperative Education Advisor with the Waterloo Catholic School Board.

Having completed her doctoral candidate coursework with the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Jan's pursuit of knowledge is never ending. She graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in 1980. She went on to complete her Masters of Business Administration degree there as well in 1994, earning the MBA Award of Merit. Jan continues to further her commitment to lifelong learning through participation in numerous conference and seminar workshops.

Jan's work has been published in numerous academic and trade journals, and she has presented keynote addresses and professional workshops at the regional, provincial, national and international level.

In 2007, Jan was nominated for the Michael Follett Community Award with the Greater KW Chamber of Commerce. In 2009, she was nominated for an Oktoberfest KW Women of the Year award. That same year, Jan was honoured with the Wilfrid Laurier University MBA Alumnus of Distinction Award.

A big fan of the outdoors, Jan's personal interests include sea kayaking, golf, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and ice climbing.

Jan can be reached at:

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