

Brian Walker

Class of 1982

Brian Walker's exceptional accomplishments combined with his ongoing commitment to the community in which he grew up, earned him the Dr. Ethelene Jones Crockett Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005.



Brian is President and CEO of Herman Miller, Inc., overseeing the company's global efforts to invent solutions that help create great places to work, to learn and to heal. He previously served as President of Herman Miller North America (2000) and Executive-Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Herman Miller, Inc. (1995) where he developed a strong team of finance professionals and an internationally respected finance organization.

Brian was instrumental in the adoption of the Economic Value Added (EVA) financial and performance metric at Herman Miller, Inc. This has been used as the foundation for improving employee financial literacy and to further align employees' interests with those of the external shareholders.

Brian's commitment to serving both his industry and the community is evident. Brian serves on the Board of Directors for Briggs & Stratton. He also serves on the board of The Right Place, Inc. of greater Grand Rapids, a regional, non-profit economic development organization dedicated to promoting area economic growth through high-quality employment, productivity, and technology. In June 2006, Brian assumed the position of Chairman of The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association (BIFMA). He is also a trustee on the Citizens Research Council of Michigan, a private, not-for-profit public affairs research organization established in 1916 to provide nonpartisan analysis of state and local government organization and finance in Michigan.

Before joining Herman Miller, Inc., Brian worked as a CPA for the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen. He holds an associates degree from Jackson Community College and a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

Brian's interests include biking, skiing, and the martial arts. Brian, his wife Colleen, and their three children reside in Holland, Michigan.

"Never confuse what you do with who you are."