

BOB THOMAS, IOM, CAE, CMP

Vice President of Operations

Michigan Chamber of Commerce

Executive Director

Michigan Chamber of Commerce Foundation

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Bob Thomas has worked with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce since 1997. Bob is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the chamber including facilities, technology and information systems, human resources, and meetings. Bob also assists with strategic planning and special projects. As Executive Director for the Michigan Chamber Foundation, Bob oversees the alignment and direction of its leadership programs, public policy research, and events related to free enterprise, competitiveness, leadership and entrepreneurship.

Bob also leads the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals (MACP), the statewide network of chambers of commerce in Michigan. In this role, Bob directs professional development, research and best practices for over 300 chambers of commerce.

Bob has experience in strategic meetings and events, strategic planning, board governance, and communications. He is a graduate of the US Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management and holds a B.A. in Advertising and Public Relations from Grand Valley State University. He earned his Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation in 2011 and Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation in 2007.

Bob serves on the following boards and committees: US Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management Curriculum Committee, Michigan Society for Association Executives (MSAE) Board of Directors, Michigan's Tourism Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, and Michigan's Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) Advisory Board (statewide chair). He also serves as faculty for the MSAE CMP Exam Preparation Course and the Institute for Organization Management and speaks to chambers and trade associations across the country about strategic planning, leadership and management topics.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce is a statewide business organization representing approximately 6,800 employers, trade association and local chambers of commerce.