

As the Regional Director of the Small Business Development Center at the University of St. Thomas' Opus College of Business, Diane is a resource for economic development and small business, where she is passionate about sustainability and innovation as they relate to business. She provides educational and coaching opportunities to diverse clients pursuing small business ownership, encompassing business planning, funding opportunities, financial management and marketing strategy. As a regional expert on business development and a previous business owner, she has spoken to and educated audiences statewide. Her observations and insights on businesses successes, challenges and trends have been published in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal, Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, Finance and Commerce and Minnesota Business Magazine, and she was the recipient of the Progress Minnesota Award. A lifelong learner, Ms. Paterson is a Certified Exit Planning Advisor, a Certified Global Business Professional and is certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional and Revolving Loan Fund expert by the National Development Council. She earned her Bachelor Degree in Economics and History and her Juris Doctor from the University of Minnesota.