

# CHAVON S. NIHLS

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## ***CFO / FINANCE DIRECTOR***

### **PROFILE**

Successful senior management experience in corporate finance, general accounting, financial operations, performance management and process improvements with regional institutions. Seasoned leadership skills in multi-account management, program implementation and budget administration in stable, growth-oriented settings. Positive background in team formation, corporate communications, resource allocation, efficiency improvements, diplomatic problem resolution and organizational networking initiatives.

- Reliable administration and execution of large-scale finance organizations, delivery of critical processes and leveraging of strategic partnerships; rapid delivery of message alignment and productivity improvements.
- Expertise in handling major accounting projects, team collaboration and full cost controls in connection with top management, thought leaders and key decision-makers at all levels of matrixed organizations.
- Effective hiring, management, deployment, coaching and development of top-notch talent at staff and field levels; skilled in guiding multi-target initiatives, creative troubleshooting and timely problem resolution.
- Superior motivation of cross-functional teams to achieve peak organizational performance, generate comprehensive learning programs, facilitating C-suite presentations and meet all organizational objectives.
- Fully familiar with a wide array of federal laws and guidelines relating to educational activities and grant administration; hands-on knowledge of various enterprise systems and applications.
- "Out of the box" talents in team building, financial acumen, conference presenter and attention to detail in time-sensitive situations.

### **CORE COMPETENCIES**

Corporate Finance • Business Management • Strategic Planning • General Accounting • Technology Integration • Performance Metrics • Change Management • Team Leadership • Cash Management • Executive Reporting • Financial Analysis • Staff Development • Client Relations • Multi-Site Operations • Competitive Analysis • Budgeting • Program Implementation • Regulatory Compliance • Real Estate Sales • Cost Reductions

### **EMPLOYMENT & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

West Branch – Rose City Area Schools

West Branch, MI

2011 – 2014

#### **Director of Finance**

Progressively given greater influence and responsibility in supervising all financial operations, including internal controls, payroll, cash flow management, IT and accounting, for this regional K-12 school district with 350 employees. Coordinate teams of up to 12 professionals in a full range of unique duties, such as grant writing, fixed asset management, RFP creation and facilities maintenance. Facilitate employee relations, training & development, staff reductions and exit interviews. Proficient in school finance aspects, community relations and preparation of operating guidelines. Regularly interact with different government agencies on different laws and regulations.

- Successfully created, maintained and supported a top-quality educational system for a district experiencing extremely challenging budgetary restraints.
- Personally formulated and administered a \$20 million budget with 3,000 line items; integrated macros and pivot tables in Excel with current accounting package.
- Acquired and introduced green accounting techniques, established 100% direct deposit and optimizing all business processes.

- Prepared and updated a full range of financial data, including multiple financial statements on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

## **CHAVON S. NIHLS**

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Houghton Lake Community Schools,

Houghton Lake, MI

2009 – 2011

### **CFO/Director of Finance**

Progressively given greater influence and responsibility in supervising all financial operations, including internal controls, payroll, cash flow management, and accounting, for this regional K-12 school district with 200 employees. Coordinate teams of up to 9 professionals in a full range of unique duties, such as grant writing, fixed asset management, RFP creation and facilities maintenance. Proficient in school finance aspects, community relations and preparation of operating guidelines. Regularly interact with different government agencies on different topics.

- Successfully created, maintained and supported a top-quality accounting system for district.
- Administered a \$15 million budget with 2,000 line items; integrated macros and pivot tables in Excel with current accounting package.
- Prepared and updated a full range of financial data, including multiple financial statements on a weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

Flagstar Bank, Alpena, MI

2005 – 2009

### **Branch Manager**

Responsible for directing a group of up to 10 staff in all business operations for the largest bank headquartered in Michigan with \$14.1 billion in assets. Effectively oversaw product/service sales, customer service, promotions, regulatory compliance, community relations and diverse banking relationships. Full accountability for P&L, budgeting, payroll, employee training and HR functions.

- Achieved ranking as “#1 Banking Center of the Month” within 2 months of initial hiring.
- Quickly improved branch standing from #44 to #7 in the in-store branch category.
- Headed up the acquisition and retention of positive relationships with multiple community businesses.

Standard Federal Bank/ABN-AMRO Bank/LaSalle Bank, Troy, MI

1998 – 2005

### **Internal Fraud Manager**

Supervised a wide array of duties, such as internal audits, fraud investigations, M&A support and international currency exchange reconciliations and complex mortgage analysis for the largest bank in Michigan with 256 retail branches and \$15.7 billion in assets. Utilized expertise in organizational formation, high-impact training programs, needs analysis, resource allocation, C-suite relationships and customized learning solutions.

- Reconciled over 900 accounts for 3 straight years; also decreased operating losses by 67% over 2 years of fraud management.
- Personally authored and maintained 3 employee/manager and branch balancing handbooks.
- Key participant in providing help desk support and handling over 300 calls/emails each day.

## **EDUCATION**

Davenport University, Gaylord, MI

2007

**M.B.A. Degree in Accounting & Finance**

**B.B.A. Degree in Accounting & Finance**

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & ACTIVITIES**

- **Certified Financial Officer** (Michigan School Business Officials);
- **Certified Grant Writer;**
- **Licensed Real Estate Salesperson;**
- Ambassador, West Branch Chamber of Commerce.

- Numerous courses and workshops in Liability & Tort Law, Bond Financing, Purchasing, Budgeting, Grant Writing, Labor Relations, Employment Law, Insurance & Risk Management, Negotiation Tactics and many other topics.
- American Institute of CPAs, Michigan Association of CPAs; Municipal Financial and Governmental Accountants.