Debra A Bernardi

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Global Human Resource Leader | Culture Conductor | Talent Strategist

Results-driven People leader with deep expertise driving global HR strategy, culture, and talent initiatives. Proven ability to align people strategies with business objectives, fostering high-performing, inclusive, and engaged workplaces. Led global HR business partner team, talent acquisition, talent programs, DEI, HR technology implementations, and strategic operations. Recognized as a **trusted adviso**r, **creative thought leader**, and **culture conductor** who brings together the right people and resources to maximize productivity and drive organizational success. My strategic thinking, creativity, and unwavering commitment to integrity make me an asset in shaping the future of any organization. One of my core strengths is the ability to build deep, trusting relationships, fostering a network to support and achieve shared goals.

Executive Strengths & Leadership Traits

- **People-First Leadership** Grounded in empathy and integrity, I champion team-oriented leadership where employees thrive, empowering leaders to elevate culture, connection, resilience, and professional development that drive tangible business results. Managed employee engagement, retention, performance, and succession.
- Strategic Business Partner– Trusted advisor to C-level leaders with a talent for aligning people strategies with evolving organizational priorities. Able to lead HR practices and stakeholders through organizational change and revenue growth. Used my executive coaching and communication skills to build systems to drive talent analytics to make sound workforce decisions. Led HR in M&A, due diligence and integration initiatives.
- **Change Catalyst** Driver of change, developing creative, adaptable, and flexible solutions to complex organizational challenges. Able to turn strategy into action and action into measurable impact. Used data-driven insights and strong analytical skills to identify opportunities, be accountable, develop talent and manage succession.
- **Culture Conductor** –Cultivate inclusive, purpose-driven cultures where people are engaged, innovative, and inspired to perform. Able to use my interpersonal communication and conflict management skills to implement processes and data driven strategic workforce planning.

Work Experience

IDC RESEARCH, INC., Needham, MA Premier Global Market Intelligence Leader

IDC is the leading provider of market intelligence, data, and events in IT, telecommunication industry, and consumer technology. As a senior HR leader, I developed and executed people management strategies with 45+ globally dispersed HR professionals across five regions, supporting 2,400 employees worldwide.

Global Human Resources Leader/Chief HR Officer (12/2015 – 09/2024)

Oversaw global HR and Talent operations, including HR business partnership team, talent acquisition, total rewards, employee engagement, and workforce development across research, consulting, data & analytics, sales, finance, marketing, and corporate functions. Led enterprise-wide DEI initiatives and HR technology implementations to optimize efficiency and drive business impact.

Key Executive Achievements:

- Global HR Leadership & Expansion: Selected by the CEO in 2021 to lead global HR operations, integrating dispersed HR
 professionals under a centralized structure across Europe, Asia, Japan, Latin America, and Canada, strengthening HR
 alignment and strategic impact. Managed global budgets, compensation planning, incentive plan design, business acumen,
 negotiation strategies and financial planning.
- Talent Strategy & Workforce Optimization: Built three dedicated Talent Teams across the U.S., Asia Pacific, and Europe, reducing time-to-fill for 590 positions. Enhanced talent acquisition through targeted social media strategies and an IDC-branded LinkedIn career page, attracting top-tier candidates. Developed a global job architecture framework in partnership with corporate compensation to foster career planning. Worked on organizational review and succession planning for leadership team.

- HR Technology & Process Innovation: Led the global rollout of Kronos UKG, modernizing HRIS for 2,400+ employees and improving self-service functionality. Implemented WorkTango an employee engagement platform for performance management and recognition, ICIMS for applicant tracking, and PurelyHR to ensure global compliance with labor laws. Created data driven analysis of all open requisitions as well as performance data for workforce planning.
- Inclusion & Culture: Founded and sponsored IDC's 150-member Diversity & Inclusion Council, designing and implementing a four-module respectful workplace training. Created IDCares, an employee-led social responsibility initiative fostering community engagement. Consulted with L&D on management development and training programs.
- M&A & Corporate Strategy Leadership: Served as the HR on IDC's M&A team, managing due diligence and integration efforts always maintaining confidentiality. Led HR strategy presentations to potential buyers during IDC's sales in 2015 and 2021, ensuring seamless workforce transitions. Ensured legal compliance to all employment laws. Led corporate communication strategy for the CEO, enhancing transparency and organizational alignment.

Vice President of Human Resources & Education (10/2002 – 11/2015)

Oversaw HR strategy, talent management, employee relations, coaching, performance management, and organizational development. Designed scalable people operations programs, ensuring regulatory compliance while driving business growth and cultural alignment. Hired and managed internal Education team.

Key Executive Achievements:

- Global Workforce Expansion & Talent Strategy: Developed and implemented talent management strategies, scaling IDC's professional workforce to 1,700+ employees worldwide while maintaining a strong leadership pipeline and cultural consistency. Led global talent review cycle and tools
- HR Technology & Process Innovation: Founding member of the migration team that transitioned employee data from PeopleSoft HRIS to Kronos UKG in 2015, enhancing system efficiency and workforce analytics capabilities.
- Compensation, Benefits & Employee Experience: Expanded IDC's global benefits portfolio and introduced innovative programs such as the Global Fellowship Program, Mentoring Program, and Perks@Work, driving engagement and retention. Co-developed and managed 35+ incentive plans to optimize performance across research, sales, and corporate services. Ran division benefit enrollment and communication.
- Organizational Transformation & Change Management: Led multiple company-wide reorganizations and reductions in force during market downturns, ensuring business continuity while mitigating risk and maintaining employee morale. Managed confidential investigations.
- Learning & Development Leadership: Built IDC's corporate training function, hiring and managing five trainers and launching technical and soft skill programs, including new and advanced analyst training. Spearheaded corporate-wide learning initiatives to accelerate onboarding and leadership development.

Vice President of Human Resources & Operations (03/2000 – 10/2002)

Built IDC's first formal HR department designing and implementing foundational HR strategies, policies, and employee relations frameworks to support a rapidly scaling organization. while also overseeing administrative functions, including telecom, library services, copy center, and general services. Led workforce strategy, all employee relations, onboarding, talent development and operational efficiency, ensuring seamless HR integration during rapid company expansion.

Education

Lesley University, Cambridge, MA Master of Science (MS), Management,

University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH Bachelor of Science (BS), Management & Health Policy,

Certifications & Assessment Tools

- Certified Executive Coach, Center for Executive Coaching
- Certified in Emotional Intelligence, Emotional Intelligence Solutions Group
- Myers Briggs Type Indicator Certified, MBTI Business Training Institute
- Certified Coach, Motivation Factor and PaperRoom, Results System