



Valerie J. Van Meter

CEO, Parity Partners, LLC

**Former senior vice president and chief diversity officer,
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago**

Valerie is the chief executive officer of Parity Partners, LLC, a boutique consulting firm providing customized solutions with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Parity Partners specializes in intercultural development inventory assessments and processes, the development of DE&I strategies, and individual executive coaching. She has supported organizations such as Chicago United, the Financial Services Pipeline, Whatcom Community College, and Northwestern Mutual.

Valerie served as a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's executive committee as senior vice president and chief diversity officer. She led the central bank services division, which included discount window lending, payments system risk, reserve accounting, and statistical and financial reporting. She also served as the bank's first chief diversity officer. In that role, she implemented the first D&I function within her own bank and was selected as the first chairperson to lead the twelve reserve banks and the Board of Governors in establishing policies, procedures, and initiatives adopted throughout the Federal Reserve System. In addition, Valerie had responsibility for the Federal Reserve System's Senior Leadership Development Initiative, a collection of internally developed leadership training programs.

During her tenure with the Chicago Fed, Valerie held various management positions in Central Bank Services, the customer relations and support office, and the Detroit branch. She also served as secretary to the Conference of (Federal Reserve Bank) Presidents. Prior to returning to the Fed in 1993, Valerie held various official positions with California Federal Bank and First Interstate Bank of California. She began her career at the Detroit branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Valerie co-founded the Financial Services Pipeline Initiative (FSP), a funders collaborative dedicated to increasing the representation of underrepresented minorities, at all levels, within the Chicago-area financial services industry. Since its inception in 2013, the FSP has grown from five to more than 20 member firms.

Valerie has served as a board director for Junior Achievement of Chicago and Chicago Scholars. She has also served as a member of the Honorary Advisory Board of the Student Veterans of America and Chicago United's Leaders Council.

Valerie holds a BA in economics from the University of Michigan and is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking and the University of Colorado School of Bank Marketing. She also holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Valerie is a Certified Diversity Executive, holds the designation of National Association of Corporate Directors Governance Fellow, and has been certified as a Qualified Administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory. She is also a member of the 2013 cohort of Chicago United's "Business Leaders of Color."

Valerie and her husband of 35-plus years are the proud parents of two wonderful young men and live in San Luis Obispo County, California.