



Vera Potapenko
Chief Human Resources and Diversity Officer
and Human Resources Department Head

Vera Potapenko holds a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California and a Masters of Arts degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI in Organizational Communication and Rhetoric. Her research focus over the years has been in leadership development and team dynamics. Upon completion of her doctorate degree, Vera Potapenko moved to Chicago and served in increasingly senior human resources positions in both public and private sector organizations, including G.D. Searle & Company R&D, as Manager Organizational Development and Quality; Kraft Foods, Director, Human Resources and Employee Relations; Northwestern Memorial Healthcare Corporation, Vice President, Human Resources; Chicago Title Corporation, Assistant Vice President, Organization and Leadership Development; W.W. Grainger, Inc., Director, Organization Effectiveness and Leadership Development, and Northwestern University, Director Human Resources. Vera Potapenko has proven experience and accomplishments in human resource management and strategic planning, organizational design and effectiveness, diversity and inclusion, and leadership development.

In October, 2006, Vera Potapenko assumed the role of Chief Human Resources and Diversity Officer at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. In this role, she has transformed the Human Resources function into a strategic partner, supporting the Laboratory in recruiting, retaining and developing great diverse talent for the continued success of the Laboratory.