



## **Valiena A. Allison**

**President, Vertex Adventures LC**

**Retired Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Experi-Metal Inc.**

Valiena A. Allison is the former Chairman of the Board and CEO of Experi-Metal Inc., a full-service sheet metal component and assembly manufacturing company located in Sterling Heights, MI. She retired from the company after 28 years of service on August 1, 2016.

Valiena worked diligently to expand the company's presence globally, successfully leveraging its traditional Automotive business capabilities in the Aerospace, Military, Homeland Security, and Alternative Energy markets. At the same time, Valiena and her team significantly grew the annual revenue and increased the size of the company's workforce 6-fold in positions ranging from the skilled trades to specialty engineering to professional management. Hired as a receptionist in 1988 and fueled by her passion for excellence, Valiena rose through the ranks to make Experi-Metal Inc. (EMI) a world-class manufacturer and the 'go-to' manufacturing solution for some of the best and most demanding companies in the entire world.

Under Valiena's leadership, EMI was selected to receive several awards including the ***Best in Wellness*** and ***Economic Bright Spot*** from Corp! Magazine for four consecutive years (2012-2015), which recognize superior companies that continue to bring jobs and revenue to Michigan while simultaneously promoting wellness and life-balance in their workforce. EMI was recognized for successfully operating a "green" manufacturing facility when they received the ***2015 Best & Brightest in Sustainability Award*** from Corp! Magazine. EMI received the "***Home in Macomb***" Award in 2015 and Valiena participated in their promotional video to encourage local business development and expansion into Macomb County. EMI also received the highly coveted ***2014 Tesla Excellent Development Partner Award*** and later the prestigious ***2015 Michigan Manufacturer of the Year Award*** from the Michigan Manufacturing Association.

Valiena was featured in the April 2015 edition of the Michigan Manufacturing Association's "***Women in Manufacturing***" publication. She worked with the MEDC and State of Michigan to create videos with Mike Rowe of "Dirty Jobs" to encourage Michigan youth to consider a career in manufacturing. Allison received the ***2015 Champion of the New Economy Award*** sponsored by Junior Achievement, DBusiness Magazine, and WJR News/Talk Radio 760 to recognize executives who drive growth in highly competitive industries in the region. Allison is the recipient of several personal awards, including the ***Entrepreneur of Distinction*** issued by Corp! Magazine.

Valiena is a graduate of Oakland University, earning undergraduate degrees in Marketing, Advertising, and Spanish, and later an MBA in Finance and Accounting. She also completed Advanced Graduate Studies in World Economics, Manufacturing, and Shakespeare at Oxford University in England.

Valiena is active in the local community and sits on several boards including Oakland University's Economic Board of Advisors, the Leadership Macomb Board of Directors, and Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan. She also participates as a Mentor in the Oakland University Mentorship program. Valiena serves as the Treasurer for the Troy Community Foundation and chairs their Grants Committee. Allison volunteers with several support organizations including Gleaners Community Food Bank, The American Red Cross and Monarch Wings. In 2017, she completed the Leadership Oakland program where leaders in Oakland County join forces to better understand and utilize the regional resources and further develop personal and professional leadership skills. Lastly, Valiena sits on the COA Board for Summit Watch, a Marriott Vacation Club property, located in Park City, Utah and serves as their Vice-President.

Valiena enjoys travel, good wine, yoga, and philanthropy. She resides in Troy, MI with her husband, two teenagers, and new puppy.