Clement Kern Award for Social Impact

Nancy Schlichting

“Nancy Schlichting turned around the Henry Ford Hospital and Health System. Under her leadership, in the middle of a global recession and the first bankruptcy of a major U.S. city, the hospital flourished and earned a worldwide reputation for excellence that culminated in the coveted Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award.”

— Bill Ford, Executive Chairman of Ford Motor Company

Nancy Schlichting retired as the CEO of Henry Ford Health System last year. She is credited with guiding the health system through a dramatic financial turnaround and implementing exemplary patient safety, customer service and diversity initiatives.

Nancy’s extraordinary impact was never “by the book,” as her own book, Unconventional Leadership, chronicles. She forged her own courageous trail, incorporating lessons from iconic role models, to solve challenges and transform organizational cultures with the ultimate goal of improving the health and quality of life of families, individuals and veterans.

Nancy’s career in health care administration spanned 35 years and she was honored as one of the “100 Most Influential People in Healthcare” and one of the “Top 25 Women in Healthcare” by an authoritative publication.

In 2015, President Barack Obama appointed Nancy to chair the Commission on Care, which examined the VA health care system and made strategic recommendations about reforming the system to better deliver the high quality health care that veterans need and deserve.

Even in retirement, Nancy’s voice remains influential and needs to be heard as we continue the work to create a more just and equitable society. Southwest Solutions is honored that Nancy believes in our mission deeply and serves as the chair of our Board of Advisors.