



Cheryl Merchant
CEO
Taco Comfort Solutions, Family of Companies

Cheryl has spent 35+ years in manufacturing. She has held leadership positions with industry giants like GM, Mazda, Ford and Lear Corporation and led teams in the U.S., Mexico, Canada and throughout Europe and Asia. For 19 years, she was the President and CEO of Hope Global, a manufacturing company with over 2,000 employees and operations in the U.S., Mexico, Czech Republic, China and Brazil. During that period, Hope Global grew five times in revenue and became a Tier II leader in the Automotive Industry.

Cheryl has received awards over her career that include Providence Business News Rhode Island Leadership Award (2001, 2014), New England Business Woman of the Year (2014), Mentor of the Year PBN RI (2016), Crain's Women in Manufacturing of the Year (2018), Trailblazer in Business / Cheryl Watkins Snead Award (2018). As well, she holds two Honorary Doctorates from New England Institute of Technology for Humane Letters and Bryant University for Business.

Her current Board work includes being a Trustee (Secretary and Chair of Student Affairs as of 2012 – Present) for Bryant University, Board of Governors for the RI Hospital Foundation (2019) and The Advisory Boards to University of Rhode Island (2016 – Present) and RIMA.

In 2019, Cheryl joined Taco as President of Taco Family of Companies, North America and in March of 2020 became the CEO. TACO is a manufacturer of essential products for the HVAC Industry and has operations in Vietnam, Italy, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Canada, and multiple locations across the US with its headquarters in Rhode Island.

Cheryl resides in Lincoln, RI and integrates her business life with being the mother of a bright and ambitious 15 year old boy and "leader-in-the-making" 12 year old daughter.