

Biography

Eastern Illinois University
Lumpkin College of Business
and Applied Sciences
Grace T. Bair Lecture Series
School of Business



Ann Deters
CEO
Vantage Technology

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Executive-in-Residence

Ann Deters was born into an entrepreneurial family, but she had never dreamed of starting her own business. Raised in the small farming community of Teutopolis, Illinois, she played tennis on an athletic scholarship at Indiana State University. After two years, she transferred to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, to pursue an accounting degree. While attending SMU, she thought she'd try her hand at starting a small coupon business. It was there that she caught the "entrepreneurial bug."

After graduating from college, she accepted a job as a Certified Public Accountant with PriceWaterhouse in St. Louis, Missouri. Opportunities arose and in 1985, she accepted a job with her family's small venture capital company overseeing the small businesses her father had started.

In 1990, Deters obtained an Executive MBA degree from the Northwestern Kellogg School of Business in Chicago, while working full time. She then started her second successful business, Vantage Technology, in July 1990. Today, Vantage's mobile cataract business serves 16 states in the Midwest, South, and Southeast, providing clients with state-of-the-art ophthalmic equipment, trained ophthalmic technicians, and medical supplies used for cataract surgery. In 2003, Deters built a multi-specialty surgery center in Missouri, along with five surgeons. As the result of this business, Deters founded 7D & Associates, a management company for ambulatory surgery centers.

Deters was presented with the prestigious entrepreneur award in 1997 for the "Fastest Growing Small Business of the Year" by INC Magazine and was featured in the October 2002 INC Magazine "The Fully Managed Family." In 2006, INC Magazine asked Deters and her oldest son, Jeff, to speak about their experiences to fellow entrepreneurs at INC's annual meeting. As a board member of various community and non-profit organizations in the Effingham and Chicago area, she enjoys spending time giving back to her community. Currently, she serves on the board of the Illinois Hunger Coalition in Chicago, Illinois. Ann and her husband, Dennis, along with their four sons and one daughter reside in Effingham, Illinois.