



Desi Ujkashevic has over 25 years of global automotive industry leadership experience, driving new market development, corporate restructuring, and profit strategies to accelerate both growth in emerging markets and improved profitability in mature regions.

In a wide variety of senior executive leadership roles, Desi has focused on delivering product and process excellence globally. Through the combination of business and technical assignments she has developed a deep understanding of operational demands, balanced with consumer, regulatory and sustainability compliance trends. Her knowledge of global footprint requirements enables the development of long term strategies focused on growth, or right sizing, based on market place demands.

Desi joined Ford in 1991. She is currently the Director of Ford's Global Automotive Strategy Office. She has responsibility for all current and future program safety strategy, corporate rule-making, advanced strategy development, and program compliance. Most recently she was the Engineering Director for North American Vehicle Programs. In this capacity, she was responsible for all engineering design and release deliverables including achievement of cost, profit, quality, and timing objectives. Desi recently completed a 3-year international assignment in Germany, where she served as Ford's Global Design Technical Operations Director and the European Body Engineering Director.

Desi is a strong leader whose experience includes both line and functional disciplines. Her leadership style is positive, inclusive and collaborative. She welcomes new challenges and opportunities to learn. Her behaviors and approach have been strong assets when developing and implementing plans, inclusive of restructuring organizations and product strategies. Desi's international leadership experience broadened her understanding of cultural nuances and their impact on market preferences, regulatory demands, and customer satisfaction. She is a tremendous operational leader, with a great strategic vision, who is able to deliver excellence through her drive for results and collaboration leadership style. Desi is recognized as a collaborative, inclusive and disciplined leader who cultivates excellence. Her strong interpersonal and technical skills combined with passion for products have enabled her to deliver strong operational performance globally.

Desi's educational background includes B.S. in Electrical Engineering, M.S in Industrial and Systems Engineering, and an MBA (Marketing and Finance) from the University of Michigan.

Ford Motor Company has recognized Desi with an Excellence in Leadership Award and a Diversity Executive Champion Award. In 2010 and 2015 Desi was named one of the top 100 Leading Women in the Auto Industry by the "Automotive News." In 2011, Desi was featured by "dBusiness" as one of eight women recognized in "Powered by Detroit – Women". Desi is very active in Ford's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Board and regularly participates in many community outreach programs.