

Diane Swonk

Chief Economist Grant Thornton; Founder and CEO of DS Economics

As one of the most-respected economists in the world and among the most-quoted economists in the financial press, Diane Swonk is called upon by policymakers and business leaders from Washington, DC to Tokyo. She has more than 30 years of experience in financial services and sits on an advisory committee to the Federal Reserve Board and its regional banks. She has advised the Council of Economic Advisors for the White House under three presidents. She also served two terms on the Congressional Budget Office's panel of economic advisers. Diane started her own firm, DS Economics, in 2016. She was a managing director and chief economist at Mesirow Financial for 11 years. In 2018, Swonk embarks on a new adventure of being the Chief Economist at Grant Thornton LLP. She is one of the most sought-after and frequently quoted economists in the financial press. *Chicago* magazine once said, "Her name seems the very heartbeat of the business pages." Listed as one of the "Top Forecasters in the Country" by the *Wall Street Journal* and rated as one of the most accurate economic forecasters by MSNBC, she has a nearly encyclopedic knowledge of all things economic. Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), she offers audiences a deep, non-political dive into global and domestic economic issues, including where the economy is headed, trade issues, regulation, taxes, and the effect of government policy on the markets.

The Passionate Economist. For 11 years, Swonk was the senior managing director and chief economist for Mesirow Financial, a diversified financial services firm based in Chicago. She joined Mesirow Financial after 19 years with Bank One Corporation and its predecessors, working as director of economics/chief economist and senior vice president. She started her career with the legacy First Chicago Corporation in 1985 and quickly moved up the ranks, proving herself as a regional economist with her forecast for a renaissance in the Industrial Midwest just one year later. During her tenure there, Swonk designed the bank's regional model, published several nationally-acclaimed studies, managed the Bank One Corporate Economics Group, and published her first book, *The Passionate Economist: Finding the Power and Humanity Behind the Numbers*.

The Best Of The Best. Swonk has earned many awards over her career. She was named a fellow by the National Association for Business Economists (NABE) for her outstanding contributions to the field of business economics. She was designated "Business Leader of the Year" by the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago. *Today's Chicago Woman* called her the "Top Woman in Finance in Chicago" and the *Chicago Sun Times* crowned her one of the "Most Influential Women in Business in Chicago."

Swonk has served on several boards including the National Association for Business Economics (NABE). She was the youngest to serve as president in the association's history and continues to dedicate much of her time to improving the quality and timeliness of economic data, a critical aspect of policymaking. She earned both her bachelor of arts and her master of arts in economics with top honors from the University of Michigan. She also received an MBA in finance and strategic planning with top honors from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, where she currently serves on the Sitting Committee.