

Paul Hillegonds

is senior vice president of corporate affairs at DTE Energy (NYSE: DTE), a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. Hillegonds oversees DTE Energy's governmental relations efforts at the local, state and federal levels as well as external and internal communications. Hillegonds also is responsible for overseeing the company's regulatory affairs, and environmental management and resources organizations. Hillegonds served in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1979 to 1996. During his tenure, he held leadership posts including Republican Leader, Co-Speaker of the House and Speaker of the House. From 1997 to 2005 he served as president of Detroit Renaissance, a non-profit, civic group of Southeast Michigan business leaders. The organization focuses its efforts on economic development and public policy issues.

Hillegonds earned a law degree from Thomas Cooley Law School and a bachelor of arts degree from The University of Michigan. Among his professional and community affiliations, Hillegonds serves on the boards of the Cultural Alliance for Southeast Michigan, Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Future, Inc., Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, New Detroit, Inc., Tech Town, Three Pillars Foundation, The Center for Michigan, The Kresge Foundation, The Michigan Nature Conservancy and the University of Michigan Alumni Association. He has been the recipient of numerous honors during his career. Governing Magazine named him Public Official of the Year in 1994. In 1996, the Detroit News named him a Michiganiaan of the Year. He has received honorary degrees from Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University, Ferris State University and Central Michigan University.

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Education:

Ph.D., M.S. in Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1982
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Positions:

Senior Economist, W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 1989-
Assistant Professor of Economics, Department of Economics and Business Administration, Vanderbilt University, 1982-89
Legislative Assistant for housing and urban policy to U.S. Senator Donald W. Riegle, Jr., 1975-78

Teaching/Research Fields:

Regional Economics, Public Finance, Urban Economics, Labor Economics

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