

From A Woman's Perspective

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Twenty years ago, a divorced ex-school teacher had children to support, a family secret and a dream. Michele Hoskins' determination was to leave her daughters a business instead of just a recipe was the inspiration for Michele Foods. The foundation of Michele Foods is a secret syrup recipe handed down to daughters from a great-great grandmother. But Hoskins had a vision that went beyond the family recipe.

● Michele Hoskins



The Company's products can currently be found in over 10,000 food stores nationwide. Some of the larger food companies that sell Michele brand syrup are: Stop & Shop, Super Wal-Mart, Albertson's, Kroger, Publix, Super Target, Cub Foods, H.E. Butt Grocery, Jewel Foods and Dominick's Finer Foods.

She has achieved much success through her 20 years in the business. She has been awarded the "2002 Entrepreneur of the year" by the Woman's Foodservices Forum, as well as the Keynote Speaker at Johnson & Wales University Graduation Commencement, at which time she received an Honorary Doctorate Degree. She has also been featured three times on the Oprah Winfrey Show and on all major news channels, i.e., WGN, NBC5, Channel 7, Fox News and Black Entertainment Television (BET).

Today she laughs when she recalls her early struggles and mistakes. She states "There was no mentor for me as an African American women entrepreneur. Had I not been naïve, I might not have done this. All I had going for me was my goal."

She provides the following advice "*I put God first*". I believe that anything can manifest itself with faith, hard work and perseverance. So never give up, the dream is something that unfolds to you as you work it. Whatever happens, look at it from a very positive and spiritual way."