Kathleen McLaughlin  
President, Walmart Foundation

Kathleen McLaughlin is president of the Walmart Foundation, where she leads the company’s charitable giving efforts. Last year Walmart and the Walmart Foundation together surpassed more than $1 billion in giving worldwide. Kathleen also has responsibility for the company’s global sustainability and women’s economic empowerment initiatives.

Kathleen joins Walmart in October 2013 after more than 20 years with the global consulting firm McKinsey & Company, where she was a senior partner based in Toronto. As director of the firm’s Social Innovation Practice, Kathleen helped develop breakthrough solutions to social challenges for institutions around the world. There, she led numerous successful engagements such as accelerating country ownership of the HIV/AIDS response in Africa; redesigning the global organization of a major foundation to improve its effectiveness; helping an international agency develop a strategy to engage the private sector in advancing nutrition; and supporting the post-merger organization design and change management of a major development agency.

In the firm’s Retail Practice, she worked with companies in the Americas, Europe and Asia to increase their efficiency and drive growth by expanding into emerging markets; defending home markets against foreign competitors; revamping retail formats; introducing new categories; launching new formats; overhauling marketing, merchandising and store operations functions; and leading large-scale cost reduction efforts that resulted in 15 to 20 percent improvements.

Kathleen earned a bachelor of science in electrical engineering from Boston University, where she was a Trustee Scholar and graduated summa cum laude. She also earned a bachelor of arts in politics, philosophy and economics and a diploma in theology from Oxford University, where she was a Rhodes Scholar.

Kathleen served as a director of the Toronto Community Foundation for 10 years, where she held various roles including chair of the Community Issues Committee that oversaw initiatives and grant-making to Toronto NGOs addressing poverty, hunger, housing and immigrant integration issues. She is also a board member of L’Arche Canada Foundation and a trustee of the Canadian Opera Foundation.