



DALLAS REGIONAL DAYS
AT THE TOP OF THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER

Sunday, Nov. 17-Tuesday, Nov. 19

Honorary Host Committee Co-Chairs

Cynt Marshall, CEO, Dallas Mavericks



Cynt Marshall has been a dynamic force for inclusion and diversity within the Mavericks organization and over a 36-year career at AT&T. When Cynt was hired as the new CEO of the Mavs in March 2018, she set her sights on a culture transformation. Her vision was for the Mavericks organization to become the NBA standard for inclusion and diversity, and brought transparency, trust and her values-based leadership style that evolved the company culture in her first 100 days. Prior to her joining the Mavs, Cynt founded Marshalling Resources, a consulting firm specializing in Leadership, Diversity & Inclusion, Culture Transformation, and overall optimization of people resources. Upon the company naming its first Chief Inclusion Officer in June 2017, Cynt worked with The Dow Chemical Company to develop and implement a strategy for institutionalizing an inclusive culture.

Cynt's notoriety began many years ago as a young Officer at AT&T and grew exponentially when she served as Senior Vice President – Human Resources & Chief Diversity Officer at AT&T. There she was responsible for identifying and developing leaders, aligning employees with the company's vision and priorities, overseeing major business unit HR support, performance development, employee engagement, skills transformation initiatives, EEO and Affirmative Action.

Before her SVP-Human Resources and Chief Diversity Office roles, Cynt served as President-AT&T North Carolina where she became the first African-American chair of the North Carolina State Chamber of Commerce. Prior to her North Carolina appointment, Cynt held a variety of executive line and staff, technical and non-technical positions at AT&T and its predecessor companies.

Widely recognized for her visionary leadership and ability to get things done, Cynt is the recipient of several honors and awards. In March 2021, Forbes named Cynt one of 15 of the



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world's most inspiring female leaders. Cynt received the 2020 Girl Scouts of America Lifetime Achievement award and was touted as one of Adweek's 30 Most Powerful Women in Sports. In 2019, Cynt was honored with the Women of Power Legacy Award by Black Enterprise and was the recipient of the National ATHENA® Leadership Program Award. This annual award is presented by chambers of commerce, women's organizations and universities worldwide. In 2017, Cynt was honored by The Network Journal as one of the 25 Most Influential Women in Business and was honored with the ATHENA® Leadership Program Award by the Dallas Regional Chamber, which recognizes exceptional women who excel in their careers, contribute to their communities and develop women leaders.

In March 2020 and several times prior, Cynt was selected as one of the "50 Most Powerful Women in Corporate America" by Black Enterprise magazine and named to Ebony magazine's 2016 "Power 100" list. In 2014, industry analysts and members of the press conferred on Cynt the HR Executive of the Year - Best in Biz Award. For her efforts on behalf of the people of North Carolina, in 2013 Cynt received the prestigious Leadership North Carolina Governor's Award, which honors just one citizen each year for lifetime achievements.

Cynt graduated from the University of California-Berkeley with degrees in Business Administration and Human Resources Management and holds four honorary Doctorate degrees. She has chaired a variety of non-profit boards and is currently on the board of Dallas CASA, Dallas Regional Chamber, Texas Women's Foundation, Texas 2036, T.D. Jakes Foundation, and a member of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC). She is also on the Board of Directors of BGSF Staffing, JELD-WEN, and Blinkcns, Inc.

The fourth of six children, Cynt grew up in Richmond, California, and lives in the Dallas area. She and her husband, Kenneth Marshall, have four adult children.



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James Springfield, President, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas



James Springfield brings to BCBSTX a depth of senior leadership experience at many prominent health care organizations. He spent 13 years with the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System in Houston. Additionally, James served as the President and CEO of the Valley Baptist Health System in South Texas. He has owned and operated a successful health care advisory firm serving clients from all facets of the health care industry. James has also served as the senior vice president of provider market growth and business development at Optum, a division of United Health.

Throughout his career, James has served on numerous professional and community boards and committees, including positions with the American Hospital Association, Texas Hospital Association and Baylor University. Springfield has also served on the board of the Touchdown Club of Houston and as a committee member with the Houston Rodeo Livestock Show and Rodeo. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

James holds degrees from Baylor University and University of Houston - Clear Lake.

Ross Perot Jr., Chairman, The Perot Group



Ross Perot Jr. serves as Chairman of The Perot Group, which manages the various Perot family interests that include real estate, oil and gas, and financial investments. Additionally, Mr. Perot is Chairman of Hillwood, a Texas-based, leading global real estate development company he founded in 1988. That same year, Mr. Perot developed Fort Worth Alliance Airport, the country's first industrial airport, through a unique public-private partnership. The airport now anchors AllianceTexas, a 27,000-acre master-planned, mixed-use community in North Texas. The area is home to the AllianceTexas Mobility Innovation Zone, an integrated ecosystem for



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both surface and air mobility technology to scale and commercialize. Since its inception, AllianceTexas has generated more than \$120 billion in regional economic impact.

Mr. Perot is co-founder of Perot Systems Corporation and served in various roles within the company including CEO, Chairman of the Board, and member of its Board of Directors. Perot Systems was acquired by Dell Inc. in 2009 at which time Mr. Perot joined their Board of Directors where he served until 2013.

As an aviation enthusiast, Perot completed the first helicopter flight around the world in less than 30 days in 1982 and served as a pilot in the United States Air Force. Mr. Perot then became chairman of the Air Force Memorial Foundation, leading the 14-year effort to build the United States Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Perot currently serves on the boards of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the Hoover Institution. He also is Board Member Emeritus for both Vanderbilt University and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Additional Speakers:

Aasem Khalil, Head of Dallas Office, Goldman Sachs



Aasem Khalil is global head of Investment Banking Services and head of the Dallas office at Goldman Sachs. He is also head of investment banking in the southern region in the U.S.

Prior to his current role, Khalil was co-head of Latin America and head of investment banking in Latin America. Previously, he was a member of the Equity Capital Markets Group. He joined Goldman Sachs in 1996 as an analyst on the mortgage-backed trading desk and was named managing director in 2008 and partner in 2016.

Khalil is a member of the Investment Banking Executive Committee and the Firmwide Client Franchise Committee and is co-chair of the Americas Diversity Committee. He serves on the board of trustees of Kenyon College, the President's Advisory Board of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, the board of the Dallas Museum of Art,



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the board of the Dallas Regional Chamber and the board of the Dallas Stars Ownership Advisory Group.

He earned a BA in political science from Kenyon College.

Dr. Amy King, Campus Executive Director, West Coast University



Dr. Amy King serves as the Executive Director of West Coast University Texas with over 25 years of education leadership experience. She has served as Group President for DeVry University, overseeing 12 campuses in five states including Texas, as well as serving as President of Rasmussen University's Illinois campuses. Active in the community, Amy is an advocate for nonprofit and community organizations. Locally, Amy serves as Vice Chair, City and Government Relations, for the Richardson

Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Amy also serves on the Board of Directors for the Methodist Richardson Medical Center Foundation. Nationally, Amy serves on the Board of Directors for the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), which accredits over 900 master's and doctoral degree programs at more than 400 colleges and universities nationwide.

Amy previously served on the Executive Board of Directors for the DuPage County Workforce Innovation in Illinois, and the Will County Center for Economic Development. Amy has advocated for philanthropy as Chair of the Bolingbrook Adventist Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, for March of Dimes as an Honorary Fundraising Chair, and as a member of the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of Chicago. As an education executive, Amy has served as Chair of the Proprietary Advisory Committee to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Dr. King attained her Doctorate in Education, Organizational Change and Leadership, from the University of Southern California, her MBA from Benedictine University, and her Bachelor's degree in Education from Northern Illinois University.



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Ashlee Davidson, Vice President of Communications, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control



Ashlee V. Davidson is vice president of Communications for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. She is a highly-driven, corporate communications leader, utilizing her skills and experience to drive strategic business results, communicate key executive messaging, effectively foster employee engagement, and increase overall performance for the company's profile. In this role, Davidson oversees all aspects of communications for the organization, while leading a team of approximately 100 communicators in support of programs and products that protect and keep the U.S. safe. She also serves as

co-chair on Missiles and Fire Control's Culture Optimization team and leads the Communications and Invitations Committee for the annual Women's Impact Network Leadership Forum, as well as the executive sponsor for MFC's Black Excellence Council.

Ashlee joined Lockheed Martin in 2019, first serving as the integrated communications director for Lockheed Martin, leading strategic communications efforts on behalf of six corporate functions, along with management of employee-oriented communications channels.

Prior to joining Lockheed Martin, Ashlee led Internal and Executive Communications for L3Harris Corporation, where she was responsible for overseeing all aspects of employee communications and led major customer events and interactions. Davidson began her career at United Technologies (Sikorsky Aircraft) in 2003 as INROADS intern. Upon college graduation, she started a full-time position at Sikorsky as an internal communications associate and has held roles of increasing responsibility.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications from Virginia Commonwealth University, a Master of Science degree in Business Communications from Quinnipiac University and a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Capella University. She is also a graduate of the UTC Emerging Leaders Program, Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia.



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Ashlee is a Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC) and Operation Homefront Board Member, as well as a member of the Public Relations Society of America and the National Association of Black Journalists. She also serves her community through leadership positions within the Links Incorporated, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Jack and Jill of America, as well as the United Way. In 2024, Ashlee was named as PRNEWS Brand Reputation Maven. In 2023, Ashlee was named as PRNEWS Top Women in PR and was selected as the DRC's Young Professional Leadership ATHENA recipient. Additionally, Ashlee was featured in Diverse Business Elite "Women of Influence" edition as a trailblazing professional in the defense industry and recognized for inspiring other leaders. Ashlee is a proud wife and mother of two children, currently residing in Dallas, Texas.

Aurora Flores, Texas Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Strategist, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma



Aurora Flores is an effective, collaborative, and influential legislative lobbyist with 24 years of strong governmental relations experience most recently representing the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma before the Texas Legislature.

She is deeply connected and well versed in the intricacies of the Texas legislative process. Her experience includes both lobbying and as an aide in the Texas House of Representatives. Her strong credentials and outstanding communication skills make her a successful legislative strategist in a changing political landscape.

Aurora specializes in coalition building and legislative strategy across a range of issues including gaming, gambling, business and commerce, and economic and industrial development. She is instrumental in ensuring clients achieve their policy goals. She closely studies and monitors legislation to determine the possible effects and keeps in close contact with and confers with legislators. She also maintains strong, collaborative relationships with legislators and staff in both chambers and parties and nurtures a deep, influential network with lobbyist peers to ensure success in a diverse legislature. A native of Harlingen, Texas in the Rio Grande Valley, Aurora received her B.S. from Northwestern



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University in Evanston, Illinois, and a Master of Business Administration from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Her professional background includes seventeen years representing county government, a marketing position with the Texas General Land Office, and she brings strong communication and media relations skills from her work as a television reporter, anchor, and producer.

Benjamin Greenberg, M.D., Vice Chair of Clinical and Translational Research, UT Southwestern Medical Center



Benjamin M. Greenberg, M.D., M.H.S., is a Professor and the Cain Denius Scholar in Mobility Disorders in the Department of Neurology at UT Southwestern Medical Center. He also has an appointment in the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Greenberg is an internationally recognized expert in treating rare autoimmune disorders of the central nervous system. He currently serves as the Vice Chair of Translational Research and Strategic Initiatives for the Department of Neurology. He is also the interim Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center and the Director of the Neurosciences Clinical Research Center. In addition, he serves as Director of the Transverse Myelitis and Neuromyelitis Optica Program and the Pediatric Demyelinating Disease Program at Children's Medical Center – which he established as one of only two U.S. programs of its kind.

Dr. Greenberg earned his medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine before completing an internal medicine internship at Chicago's Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center. He performed his neurology residency at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, serving as Chief Resident his final year.

He also holds an M.H.S. in molecular microbiology and immunology from the Bloomberg School of Public Health, as well as a bachelor's degree in the history of medicine – both from Johns Hopkins.



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Dr. Greenberg splits his clinical time between adult and pediatric patients, routinely consulting on the inpatient units of William P. Clements Jr. and Zale Lipshy University Hospitals, Parkland, and Children's Medical Center.

His research focuses on better diagnosing, prognosticating, and treating demyelinating diseases and nervous system infections. He also coordinates clinical trials to evaluate new treatments to prevent neurologic damage and restore function to affected patients.

In addition, Dr. Greenberg has led an effort to improve biorepository development and create uniform protocols for sample handling and analysis. As part of this initiative, his collaborative research has identified novel biomarkers that could be key to distinguishing between patients with various neurologic disorders.

Prior to his recruitment to UT Southwestern in 2009, Dr. Greenberg was on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins Division of Neuroimmunology, serving as the Director of the Encephalitis Center and Co-director of the nation's first dedicated Transverse Myelitis Center.

Certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Dr. Greenberg is a three-time *Texas Monthly* Rising Star and was included in *D Magazine's* Best Doctors list for 2016-2022. He was also named a Super Doctor by *Texas Monthly* in 2018.

G. Brint Ryan, Chairman & CEO, Ryan LLC



G. Brint Ryan is the founder, CEO, and chairman of the board of directors for Ryan, LLC, a Dallas-based multi-national leader in the tax services industry. Since Ryan's acquisition of Thomson Reuters Property Tax Services last year, it has become the largest indirect tax practice in North America and currently employs the largest workforce in the industry, with more than 1,600 employees servicing clients in over 40 countries.

Born in west Texas, Brint is a seventh-generation Irish American whose ancestors emigrated from Co. Tipperary sometime before 1776 and fought in the Revolutionary War. This lineage is important to Brint, because it



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“provides [him] with a common link to generations of hard-working, risk-taking Irish that achieved amazing things.” He says he is lucky to have also “inherited some of these qualities from [his] Irish ancestors.”

Brint was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the board or regents at his alma mater, the University of North Texas, and received the Patriot Award for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in 2010. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Amanda, and their five children.

Chris Nielsen, Executive Vice President & Chief Quality Officer, Toyota Motor North America



Chris Nielsen is executive vice president of product support and chief quality officer for Toyota Motor North America (TMNA). In his role, Nielsen oversees a number of functions including: purchasing and supplier development, quality, supply chain management, logistics, after sales service and accessories, and the Toyota Production System development groups. Previously, Nielsen served as senior vice president of human resources, corporate strategy, and purchasing for Toyota Engineering & Manufacturing North America, Inc. (TEMA) located in Erlanger, Kentucky. During his tenure, Nielsen’s leadership was pivotal in the “One Toyota”

Headquarters initiative resulting in a successful merger of two Toyota affiliates with distinct cultures that operated separately for over 30 years. Prior to that assignment, Nielsen was president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas, Inc. (TMMTX) located in San Antonio,

Texas. From 2003 to 2006, Nielsen served as project leader responsible for the overall design and construction of TMMTX, a \$1.2 Billion project.

Nielsen joined Toyota in 1987 as a buyer at its Georgetown, Kentucky plant and progressed through a series of positions including vice president of purchasing where he was responsible for overseeing over \$30 Billion in parts and materials procurement.



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He was the first American to participate in the management expatriation program, a year-long management development assignment with Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) in Japan in 1999.

Nielsen holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from Kettering University (formerly General Motors Institute), and an Executive Education Certificate from The Wharton School of Business. He is a member of the Mazda Toyota Manufacturing U.S. Board of Directors and serves as Chair of the Toyota Motor North America Audit Committee.

Nielsen is also a member of the National Association of Manufacturers Board of Directors (Executive Committee), Manufacturing Institute Board of Directors, Dallas Regional Chamber, Board of Directors (Executive Committee, 2019 Chair – Largest Regional Chamber in the United States), Dallas Citizens Council Board of Directors, and Texas 2036 Donor Advisory Council.

Married to Nicole, Nielsen has three sons and lives in Southlake, Texas.

Dale Petroskey , CEO, Dallas Regional Chamber



gaps which exist in the region.

Dale A. Petroskey is President and CEO at the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC), which has been recognized as National Chamber of the Year. Petroskey, who assumed the position on April 1, 2014, works with the Board, staff, and more than 700 member companies to increase economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life for all throughout the region. The DRC focuses on economic development initiatives, improving education at all levels, setting public policy direction designed to maintain a pro-business, pro-growth climate in North Texas, and the opportunity

After graduating from Michigan State University, he worked 18 years in Washington, D.C., where he served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Bill Goodling (PA), Assistant White



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House Press Secretary to President Ronald Reagan, and Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation under then-Secretary Elizabeth Dole.

From 1988-1999, Mr. Petroskey served as a senior executive at the National Geographic Society, the world's largest educational membership organization. He also oversaw a 50-state geography education program, which still includes the National Geography Bee, which was hosted for years by Alex Trebek, as well as exhibits, the public lectures program, and fundraising.

From 1999-2008, Mr. Petroskey was President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, where he was the primary link to all living Hall of Famers and their families, and led the day-to-day operations of one of the nation's best-known and most respected museums – a premier symbol of American achievement.

Mr. Petroskey is a member of numerous Boards, including The Alfalfa Club of Washington D.C.; SMU's Lyle School of Engineering; EducateDallas; KERA, the Dallas-Ft. Worth public radio and TV station; the Dallas Mavericks Advisory Council; and the Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation.

Mr. Petroskey and his wife, Ann, both graduates of Michigan State University, have three married children and three adorable grandchildren.

Dr. Daniel Podolsky, President, UT Southwestern



Dr. Daniel K. Podolsky became President of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center on September 1, 2008. He had previously been the Mallinckrodt Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, the Chief of Gastroenterology at Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Chief Academic Officer of Partners HealthCare System. In that capacity, he oversaw the research enterprise and graduate medical education programs of its founding academic medical centers, Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital.



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Dr. Podolsky received his undergraduate degree from Harvard College summa cum laude and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, followed by residency training in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Gastroenterology at Massachusetts General Hospital. He joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School and the staff of Massachusetts General Hospital in 1981; he was appointed Chief of Gastroenterology at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1989; and was named the Mallinckrodt Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School in 1998. Under his leadership, the GI Unit became one of the leading programs in the country, highly regarded for its dynamic research and training activities, in addition to its comprehensive program of clinical care in gastroenterology. Dr. Podolsky established an innovative Center for the Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease in 1991, funded through the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Digestive Disease Center program, and the Center has been a highly productive multidisciplinary research program, yielding many significant advances.

Dr. Podolsky's own research interests have focused on the delineation of epithelial cell function. His laboratory has made significant contributions to understanding the mechanisms through which growth factors and cytokines regulate epithelial function and has provided important insights into the mechanisms of epithelial injury and repair. His laboratory has also identified and characterized the functional actions and molecular mechanisms of trefoil peptides, which are central to sustaining mucosal integrity and facilitating repair after injury has occurred. In recent years his laboratory has helped clarify the role of the intestinal epithelium as a component of the innate immune system, through the characterization of innate immune receptors and their functional role in this cell compartment. In conjunction with studies defining basic mechanisms regulating epithelial function, Dr. Podolsky's laboratory has provided important insights into the role of these processes in intestinal inflammatory diseases, most especially the inflammatory bowel diseases. Dr. Podolsky is the author of more than 300 original research and review articles. He is the past editor-in-chief of the journal *Gastroenterology*. He served as President of the American Gastroenterological Association and was the recipient of its Julius Freidenwald Award in 2009. He is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences).



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David Allen, Vice President of Sustainability, PepsiCo



David Allen is currently the Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer for PepsiCo Foods North America (PFNA), which includes Frito-Lay North America (FLNA) and Quaker Foods North America (QFNA). In this role, he is responsible helping PFNA execute its sustainability vision of building a more sustainable food system and reducing environmental impact. The company's sustainability commitments span six key areas – agriculture, people, water, products, climate and packaging. David began his career with PepsiCo as an engineer in 1996. He then spent the next 20 years in various field manufacturing and distribution roles in multiple locations, giving him significant breadth and depth of supply chain experience. Prior to his current role, David served as the Senior Director of Quality and Food Safety for PFNA.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University.

Dr. Eric Olson, Professor & Chair, UT Southwestern



Eric N. Olson is the founding Chair of the Department of Molecular Biology at UT Southwestern. He holds the Robert A. Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair, the Annie and Willie Nelson Professorship in Stem Cell Research, and the Pogue Distinguished Chair in Research on Cardiac Birth Defects. Eric Olson and his trainees discovered the key transcription factors and mechanisms that control development and disease of cardiac and skeletal muscles. His discoveries at the interface of basic science and medicine have profoundly influenced our understanding of the development and dysfunction of the cardiovascular and muscular systems and have provided new targets for therapeutic development. Most recently, Olson conceived a gene editing method to correct a majority of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) mutations



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and demonstrated the effectiveness of this method in patient-derived muscle cells, and in mice and dogs with DMD. This method is now being advanced toward clinical translation.

Olson is an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has received numerous awards for his research. Olson's discoveries at the interface of developmental biology and medicine have illuminated the fundamental principles of tissue formation and have provided new concepts in the quest for muscle and cardiovascular therapeutics.

Olson has published over 600 scientific articles that have been cited >200,000 times in the scientific literature. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The work from his laboratory has been recognized by numerous awards.

Dr. Olson has trained scores of students and postdoctoral fellows who have emerged as the next generation of leaders in cardiovascular biology. He was awarded the Eugene Braunwald Mentorship Award from the American Heart Association, and the International Society for Heart Research established the Eric N. Olson Mentorship Award in his honor. Olson has co-founded multiple biotechnology companies to develop therapies for heart and muscle disease, including Myogen, Miragen, Tenaya Therapeutics, and Exonics. In his spare time, he plays guitar and harmonica with The Transactivators, a rock band inspired by Willie Nelson, the Texas troubadour who created the Professorship that supports his research.



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Gabby Everett, PhD, Director of Business Ops & Strategy, Site Head, BioLabs



Gabby is the Director of Business Operations & Strategy and Site Head for BioLabs Pegasus Park, the premier network of shared lab and office facilities located in key innovation clusters. As Director, she is responsible for recruiting member companies, fostering relationships, and building the biotech community in North Texas. Prior to BioLabs, Gabby was the Lead Scientist in the Biotech group at NCH Corporation. There she led the product development team for bioaugmentation and probiotic products, from ideation to commercialization. She holds 6 US patents and has another 8 patents pending. Gabby holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Texas A&M University where she was the author on nearly 50 peer-reviewed research publications.

Greg Samuel, Partner, Haynes Boone



Greg Samuel has more than 35 years of experience advising both public and private companies in the areas of corporate securities and mergers and acquisitions. He also represents investment banks as underwriters and placement agents in capital markets transactions. Greg cares deeply about his clients and delivers strategic solutions and comprehensive advice to help them achieve their goals.

Clients rely on Greg's experience in the areas of securities and public filings, including initial and secondary public offerings, Rule 144A offerings, Regulation A offerings, Regulation Crowdfunding offerings, rights offerings, private placements, securities law compliance, and corporate governance. Greg also has counseled a multitude of buyers and sellers of public and private companies through mergers and acquisitions.

Greg was selected for inclusion *The Best Lawyers in America* for Corporate Law, 2006-2025 (Woodward/White, Inc.), and was chosen as one of *D Magazine's* "Best Lawyers in Dallas," 2007-2009 and 2011-2024 (D Magazine Partners).



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Greg is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, an honor that recognizes his outstanding contributions to the legal profession and commitment to the community.

Dr. Harrison Keller, President, University of North Texas



Harrison Keller became the 17th president of the University of North Texas in August 2024, bringing with him a deep commitment to advancing student success and elevating UNT's rich tradition of academic and research excellence. Dr. Keller is known as an innovator and leader with more than 25 years of experience in state educational budget and policy, university administration, fundraising, and building coalitions among higher education institutions, school districts, and policymakers to expand opportunities through education. Prior to coming to UNT, Dr. Keller served as Commissioner of Higher Education and chief executive officer for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), providing statewide leadership and coordination of higher education budget and policy for the world's eighth largest economy. Under his visionary leadership, the Coordinating Board advanced policy and programs to improve college readiness and student success — especially for low-income and first-generation college students.

At the Coordinating Board, Dr. Keller worked with higher education leaders, employers, and policymakers to lead development of the state's current strategic plan for higher education, *Building a Talent Strong Texas*. With adoption of this plan in 2022, Texas became the first state to condition its goals for educational attainment on the value of those credentials in the state economy.

Other significant achievements during Dr. Keller's tenure as commissioner included working with state policymakers to improve state support for financial aid, transfer, and workforce education. In partnership with policymakers and higher education leaders, Dr. Keller led the design and implementation of a new outcomes-based community college finance system to advance state higher education goals and address workforce needs. By the end of Dr. Keller's service as commissioner, the State of Texas led the nation in increased support for higher education and university research.



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Prior to serving as Commissioner, Dr. Keller held multiple leadership roles at the University of Texas at Austin, serving as Deputy to the President for Strategy and Policy, Vice Provost for Higher Education Policy and Research, and Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. At UT Austin, he developed multiple large-scale initiatives to support students' transitions from high school to college, including OnRamps, which provides college-level courses to tens of thousands of students across the state each year.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Keller was a legislative aide in the Texas Senate and Texas House of Representatives, Director of Research for the Texas House and Senior Education Advisor for the Speaker of the Texas House. He has taught at UT Austin, Georgetown University, and St. Edward's University.

A sixth-generation Texan, Dr. Keller earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's and Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University. From 2005 to 2015, he served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He and his wife, Gena Nivens Keller, have three children.

Jeff Jeter, Vice President of Government Relations, University of Texas- Arlington



Jeff Jeter is the Vice President for Governmental Relations at the University of Texas at Arlington. In this role he oversees strategic engagement with federal, state, and local governments, administrative agencies, and community organizations to advance the priorities of the entire campus community. The Office of Government Relations operates as the primary liaison between

UTA and all executive and local levels of elected bodies on issues relating to budget, research funding, and policy issues affecting the university.

The Government Relations team works with UTA leadership, faculty, staff, and students to communicate the goals and needs of the campus by enriching the understanding of the role higher education plays with federal, state, and local constituencies.



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Mr. Jeter advises the President of the University on strategic initiatives and communications to advance the University's mission.

Mr. Jeter began his career in state government working in the Texas House of Representatives as the Assistant Sergeant at Arms in the Texas House of Representatives under Speaker Tom Craddick and Speaker James E. (Pete) Laney from 1996-2005. In 2005, He moved to the Senate and joined Senator Chris Harris's office as Chief of Staff. In his 7 years with Senator Harris, Jeter also served as his Legislative Director, Campaign Director and primary fundraiser.

Mr. Jeter is originally from Houston where he graduated from The Kinkaid School. He holds a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin. He has a wonderful daughter(14) who Westlake High school in Austin, Texas.

Jerry Jones, Owner, President, & General Manager, Dallas Cowboys



Born on October 13th, 1942, Jerry Jones grew up in Arkansas but now resides in his team's hometown of Dallas, Texas. He and his wife Gene have three children - sons Stephen and Jerry Jr. and daughter Charlotte - all of whom work alongside their father in the family business of football. Jones began his football career at the University of Arkansas in 1964 where he was the co-captain of the Arkansas Razorbacks. Jerry Jones graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and earned a Master of Arts degree from the university that same year. As one of the only owners who earned a significant level of success as a football player, Jones has altered the landscape of national football with his guidance and prowess.

After taking over as general manager of the Dallas Cowboys in 1989, the team scored victories following the 1992, 1993, and 1995 seasons under Jones' leadership, the first owner in NFL history to lead his team to three league championships in his first seven years of ownership. The first decade of Jones' ownership closed with eight playoff appearances, six division titles, four conference championship game appearances and three world



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crowns as the Cowboys were named the NFL's Team of the 1990s. His previous successes have continued as the Cowboys have won NFC East Division titles in 2007, 2009, 2014 and 2016, while the '16 club secured the 14th playoff appearance in Jones' 28 years of leadership. Along with the success of the Dallas Cowboys on the field, Jones' nearly three-decade long journey of success was solidified with his selection into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a member of the 2017 class. Jones' efforts in the areas of sports marketing, promotion and the development of AT&T Stadium have created a vivid imprint on the landscape of the NFL and the American sports culture.

The Honorable Jim Ross, Mayor, City of Arlington



Jim Ross was elected to the office of Mayor of the City of Arlington in June 2021. Jim has spent decades serving his community and his country. As a proud resident of Arlington for forty years, he has witnessed the growth and growing pains this community has endured. From 1979 to 1983, Jim served this country as a United States Marine. With assignments at home and abroad, he served the Marines in numerous capacities. Having received his Honorable Discharge in 1983, Jim moved to Texas where he was soon hired by the Arlington Police Department. During his thirteen-year career as a Police Officer, Jim was a member of Arlington's first full time Special Operations Unit (SWAT), taught self-defense and physical fitness at the police academy and spent over six years investigating illegal narcotics trafficking, both locally and with the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force.

In 1996, Jim decided to make a career change and go to law school, which he completed in twenty-eight months. He studied and passed the State of Texas Bar exam on his first attempt and was licensed as an attorney in May 1999. During his first ten years of practice, Jim represented thousands of clients while working environmental exposure cases for some of the country's most prestigious law firms. In 2009, Jim left the larger firms to pursue private practice and established The Jim Ross Law Group, P.C.



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In November 2017, Jim opened the Mercury Chophouse – Arlington, a fine dining steakhouse. In 2023, he opened the Hearsay Arlington lounge and restaurant in Choctaw Stadium.

Jim is an active and proud resident of Arlington, having served on the board of directors for the Arlington Police Foundation, the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, the Margarita Society, Special Olympics, and the American Heart Association and he is a member of the American Legion.

As Mayor, he serves on the boards of the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation, Gene and Jerry Jones Family Arlington Youth Foundation, National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation, Texas Municipal League, North Texas Commission, Tarrant County Workforce Governing Board, Downtown Arlington Management Corporation and as a member of the North Central Texas Council of Governments' Regional Transportation Council and the Tarrant Regional Transportation Council. Jim is a US

Conference of Mayors' Trustee and also serves at the Conference as chair of the Veterans Affairs Task Force and co-chair of the Infrastructure Law Implementation Task Force.

More than a passionate lawyer, businessman, and advocate for all, Jim is a family man with four children and five grandchildren.

Dr. Justin H. Lonon, Chancellor, Dallas College



For more than 17 years, Dr. Justin H. Lonon has provided proven executive and strategic leadership for Dallas College, guiding the institution to fulfill its mission of “transforming lives and communities through higher education.” Following a unanimous vote by the Dallas College Board of Trustees in 2021, Lonon began serving as the college’s eighth chancellor in March 2022. Lonon previously served as executive vice chancellor, leveraging his institutional knowledge to provide intentional leadership to the finance, governmental relations, legal, board relations, social responsibility, facilities, human resources, innovation and technology, marketing and communications, safety and



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security, emergency management, institutional effectiveness, and strategic initiatives functional areas.

Lonon served as a driving force in the consolidation of the 55-year-old Dallas County Community College District — and its seven colleges — into one Dallas College. The historic move helps to meet the needs of Dallas County students, improving their access to in-demand degrees and credentials.

To help address the teacher shortage, Lonon provided oversight to the creation of Dallas College's first four-year degree in Early Childhood Education — the first in the state of Texas at a community college. This has led to the launch of the state's first Teacher Residency Program. The college launched a second bachelor's degree in nursing in summer 2024. Lonon's experience as a collaborative leader in higher education transcends the executive suite.

Prior to joining Dallas College in 2005, Lonon worked in the private sector providing public affairs counsel to local and national companies and nonprofit organizations. Lonon began his career in Dallas at City Hall, serving as press secretary for the Mayor's Office.

Lonon serves on several national and local boards, including the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU); COMBASE, a national consortium of leading community colleges; the Austin-based United Ways of Texas; the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas' Advancement Committee; the North Texas Crime Commission; the Dallas Father of the Year Awards, and Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC). He co-chairs the University of Maryland – Global Campus (UMGC) Doctoral Program Advisory Board and served as past chair of the Task Force on Higher Education Government Relations for the American Association of Community Colleges.

The Arkansas native earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Missouri State University, a master's degree in public administration from the University of North Texas and a doctorate in management from the University of Maryland – Global Campus.



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Kevin Ward, General Manager, Trinity River Authority



In his role as the chief executive officer, Ward oversees the largest river authority in Texas and the largest wholesale provider of wastewater treatment services in the state. With the support of eight staff groups and nearly 500 employees, Ward drives the implementation of board policy for the operation and development of four water treatment facilities, five wastewater treatment facilities and one recreation project, plus water sales from four reservoirs – all serving more than 50 wholesale customers including cities, municipalities and districts

throughout the 18,000-square-mile Trinity River basin. Ward manages an annual budget of more than \$430 million and the Authority's assets in excess of \$2.6 billion.

Ward previously served as executive administrator of the Texas Water Development Board from May 2002 to February 2011, and in various other capacities at that state agency from 1987 to 2002.

Ward is active in several organizations. He currently serves as chair of the Region C Regional Water Planning Group and is a member of the Region H Water Planning Group, the Trinity and San Jacinto River Basins and Galveston Bay Basin and Bay Area Stakeholder Committee, and the Tarrant Regional Water District Customer Advisory Committee. He serves as a board and executive committee member of the North Texas Commission and on the Texas Water Conservation Association's executive committee and as chair of the Association's River Authority Panel. He is a past president and a board member of the National Water Resources Association.

Additionally, he previously served as the public member of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers Board of Trustees and a visiting member of the Texas A&M University Lehrer Chair Advisory Council. He recently became a member of the American Society of Engineers Industry Leaders Council.



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Ward also served two terms on the board of directors for the National Waterways Conference, an organization representing national interests related to water supply and waterways transportation.

Ward was honored in 2011 with the Water Environment Association of Texas Outstanding Public Official Award, and in 2012 with TWCA's President's Award.

Latosha Herron Bruff, Senior Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion & Community Engagement, Dallas Regional Chamber



Latosha Herron Bruff is the Senior Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion & Community Engagement at the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC), which has been recognized as the National Chamber of the Year. With more than 20 years of advocating for marginalized communities, combined with her background in real estate, Herron Bruff brings a wealth of knowledge and a commitment to projects that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion for all. Prior to the DRC, Herron Bruff spent more than 10 years with Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity working to improve the quality of life for diverse communities across southern Dallas. She held several positions during her time at Habitat and worked alongside some of the biggest names in nonprofit and social responsibility. Under her leadership, the organization became a United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) certified counseling agency focused on financial education and affordable housing opportunities. The homeownership center was the first among Habitat affiliates to create a digital education platform to help create more informed, empowered, and mortgage-ready homebuyers. In her last role as Vice President of Government Relations and Public Affairs, Herron Bruff worked with community leaders and government officials to influence housing policy at the local, state, and federal levels.

A Dallas native, Herron Bruff holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of North Texas and an executive certification in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from Cornell. She has served on boards and councils for several organizations including Children's



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Health, Desoto Economic Development Corporation, Southern Gateway Deck Park, and The Dallas Entrepreneur Center at RedBird. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the South Dallas Business & Professional Women's Club, Inc. Herron Bruff and her husband are the proud parents of two children.

Linda McMahon, CEO, Dallas Economic Development Corporation



Linda McMahon is the inaugural CEO of the newly formed Dallas Economic Development Corporation (Dallas EDC). The Dallas EDC is a nonprofit Local Government Corporation created to support business development, business retention and serve as the public developer for the City of Dallas. The Dallas EDC will be responsible for marketing Dallas around the world, McMahon recently traveled with the Governor of Texas to India to promote Texas and Dallas. As an independent organization, the Dallas

EDC was created to expand and strengthen the city's economic development growth by attracting significant business investments, fueling job creation, and ensuring long term economic advancement. Prior to joining DEDC, Linda was the President and CEO of The Real Estate Council organization, which includes The Real Estate Council, TREC Community Investors, TREC PAC and TREC Special Events. The Real Estate Council (TREC) is the largest and most influential commercial real estate organization in the State of Texas with over 2,000 members and 650-member companies. TREC focuses on Public Policy, Leadership Development and Community Investment through TREC Community Investors (a certified Community Development Financial Institution). Linda led transformative change within The Real Estate Council through her tenure. Linda was instrumental in the creation of the Dallas Housing Opportunity Fund in partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation which was seed funded by the City of Dallas with \$6MM.

This fund will provide equity and debt for affordable housing. Under her leadership, TREC Community Investors created the Dallas Catalyst Project that has created over \$140MM of leveraged investment in the Forest District over the past five years. She also created the Dallas Collaboration for Equitable Development with a \$6MM investment from JPMorgan



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Chase. Prior to leading TREC, Linda spent three decades in banking, including 15 years with JPMorgan Chase Bank leading the Southwest Region Community Development group. McMahon is a board member of Downtown Dallas, Inc., and the North Texas Commission. She is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors, the Texas Economic Development Corporation, the Texas Economic Development Council, Site Selectors Association, International Economic Development Corporation, Forward Dallas, Texas Lyceum Alumnae Association, the Dallas Assembly, Leadership Dallas Alumnae Association, and the Urban Land Institute. She also currently serves on the Texas Blueprint Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is a statewide effort to create a Metropolitan Blueprint for steering policy to benefit urban areas in Texas, which comprise 90% of the state's population. Throughout her career, McMahon has received numerous honors recognizing her professional work and her commitment to the Dallas community and North Texas. Ms. McMahon will be honored by the NTCAR Hall of Fame in April 2025 with the Industry Service Award. Additionally, she was recently awarded the D CEO Civic Impact Award and the inaugural Outstanding Community Service Award in commercial real estate from D CEO. She is an Honorary AIA named by the American Institute of Architects of Dallas. She was named one of the "78 Women who are changing the Face of Dallas" by D Magazine and honored as one of the Dallas 500 by D CEO annually since 2015. Ms. McMahon is a frequent speaker on issues related to economic development, neighborhood revitalization, and affordable housing. She earned her bachelor's degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin and a certificate in corporate governance from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



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Marc Nivet, EVP of Institutional Advancement, UT Southwestern



Marc A. Nivet, Ed.D., M.B.A., is the Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement at UT Southwestern Medical Center, where he provides strategic vision and oversight in coordinating the areas of Development; Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs; Government Affairs; Community and Corporate Relations; and Technology Development. Dr. Nivet also serves as Professor in the UT Southwestern Peter O'Donnell Jr. School of Public Health, lecturing on health equity, diversity and inclusion, underrepresented populations in academic medicine, and conducting research on the demographic and distribution of the physician workforce. He works collaboratively with faculty and key leadership in the UT Southwestern Medical School, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and School of Health Professions on these and other important issues.

Prior to his role at UT Southwestern, Dr. Nivet served as a member of the executive leadership team of the Association of American Medical Colleges, where he provided leadership on issues surrounding community engagement, diversity, and health equity at medical schools and teaching hospitals across the United States and Canada. Dr. Nivet has spent over 25 years in academic medicine developing creative program initiatives and innovative approaches to advance the mission of excellence in research, education, and patient care.

Dr. Nivet earned his doctoral degree from the University of Pennsylvania and his M.B.A. from George Washington University's School of Business. He is a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and a former president of the National Association of Medical Minority Educators.



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Maruchy Cantu, Executive Vice President, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport



Maruchy Cantu serves as Executive Vice President of Administration, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Ms. Cantu joined the DFW executive team effective December 13, 2021. Her areas of responsibility include Human Resources, Business Diversity & Development, Communications & Marketing, Owner City Relations, and Risk Management.

Ms. Cantu provides vision, strategy, direction, and execution of DFW Airport's general administrative policies and programs.

Specifically, this includes providing strategic direction of all human resources programs, including DE&I, leading the design and administration of the Airport's business diversity policy and programs to support and promote the involvement of small, minority, and women-owned business enterprises (D/S/M/WBEs). In addition, she will manage the airport board process, relationship with the owner cities, community engagement, internal and external communications, and marketing. Lastly, Maruchy will provide strategic oversight of the Board's enterprise risk management process, policies, and execution.

Ms. Cantu is a collaborative executive with more than 27 years of experience in multiple industries, including retail, aerospace, transportation, manufacturing and distribution, and consumer goods.

Before joining DFW Airport, she was Chief Human Resources Officer at Reece/Morsco, a multi-billion-dollar U.S. Plumbing, HVAC, and Waterworks Distributor in Dallas. In addition, she held various other Human Resource executive and leadership roles for Frito-Lay, Grainger, Northrop Grumman, and UPS.

She serves as a member of the board of directors for Communities in Schools of North Texas. She is on the advisory board for The People Center at the University of North Texas – College of Business.



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Ms. Cantu earned a Master of Business Administration from Dallas Baptist University and a Bachelor of Business Administration with a minor in Human Resources Management from the University of North Texas, both degrees were received with honors distinction.

Matt Garcia, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, Dallas Regional Chamber



Matt Garcia is Senior Vice President of Public Policy at the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC), which has been recognized as the National Chamber of the Year. Garcia leads the policy efforts for business priorities through issue advocacy, member education, and collaboration with our regional and statewide partners. Garcia's career also includes service as Chief of Staff for Texas to U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions, Managing Advisor of Government Affairs for Sunwest Communications, Director of External Affairs for Leon Capital Group as well as various senior financial roles for two publicly traded companies. Garcia is a graduate of Leadership Dallas and is currently a Director for the Texas Lyceum. Garcia is active in his community and serves as a member on numerous boards, including the Chairman's Task Force for the State Fair of Texas, Reading Partners of North Texas, and the Advisory Board for the McCombs School of Business.

Garcia is a proud graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Dallas with their two children.



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Meghan Kelley Wehner, Senior Vice President of Membership, Dallas Regional Chamber



Meghan Kelley Wehner is Senior Vice President of Membership at the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC), which has been recognized as the National Chamber of the Year. Kelley Wehner and her team work to connect companies across the Dallas Region with the strategic focus areas of the DRC including prosperity and economic development, education, talent and workforce, diversity, inclusion and community engagement, and public policy, as well as the DRC's Leadership Programs. Her primary objectives are to cultivate new relationships, engage senior-level executives, generate new revenue, and create customized engagement plans based on the individual company's goals of the partnership. Kelley Wehner and her team also work to increase total investment through membership, sponsorship and branding opportunities, and the Tomorrow Fund, an accelerator fund supporting the strategic plan of the DRC.

Kelley Wehner joined the DRC in 2013 as a member of the membership team. During her tenure at the DRC, she has worked to initiate impactful relationships with hundreds of companies ranging in size and geographic location.

Prior to joining the DRC, Kelley Wehner worked in marketing and event planning. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing from Texas A&M University. Meghan and her husband, Tyler, have three children.



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Michael Brown, Professor, UT Southwestern



Michael S. Brown received a B.A. degree in Chemistry in 1962 and an M.D. degree in 1966 from the University of Pennsylvania. He was an intern and resident at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and a post doctoral fellow with Dr. Earl Stadtman at the National Institutes of Health. In 1971, he came to Dallas where he rose through the ranks to become a professor in 1976. He is currently Paul J. Thomas Professor of Molecular Genetics and Director of the Jonsson Center for Molecular Genetics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Dr. Brown is a former member of the Board of Directors of Pfizer, Inc. and was Chairman of its Science and Technology Committee. Dr. Brown and his long-time colleague, Dr. Joseph L. Goldstein, together discovered the low-density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor, which controls the level of cholesterol in blood and in cells. They showed that mutations in this receptor cause Familial Hypercholesterolemia, a disorder that leads to premature heart attacks in one out of every 500 people in most populations. Their work laid the theoretical groundwork for the development of a class of drugs called statins that block cholesterol synthesis, increase LDL receptors, lower blood cholesterol and prevent heart attacks. Statins are taken daily by more than 20 million people worldwide. Brown and Goldstein have received many awards for this work, including the U.S. National Medal of Science and the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology.



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Michael Jacobson, President and CEO, Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce



Michael Jacobson was appointed President & CEO of the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce in February 2016. The Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce represents the interest of 1,000+ businesses and nonprofits in the greater Arlington area, championing economic and community prosperity. Michael also serves as the President of the Arlington Economic Development Corporation Board. Prior to this position Michael Jacobson was director of Intel's Corporate Responsibility Office. In this role, he was responsible for leading Intel's corporate responsibility strategy with stakeholders across the company. He led an experienced team of experts in corporate social responsibility, strategic alliances, marketing and communications, stakeholder management and reporting who were committed to building upon Intel's performance as a leading corporate citizen.

Michael managed Intel's Corporate Affairs team in California and Texas where he was responsible for leading corporate responsibility programs, philanthropic investments and public policy. Michael also worked in Intel's Corporate Real Estate and Site Development Group as a site selection manager. In this capacity, Michael was responsible for evaluating locations across the globe for potential Intel investment.

Jacobson came to Intel from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce where he was a director of business development. During his four-year tenure with the Chamber, Fort Worth ranked in the top ten in the United States for business recruitment. Intel was one of the companies that he helped recruit to Fort Worth.

Jacobson joined the Fort Worth Chamber after serving eight years in Washington D.C. He held positions as assistant to the deputy secretary for management planning and operations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, special assistant to the Commissioner for the Social Security Administration and special assistant to the Administrator of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.



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Michael currently serves in many capacities throughout the greater Arlington nonprofit community. He is a board member of the University of Texas at Arlington College of Business, Downtown Arlington Management Corporation, the Arlington Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Arlington-Mansfield YMCA, the Dallas Wings Foundation, the Arlington Police Foundation and the Arlington Margarita Society. Nationally, he serves on the U.S. Chamber's Committee of 100 with leading chamber CEOs from across the country.

Jacobson received his bachelor's degree in political science from Baylor University in 1984.

Mike Rosa, Senior Vice President, Economic Development, Dallas Regional Chamber



Mike Rosa is Senior Vice President of Economic Development at the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC), which has been recognized as National Chamber of the Year. Rosa leads critical relationships with regional allies, the State of Texas, the DRC's board and executive committee, and economic development investors. His team is responsible for economic development marketing and corporate recruitment and expansion to the Dallas Region. During his career, Rosa has engaged numerous corporate locations and expansions to the Dallas Region, including several headquarters projects such as AT&T, Comerica Bank, Fluor, Hilti North America, Kubota Tractor Corporation, Toyota Motor North America, McKesson, McLaren, Charles Schwab, and CBRE.

Prior to joining the DRC, Rosa was a Senior Vice President with the Buxton Company, a Fort Worth-based consulting firm that selects locations for prominent national retailers and helps cities with retail-oriented economic development programs.

Rosa spent 14 years with the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce economic development department and was promoted to lead the team as Senior Vice President of Economic Development.



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In 2015, he served as Chair of the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC), the 800-member statewide organization for economic developers. He also provides leadership to the DFW Marketing Team, an association of economic developers that represent Dallas-Fort Worth area cities.

Rosa is currently one of nine appointees to the State of Texas incentives oversight committee.

Rosa holds a Master of Science in economic development and a Bachelor of Science in regional planning from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Nadine Lee, President, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)



Nadine Lee is the President & Chief Executive Officer of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), a 13-city transit system covering a 700-square mile service area with bus, light rail, commuter rail, and paratransit services, where she leverages the talents and expertise of 3,700 employees to deliver the People's Transit System. Previously, Nadine was the Chief of Staff for Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). In this role, Nadine drove coordination and delivery of projects, programs, and services across the organization to provide a world-class transportation system for the citizens of Los Angeles County. Three foundational culture-transformation functions were established under her leadership: Equity and Race, Customer Experience, and the Better Bus Program.

She also served as Deputy Chief Innovation Officer in Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation where she led the development of Vision 2028, Metro's 10-year strategic plan to increase prosperity for L.A. County through improved mobility. Prior to arriving in Los Angeles, Nadine led the development and implementation of the Flatiron Flyer Bus Rapid Transit for Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD), a project that produced a 40% increase in corridor ridership in its first few months of service.



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Nadine also led the Northwest Rail and Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility projects in the FasTracks Program. Nadine was appointed to the Leadership APTA Committee in 2019 and is a past Director on the WTS International Board. She was awarded 2019 WTS International Woman of the Year. Nadine participated in the 2019 APTA International Study Mission to explore Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) in three European cities. She also studied the role of performance management in improving service delivery in four Southeast Asia cities as part of the TCRP International Transit Studies Program. A registered Professional Engineer in Colorado and Kansas, Nadine received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Despite her engineering training, Nadine flexes her creative muscles in Adult Beginning Ballet several times a week and has participated in several performances.

Nicole Small, CEO, Lyda Hill Philanthropies



Nicole G. Small serves as chief executive officer of LH Holdings, Inc. and president of the Lyda Hill Foundation, related entities which use their resources to fund game-changing advances in science and nature, empower nonprofits, and to improve the local communities of greatest importance to the organizations' founder, Miss Lyda Hill. In these roles since early 2014, Ms. Small is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of both entities, including their financial and investment activities, as well as their philanthropic initiatives.

From 2011 through 2013, Ms. Small served as the inaugural Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer of Dallas' Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Ms. Small joined the Dallas Museum of Natural History in 2001, having first served as a member of the Museum's expansion team from 2001 until she was named CEO in April 2002. In 2006, Ms. Small spearheaded the merger of the city's three, then existing nature, science, and childrens museums (the Dallas' Museum of Natural History, The Science Place and the Children's Museum), into a sole museum which later became the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Victory Park. Ms. Small worked with the Board, the community and the



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Museum team to raise over \$200 million, which included achieving their \$185 million fundraising goal – and provided for the site acquisition, exhibition planning and design, construction of the new building, education programs, and an endowment – more than a full year before the Museum’s planned opening. These achievements, along with many others, earned the Perot Museum widespread acclaim both for its innovative design and programming excellence.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Small held positions with several technology, venture capital and consulting firms, including serving as the founder and CEO of an internet startup, an entrepreneur-in-residence at a California-based business incubator, and as an analyst with McKinsey & Company. Ms. Small received an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She is a member of the Dallas Assembly, YPO, Charter 100, and International Women’s Forum. She serves on the Boards of the A.H. Belo Corporation, Southwestern Medical Foundation, Communities Foundation of Texas, and on the strategic planning committee for The Hockaday School in Dallas. Ms. Small resides in Dallas with her husband, two daughters, and a dog.

Rafael Lizardi, CFO, Texas Instruments



Rafael Lizardi is a senior vice president and chief financial officer of Texas Instruments. Prior to this role, Lizardi served as the corporate controller. During his career at TI, he has held a number of leadership positions in finance and operations including controller for the company’s High Volume Analog and Logic business and the director of corporate financial planning. Lizardi joined Texas Instruments in 2001 as part of the company’s finance development program after serving five years as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a Master of Business Administration from Stanford University and is a certified management accountant.

Rafael Lizardi is a senior vice president and chief financial officer of Texas Instruments. Prior to this role, Lizardi served as the corporate controller. During his career at TI, he has held a number of leadership positions in finance and operations including controller for the company’s High Volume Analog and Logic business and the director of corporate financial planning. Lizardi joined Texas Instruments in 2001 as part of the company’s finance development program after serving five years as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point, a Master of Business Administration from Stanford University and is a certified management accountant.



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In addition to his role at TI, Lizardi serves as a member of the boards of the TI Foundation, the Dallas Regional Chamber and the Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas Foundation.

Dr. Richard C. Benson, President, University of Texas- Dallas



Dr. Richard C. Benson became the fifth president of The University of Texas at Dallas in July 2016. An engineer with a self-described “appreciation for all things artistic and beautiful,” Benson brings to UT Dallas a vision to not only maintain the University’s excellence in science, math, technology and management programs, but also to boost the arts and humanities. Benson, whose interests include music, nature hikes and photography, came to UT Dallas from Virginia Tech, where he served as dean of the College of Engineering beginning in 2005. Before that, he was head of the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering at

Pennsylvania State University for 10 years. He previously served as chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Rochester, and prior to that was the associate dean for graduate studies in the university’s College of Engineering and Applied Science.

Benson’s research at the University of Rochester was primarily focused on the mechanics of highly flexible structures. Before beginning his university career, he worked for Xerox Corp. as a technical specialist and project manager.

In 1998, he was made a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). In 2009, he was elected to a three-year term on the ASME Board of Governors (2010-13). He also has held editorial positions with the ASME Press, *ASME Journal of Applied Mechanics* and *Applied Mechanics Reviews*.

Benson holds a bachelor of science and engineering degree in aerospace and mechanical science from Princeton University, a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the



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University of Virginia, and a doctorate in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

He and his wife, Leslie, have three adult children, Stephanie, James and Kenneth.

Sarah Standifer, Director, Dallas Water Utilities



Ms. Standifer has over 20 years of public service experience. In May 2024, Sarah was appointed Director of Dallas Water Utilities (DWU). DWU provides water, wastewater and stormwater services, including storm drainage and flood control services, to more than 2.6 million customers in Dallas and 27 surrounding cities. Ms. Standifer is responsible for stormwater operations, as well as business and emergency operations for both the water and stormwater utilities which includes direct oversight of developing and managing an annual operating budget, planning and executing capital programs, personnel and developing and maintaining partnerships with the community and public agencies. Ms. Standifer also manages more than 1.2B for water and wastewater operations and capital programs and \$115M for stormwater annual operations and capital programs to ensure compliance with the city's MS4 Permit.

Prior to joining Dallas Water Utilities, Sarah served as the Director of Trinity Watershed Management where she was responsible for the daily and emergency operations of approximately 267 positions with direct oversight of the management of stormwater utility revenue operations, major maintenance budgets, flood protection and stormwater drainage capital programs, and the Dallas Levee System program's implementation. She also serves as the Vice Chair of the State of Texas' Trinity Regional Flood Board, a board member of National Waterways Conference and a member of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. Ms. Standifer is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and has a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas.



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Dr. Stephanie Elizalde, Superintendent, Dallas Independent School District



Superintendent Stephanie S. Elizalde, Ed.D. was elected by the Board of Trustees in June 2022 to serve as Superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District. Dr. Elizalde is a third-generation public school educator, following in the footsteps of her grandmother and father. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Master of Arts degree in educational leadership from UT San Antonio, and holds a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from UT Austin.

A native Texan, Dr. Elizalde is a lifelong educator committed to equity and excellence in education for every student. She has a proven track record of raising student academic achievement while building a culture of inclusion and equity. She understands the importance of developing collaborative relationships with the city and individual communities that are home to each individual school.

Her career has included working in diverse school systems from small to large urban settings, including Southwest ISD and San Antonio ISD. She has served students in various roles, including as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and deputy chief.

Dr. Elizalde most recently served as Superintendent of the Austin Independent School District, where she focused on establishing financial stability, supporting the teacher in the classroom, SEL and academic supports for students, and strategic staffing – giving campuses with students who *need* more access to more.

Prior to her tenure in Austin, she was Chief Schools Officer for Dallas ISD, the second-largest school district in Texas. She joined Dallas ISD in 2011 as Director of Mathematics in the division of Teaching and Learning.

She believes in supporting, rewarding, and retaining excellent teachers, and views the development of great school leaders as the foundation for success. She stands behind the belief that the “teacher is the program.”



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Her recognitions include being named one of four Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Hispanics in Education for 2014 and recognition in 2016 by *The Dallas Morning News* as a “Point Person” for her work in the community. She was awarded the UT-Austin Dr. Nolan Estes Leadership Ascension Award five times, most recently in 2022, and earned a Presidential Medal from Ana G. Mendez University. She currently serves as the chair of the Texas Urban Council.

Taylor Wilson, Managing Partner, Haynes Boone LLP



Taylor H. Wilson joined Haynes Boone in 1990 and currently serves as managing partner of the firm. Taylor focuses his practice on corporate/securities, private equity, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate matters, and regularly advises investment advisers to both domestic and offshore funds with respect to fund formation and investment management activities. Taylor has been recognized as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*, Woodward/White, Inc., for Securities Law/Capital Markets Law 2007-2012; and for

Corporate Law, 2013-2024. He has also been recognized as a *Texas Super Lawyer*, Thomson Reuters – Securities and Corporate Finance 2003-2013.

Taylor received his B.A. at Amherst College and his J.D. from Southern Methodist University.



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**Terry Pohlen, PhD, Senior Associate Dean, G. Brint Ryan College of Business,
University of North Texas**



Professor (Logistics), and Senior Associate Dean of the G. Brint Ryan College of Business, Terry received a MS in Logistics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and an MA and PhD in Business Administration from The Ohio State University. Dr. Pohlen retired from the USAF with 20 years experience in logistics. His research focuses on the costing and financial management of logistics and supply chain management. He co-authored CSCMP's The Handbook of Supply Chain Costing, and has routinely participated in executive education programs including those at Northwestern University, Southern Methodist University,

Georgia Institute of Technology, The Ohio State University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

His research has been published in the Journal of Business Logistics, International Journal of Logistics Management, International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management, and the Transportation Journal.

Winjie Miao, SEVP & Chief Operating Officer, Texas Health Resources



Winjie Tang Miao serves as senior executive vice president and chief operating officer. In her role, Miao is charged with evolving Texas Health's core services and developing an integrated, high-performance delivery network that is consumer-focused. She oversees Texas Health's Hospital Channel, physicians group, ambulatory and virtual care services, along with clinical excellence and network navigation functions. Prior to assuming the chief operating officer position, Miao served as Texas

Health's chief experience officer, leading the organization's transformation to elevate the needs and preferences of consumers. With a focus on moving beyond episodic sick care to provide consumers a lifetime of health and well-being services, Miao expanded access to care by opening new channels to deliver care when, where and how patients prefer. She led



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the organization's Connected Health strategy and implementation and was integral in developing capabilities around data and insights, virtual patient experiences and CRM competencies.

Miao joined Texas Health in 2000 as an administrative resident at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas and served in a progression of leadership roles, including opening Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Alliance as its inaugural president. She joined the system leadership team in 2015 as senior vice president of system integration and innovation and was instrumental in creating Reliable Care Blueprinting™, Texas Health's approach to care design to deliver a safe, reliable and quality experience in every consumer encounter.

A biomedical engineering graduate of Johns Hopkins University, Miao also earned a master's degree in healthcare administration, with a concentration in financial management and quality management, from the University of North Carolina.

Zach Sherman, Director of Government Relations, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control



Zach Sherman is the Director of Government Relations for Missiles and Fire Control (MFC) at Lockheed Martin. In this capacity he leads MFC Government Relations by designing strategic political and advocacy initiatives to promote favorable policy, regulatory, and procurement landscapes at federal, state, and local levels to drive business objectives. Mr. Sherman covers key LM geographical areas that include Texas, Florida, Arkansas, Alabama, and Kentucky.

Prior to this role, Zach led strategy development and execution across the European continent within Aeronautics, covering keep sold and new strategic pursuits across Skunkworks, F-35, F-16, and C-130J systems. In 2020, Mr. Sherman was awarded with the business development capture award for the successful Poland F-35 LOA signing of 32 aircraft.

Previously, Mr. Sherman was the Manager of Strategic Development in Washington DC Operations. In this capacity, Mr. Sherman engaged and informed domestic and



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international think tanks on global security programs to shape policies and elevate the national debate regarding the aerospace industry. In addition to managing the national security and foreign policy think tank portfolio, Zach served as the technical assistant to the Chairman & CEO of Lockheed Martin, Marilyn Hewson. In this capacity he performed research and analysis supporting executive leadership on issues pertinent to Capitol Hill, the Pentagon, and the White House.

In 2012, Zach was named to the 'Top 99 future leaders in Foreign Policy' list by the Diplomatic Courier and was also selected Foreign Policy Initiative's Leaders Program.

Mr. Sherman holds a bachelor's degree in Aerospace & Ocean Engineering and Mathematics from Virginia Tech; and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Zach also has completed executive course programs at the Defense Acquisition University and Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Sherman is an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He also serves as a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the Orlando Economic Partnership, Logix Federal Credit Union, and the Texas Association of Manufacturers, respectively.