

Peter L. Beard, J.D.
Senior Vice President, Regional Workforce Development
Greater Houston Partnership

Peter Beard serves as Senior Vice President for Regional Workforce Development at the Greater Houston Partnership whose mission is to make the Houston region the best place to live, work, and build a business.

In his role, Beard leads the Partnership's UpSkill Houston initiative. This business-led effort works with employers, educational institutions, community-based organizations, and the public workforce system to develop collective solutions that close the skills gap in Houston.

UpSkill Houston is focused on ensuring that the region's businesses have access to workers that have the necessary skills and credentials for "middle skills" careers in seven key industry sectors that drive Houston's regional economy and anchor its global economic competitiveness. He also serves on the board of directors for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board.

Prior to joining Greater Houston Partnership, Beard served as Senior Vice President for Community Impact at United Way Worldwide in Alexandria, Virginia; in executive positions at the Fannie Mae Foundation in Washington, DC; and as general counsel at Habitat for Humanity International in Americus, Georgia.

Beard earned his A.B. in economics from Davidson College in North Carolina and his J.D. (magna cum laude) from Syracuse University College of Law in New York.

**The Honorable Paul Bettencourt
Senator, Texas Senate, District 7
State of Texas**

First elected to the Texas Senate in 2014, Paul Bettencourt represents Senate District 7, which includes portions of Harris County. He previously served 10 years as the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector, where he introduced "Smart Government" at the Harris County Tax Office and developed a customer service-driven organization. His team created the first major online property tax payment system and the first county tax office website with online automotive registration in Texas. (His motto was "Get on-line, not in-line.")

In his first legislative session, Senator Bettencourt served as the chief Senate sponsor on 25 bills that the Legislature approved, including his amendment to Senate Bill (SB) 1760 that requires a 60 percent supermajority within a taxing jurisdiction to increase property taxes and has already prevented Dallas ISD from imposing a \$100 million tax increase on its taxpayers. Senator Bettencourt also led the passage of the Andrea Sloan "Right to Try" bill, which allows terminally ill Texas patients access to drugs still in the FDA approval pipeline, and SB 1004, which expanded dual credit opportunities in Harris County.

Numerous organizations have acknowledged Senator Bettencourt for his conservative solutions. His work earned him the distinction of "Most Valuable Freshman" by Capitol Inside, "Outstanding Texas Legislator" by Vision America, and being called an "architect of tax relief" by Governor Greg Abbott. His leadership in office and the community also earned him additional awards such as the "Taxpayer Advocate of the Year" award from Americans for Prosperity, the "Hero of Faith" award from the Houston Area Pastors' Council, and a "Pioneer" award from the Harris County Republican Party.

During the interim session, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick appointed Senator Bettencourt to serve as Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Property Tax Reform & Relief. The Select Committee toured Texas and heard almost 50 hours of public testimony, discussing ideas to reform the appraisal system and bring tax relief to Texans, as proposed in SB 2, the Texas Property Tax Reform and Relief Act of 2017.

Senator Bettencourt also serves on the Senate Finance, Education, and Higher Education committees, and is the Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Most recently, he was appointed to the Joint Select Committee to Determine a Sufficient Balance of the Economic Stabilization Fund and unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as the Chair of the Texas Senate Republican Caucus.

A graduate of Texas A&M University, Senator Bettencourt is the CEO of Bettencourt Tax Advisors, LLC, a tax consulting company in Houston that has grown to more than three dozen employees. He is also a radio and television personality.

The senator and his wife Susan are active members of Saint John Vianney Catholic Church, where Paul is a fourth degree Knight of Columbus.

Michael Bettersworth
Vice Chancellor and Chief Policy Officer
Texas State Technical College

Michael Bettersworth is vice chancellor and chief policy officer for Texas State Technical College (TSTC). TSTC offers 180 certificates and degrees at 10 locations across Texas.

Bettersworth's career has focused on developing novel approaches to aligning educational outcomes with industry needs in order to maximize student earnings and economic impact. He is the founding director of the Center for Employability Outcomes (C4EO) where his work has included research publications on emerging technologies and development of the nation's first funding model based entirely on student earnings outcomes. Bettersworth is now leading the development of SkillsEngine, a suite of web tools and data services that use artificial intelligence to analyze and refine curriculum, resumes, and job postings for EdTech and HRTech solutions.

Bettersworth earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Telecommunication and a Master of Arts degree in Communication Studies, both from Baylor University.

Cobby Caputo, J.D.
School Lawyer
Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP

Cobby Caputo is a school lawyer who provides general counsel services to schools and colleges in Texas. He is also a litigator, representing schools and colleges in 1st and 14th Amendment constitutional claims, construction claims, Title VII and Title IX suits, and other civil rights litigation. Recently re-elected to the City Council of Cedar Park, Texas, Cobby is in his 13th year of service to his City. He uses the valuable insights he has gained from his public service to advise boards and other local government clients on governance, open government, and liability issues.

Caputo advises boards on a wide array of legal issues, including policy development, open government issues, student discipline, student and employee rights, personnel, special education and disability rights, purchasing, and construction.

He serves as outside general counsel to Austin Community College and several Texas school districts, and performs special project work for Alamo Colleges, Del Mar College, South Texas College, Austin ISD, and others. He frequently speaks on school law issues and serves as an Adjunct Professor in Concordia University's Graduate School of Education.

Caputo is a member of the Texas Association of Community College Attorneys, the National Education Law Association, the Texas Association of School Boards Council of School Attorneys, the National School Boards Association Council of School Attorneys, and Texas City Attorneys Association. He is admitted to practice before all state and federal courts in Texas, as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

Caputo holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from The University of Texas School of Law. He was admitted to the Texas bar in 1989.

Dona Hamilton Cornell, J.D.
Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs and General Counsel,
University of Houston System
Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel
University of Houston

Dona Hamilton Cornell became vice chancellor for legal affairs and general counsel for the University of Houston System and vice president for legal affairs and general counsel for the University of Houston in 2002. In these roles, she is responsible for legal services in all areas, including contracts and conveyances, employment law, constitutional law, real estate, intellectual property, federal research, tax, gift matters, governance, open government issues and other matters applicable to higher education law. Prior to her appointment, she served as deputy chief of the General Litigation Division for the Texas Attorney General's office, was a partner in an Austin-based law firm, and was also an Assistant Attorney General from 1987-1992.

Cornell earned her undergraduate and law degrees from The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to receiving her law degree, she served as a committee clerk and legislative aide in the Texas Legislature.

Jenna Cullinane Hege, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Jenna Cullinane Hege joined the staff of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) in June 2016 and serves as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning in the Division of Strategic Planning and Funding. Before joining the staff of the THECB, she was strategic policy lead for higher education at The Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin where she worked on policy, evaluation, and scaling of accelerated approaches to developmental and entry-level college education. Cullinane Hege's recent research topics include time to degree, transfer, mathematics education, high-school-to-college transitions, developmental education, scaling educational innovations, and improving the success of underserved student populations in higher education. Previously, Cullinane Hege was special assistant to the president at the Institute for Higher Education Policy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving access and equity in higher education. She also worked at Deloitte and Touche and at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

Cullinane Hege earned a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Master's in Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Legal Studies and Education at the University of California, Berkeley.

Julie A. Eklund, Ph.D.
Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Funding
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Dr. Julie A. Eklund joined the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board staff in 2005 and was appointed Assistant Commissioner for the Strategic Planning and Funding Division in December 2015. During her 12 years at the agency, she has served in several roles in the strategic planning area. Currently, her responsibilities include overseeing the Education Data Center, and the Strategic Planning and Analysis, Research and Evaluation, and Funding departments. Staff in these areas provide data and analysis support for statewide efforts to reach the goals of the Texas 15-year higher education strategic plan, *60x30TX*.

Eklund holds degrees from Amherst College (BA), Harvard University (EdM), and The University of Texas at Austin (PhD).

**Carine M. Feyten, Ph.D.
Chancellor/President
Texas Woman's University**

Dr. Carine M. Feyten became the eleventh president and second chancellor of Texas Woman's University — the nation's largest university primarily for women — in July 2014. She oversees a university with an annual operating budget that exceeds \$256 million; serves approximately 15,700 students on campuses in Denton, Dallas, and Houston; and has an annual economic impact in the North Texas region of more than \$721 million.

Feyten already has had a notable impact on the university during her tenure as chancellor and president. Achievements under her leadership include launching new degree programs in informatics and healthcare informatics; expanding degree offerings online and at satellite locations; enhancing community outreach; improving university infrastructure with plans for a new student union and parking garage in Denton; developing relationships with the business community and state legislature; building the university's leadership team and enriching university communication.

A native of Belgium, Feyten holds a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Education, Second Language Acquisition from the University of South Florida, and a Master of Arts degree in English, Dutch, Education and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Germanic Philology, both from the Université Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. She speaks several languages and is an internationally recognized consultant, speaker and scholar in the field of language learning, teaching methodologies and the integration of technology in education. Feyten has authored or co-authored more than 100 journal articles, conference papers, and book chapters. She previously served as dean of the College of Education, Health and Society at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

**William "Bill" Franz, J.D., LL.M.
General Counsel
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**

William "Bill" Franz is the General Counsel of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. In that capacity, he serves as the Board's attorney as well as the agency's General Counsel. He consults with and advises the Board and the Commissioner on agency legal matters, including providing legal oversight of and support for policies and programs.

Franz has extensive experience in education and administrative law, labor and employment law, and general business law. He has served as general counsel for several clients in the private sector. In addition, he has litigated nearly 200 cases to conclusion. In the public sector, he also has served as Director of Legal and Enforcement sections as well as Executive Director. Franz has been engaged in the practice of law for over 30 years.

Franz graduated from St. Louis University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, the University of San Diego School of Law with a Juris Doctor degree, and the Georgetown University Law Center with a Master of Laws degree.

David W. Gardner, Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy/Chief Academic Officer
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

As the Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. David Gardner leads the Board's Academic Quality and Workforce Division, College Readiness and Success Division, Strategic Planning and Funding Division, and Innovation and Policy Development Division. His primary responsibilities have included coordination of the Board's efforts toward *Closing the Gaps by 2015* through academic excellence and research at Texas institutions of higher education. His continuing responsibilities will include coordination of the Board's efforts toward meeting the goals of the new Texas higher education plan, *60x30TX*.

Previously, Gardner served the agency as the Associate Commissioner for Academic Excellence and Research and as the Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Information Resources. Gardner provided leadership for statewide initiatives such as Texas' higher education plan *Closing the Gaps by 2015*; the college and university electronic library resource sharing consortium; the Texas Accountability System for Higher Education; and the Texas Public Education Information Resource, which includes information on all students enrolled in Texas public schools, as well as both public and private higher education institutions in Texas. He served as an affiliate for Columbia University's Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment (CAPSEE), and currently is a member of the Texas Workforce Commission's Jobs & Education for Texans (JET) Advisory Board and the Texas Space Grant Consortium.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board staff in 1985, Gardner was on the faculty at Hofstra University where he taught in the master's and doctoral programs in the Administration and Policy Studies Department. While at Hofstra, he was director of the master's program, chaired the university's planning committee, and served on the graduate council and the scholarships committee. He also has been a visiting professor at Texas A&M University and an adjunct professor at The University of Texas at Austin.

Gardner earned his Ph.D. and master's degree from Texas A&M University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston.

**Fernando C. Gomez, J.D., Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel
Texas State University System**

Born in Gallup, New Mexico, Fernando C. Gomez earned degrees from the University of New Mexico (B.A. *cum laude*) and the University of Michigan (J.D. and Ph.D., American Culture). He attained tenure at Michigan State University before serving as assistant attorney general in Michigan and in Texas, and as California State University System general counsel. He has served as Texas State University System vice chancellor and general counsel for 27 years (1986-1990 and 1994-Present). He has authored three books, and he has consulted and lectured on higher education and legal topics throughout the United States and overseas, including Cuba and Yemen.

In December 2011, Texas Review Press published *A Texas State of Mind*, a book edited by Gomez, commemorating the Texas State University System, and its colleges and universities, in celebration of the System's centennial year.

Carlena "CJ" Harris
Talent Acquisition Manager, University Recruiting Operations
National Instruments, Inc.

Carlena "CJ" Harris has been in the IT industry for over 24 years and has held roles such as Network Analyst, Software Engineer, and Software Development Manager at State of Texas agencies and IBM. In 2013, Harris participated in the Austin's Women in Technology Mentor Program, in which her mentor, a former chief information officer, assisted her with transitioning to a new career so that she could leverage her technical and soft skills. That collaboration led to her current role serving as the Talent Acquisition Manager for University Recruiting Operations at National Instruments, Inc. where she oversees operations for the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

Harris has previously served as the Society of Women Engineers - Central Texas Vice President. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). For seven years, she has also served as a team captain for the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure.

Harris earned an undergraduate degree in Information Systems Technology from the University of Houston-University Park and a graduate degree in Organizational Leadership & Ethics from St. Edward's University.

**Brenda Hellyer, CPA, Ed.D.
Chancellor
San Jacinto College**

In 2009, Dr. Brenda Hellyer was appointed chancellor of San Jacinto College, Texas' eighth largest community college, with 30,000 students, four campuses, and several extension centers. San Jacinto College is located in East Harris County surrounded by the Houston ship channel, petrochemical industry, and Johnson Space Center. San Jacinto College has been named a 2016 Top Ten Finalist for the prestigious Aspen Institute Community College Excellence Award. The finalist will be announced in early 2017 and will be eligible for a \$1 million prize.

Hellyer began her involvement with the College in 1996 as an inaugural director for the San Jacinto College Foundation. She served in a number of executive positions at the College, Executive Vice President for Resource Development, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Vice Chancellor, before being appointed chancellor. Prior to joining San Jacinto College, Hellyer worked in the corporate world as an accountant in both the private and public arena. Her experience ranged from mom and pop businesses to Fortune 500 companies to governmental agencies to entrepreneurial ventures.

She holds a bachelor's of science degree in accounting from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, a master's degree in business administration from The University of Texas at Austin, and a doctorate degree in community college leadership from The University of Texas at Austin. She is also a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licensed in Texas.

Hellyer has served on a variety of community boards and committees, including chambers of commerce, economic development councils, city and county government, and non-profit organizations.

She has been recognized with various awards, including: Western Region CEO of the Year from the Association of Community College Trustees, Administrator for Outstanding Support of Developmental Education award from the National Association of Developmental Education (NADE), Woman of Distinction award from the Bridge over Troubled Water, One of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, Phi Theta Kappa - Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, Texas Region Hall of Honor for Chief Executive Officers, and the Paul Harris Fellowship Rotarian Award. She also received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin in spring 2009, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from Fort Hays State University.

**The Honorable Donna Howard
Representative, Texas House of Representatives, District 48
State of Texas**

Representative Donna Howard has served in the Texas House of Representatives since 2006. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Calendars Committee, which sets the calendar for the House Floor. She is a key member of the House Appropriations Committee, and sits on its Article III Subcommittee which oversees education spending in the state budget. Representative Howard is also a longtime member of the House Higher Education Committee and the House Administration Committee.

A native of Austin, Representative Howard earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in health education from The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin). She worked as a critical care nurse at Brackenridge and Seton hospitals, and served as Austin's first hospital-based Patient Education Coordinator. Representative Howard is a past president of the Texas Nurses Association (District 5) and was a health education instructor at UT-Austin.

Representative Howard was elected to the Eanes ISD board in West Austin for the 1996-1999 term. She has served on the boards of Austin Area Interreligious Ministries, Common Cause Texas, Texas Freedom Network, and the Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. She now serves as a board member of the Expanding Horizons Foundation, supporting low-income housing and education.

Representative Howard is married to attorney Derek Howard, is the mother of three adult children and grandmother to four perfect grandkids, and is active in her neighborhood and church communities."

Representative Howard is married to attorney Derek Howard, is the mother of three adult children, grandmother to three perfect grandchildren, and is active in her neighborhood and church communities.

**Carolyn Johnson
Chair, Board of Regents
Brazosport College**

Carolyn Johnson joined the Brazosport College Board of Regents in November 1998. She was elected Chair of the Board of Regents in 2012.

Johnson was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Brazos River Authority's Board of Directors where she served as chairperson of the Executive Committee. Currently, she serves on the Brazos River Authority's Security Committee. She is also the vice-president of the Board of EPD, Inc. (Employment for the Physically Disabled), chairperson of the Lanier Alumni Association, and a former member of the Board of Directors of Memorial Child Care Center. Professionally, Johnson is the former vice chairperson of the Texas Chemical Council's Water and Waste Management Committee, the former secretary of the Juneteenth Celebration Committee, and treasurer of the Brazoria County Chapter of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

Johnson began working at The Dow Chemical Company - Oyster Creek Division as a chemist in January 1972. After working in the Phenol/Acetone Plant, she moved to the Environmental Services area in 1980. Johnson worked as group leader for the Water area, supervisor of Environmental Services, issue manager and senior environmental associate, and later as an environmental consultant and technical specialist for Dow's Operations Regulatory Management Expertise Center. Carolyn retired from The Dow Chemical Company in March 2006.

Born in Palacios, Texas and moved to Brazosport's Freeport community as an infant, Johnson is a lifetime resident of Brazosport. She attended Lamar University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a minor in German.

Vistasp M. Karbhari, Ph.D.
President
The University of Texas at Arlington

A visionary leader and accomplished scholar, Dr. Vistasp M. Karbhari took office in June 2013 as the eighth president of The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). He is a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and the Department of Civil Engineering.

As president, he is committed to advancing UTA's national and international profile while strengthening excellence in research and teaching and ensuring the success of UTA's students in campus-based and online degree programs in Texas and around the world. In the 2015-16 academic year, UTA served almost 59,000 students through these programs.

Prior to joining UTA, President Karbhari served at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (2008-2013), the University of California San Diego (1995-2008) and the University of Delaware (1991-1995).

A prolific researcher, President Karbhari is an expert in the processing and mechanics of composites, durability of materials, infrastructure rehabilitation, and multi-threat mitigation and has authored or co-authored more than 460 papers in journals and conference proceedings and edited or co-edited six books. He holds one patent and has served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than \$37 million in research projects.

He is a fellow of several pre-eminent research organizations, including the National Academy of Inventors; ASM International; the International Institute for Fiber-reinforced Polymers in Construction; the International Society for Structural Health Monitoring of Intelligent Infrastructure; the American Society of Civil Engineers; and the ASCE's Structural Engineering Institute.

President Karbhari earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's degree with a specialization in structures, both from the University of Poona in India, and a Ph.D. with a dissertation in composite materials from the University of Delaware. During his more than 20 years in higher education, he has received numerous awards for research, teaching, and innovation.

**Thomas Keaton, MPA
Director of Finance and Resource Planning
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**

Tom Keaton is the Director of Finance and Resource Planning at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Prior to joining the Coordinating Board staff, Keaton served as the Director of Planning and Administration at Texas Tech University. In the higher education arena, he has been intricately involved in numerous operational and strategic initiatives, as well as legislative issues.

Keaton earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Excelsior College and his Master of Public Administration from Texas Tech University.

**Mary E. Knight, CPA, CISA
Associate Vice President for Finance
The University of Texas at Austin**

Mary E. Knight has worked at The University of Texas at Austin for 35 years. She is currently the Associate Vice President for Finance. She is responsible for Budget, Payroll and IT support for financial areas. She previously served as Interim Vice President and CFO, Budget Director, Payroll Manager, and Assistant Director in the Office of Internal Audits. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Information Systems Auditor.

Knight volunteers for the Austin Child Guidance Center, a charitable organization dedicated to improving the mental health of children and their families. She previously served on the Boards of the Austin Child Guidance Center and the University Federal Credit Union.

Knight graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1982 with a BBA in Accounting. She is also a 2004 graduate of Leadership Texas.

J. Michael Lewis
Member, Board of Regents
Texas Tech University System

J. Michael Lewis of Dallas was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University (TTU) System on Jan. 31, 2017. He currently serves as the chairman of the Carr Foundation Board of Trustees, is a member of the Finance and Administration Committee and the Investment Advisory Committee of the Texas Tech University Endowment, and has served as a board member of the Texas Tech Foundation. His term expires on Jan. 31, 2023.

Lewis has also served as chairman of the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business Administration Advisory Council, TTU System Chancellor's Council and the Matador Society. In addition, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of the Rawls College of Business in 2014.

Community leadership has long been important to Lewis as he has served the State of Texas on the Governor's University Research Initiative Advisory Board. In 1989, he and his wife, Robin, co-founded Providence Christian School of Texas, a nonprofit, non-denominational school, and were founding directors of the West Dallas Community School in 1995 where Lewis served on its board until 2017. He is on the Board of Advisors of the State Fair of Texas, member of the Baylor Health Care System Foundation Advisory Board, and a member of the Salesmanship Club of Dallas.

Lewis started a series of private partnerships based in Dallas to acquire oil and gas mineral interests in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. He served as an executive officer at Columbus Realty Trust, a multi-family REIT and Dean Foods Corporation, the largest dairy processor in the U.S.

Lewis spent 19 years serving in various executive positions at Southland Life Insurance Company and Southland Financial Corporation while residing in Dallas.

Lewis is a sixth-generation Texan who grew up in Olney and graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in finance and a minor in chemistry. He graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1975 with a master's degree in business administration.

Peter Lyons, Ph.D.
Vice Provost and Dean of Perimeter College
Georgia State University

Dr. Peter Lyons is vice provost and dean of Perimeter College at Georgia State University, one of the largest degree-granting colleges in the nation. As vice provost and dean, Lyons is the executive officer for the college and is responsible for academic, administrative, research and service functions. The vice provost and dean reports to the senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost of Georgia State University and is responsible for visionary, innovative leadership and effective administration of the college.

Perimeter College offers five campuses (plus an extensive online program) serving metropolitan Atlanta—in Alpharetta, Clarkston, Decatur, Dunwoody, and Newton County.

Before assuming the Perimeter role in January 2016, Lyons was the associate provost for institutional effectiveness at Georgia State and professor of social work in the university's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. He joined the faculty of Georgia State in 1998 as an assistant professor in the School of Social Work. He progressed to the positions of associate professor, director of the Center for Collaborative Social Work and full professor between 2004 and 2012.

As associate provost for institutional effectiveness, he spearheaded the university's move to a single authoritative data system, redesigned the academic program review and administrative unit review process and led the university through accreditation-related initiatives. He helped stabilize the School of Nursing and Health Professions through its leadership transition and developed and coordinated the consolidation plan for Georgia Perimeter College and Georgia State.

Lyons' research and publications are in the areas of child maltreatment, risk assessment, program evaluation and decision-making. He is co-author, with Howard J. Doueck, of the book *The Dissertation: from Beginning to End*, published by Oxford University Press in 2010.

Lyons has presented scholarly papers at national and international conferences and published numerous journal articles, monographs and book chapters. He was the founding director of the Center for Collaborative Social Work at Georgia State, and as Principle Investigator on the school's Professional Excellence and Child Welfare Education grants, has been the recipient of more than \$15 million in external funding.

Lyons received his doctoral degree in social work from SUNY Buffalo and earned his master's degree in social work and an advanced diploma in education at the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.

**Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E.
Chancellor
Houston Community College System**

In May of 2014, Cesar Maldonado joined Houston Community College (HCC) as Chancellor of the six-college system. Under his tenure, HCC has restructured to focus on student success, resulting in an increase of graduates by more than 12 percent per year. Campuses have been consolidated into 13 new Centers of Excellence, and, as part of a \$425 million Capital Improvement Program, 14 new projects are underway.

Maldonado began his career in 1976 as a process engineer for Celanese Chemical Corporation, where he designed the company's first digital control system used for real-time process optimization. In 1980, he accepted a position as Vice President of Information Systems with Tex-Steel Corporation, where he became President and Chief Executive Officer within 10 years. Through acquisitions, organic growth, and the addition of software development divisions, he led the company to international prominence. He ultimately led Tex-Steel through a successful acquisition into a larger publicly held enterprise. Maldonado then joined ASSA ABLOY as Division Vice President and Chief Technical Officer, and led joint venture technical groups in the development of new business lines and in the support of custom engineered products. Subsequently, Maldonado became an executive in two successful engineering firms and, in 2008, was named President of Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Harlingen, Texas. In 2011, Maldonado was named Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness and Commercialization for the TSTC System, while remaining President at TSTC Harlingen.

In addition to his demonstrated business acumen, Maldonado has led legislative efforts to create high school/college dual enrollment opportunities in Texas and served for over a decade as a board member (twice as president) of the Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District (TX). He served as the interim Chairman of the Border Governors Conference on Science and Technology, where he worked to foster bi-national research and technology exchange with scientists across the U.S. and Mexico border. He was also appointed by the governor to serve as a Regent of the Texas State Technical College System.

In 2014, Maldonado was elected to the Board of Directors of the non-profit Houston Technology Center, the largest technology incubator and accelerator in Texas, and to the Texas Tech University Industrial Engineer Academy. His business experience encompasses strategic planning, project management, infrastructure design, industrial systems and software design.

Maldonado holds Bachelor and Masters of Science degrees in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M University, a Doctorate in Systems and Engineering Management from Texas Tech University, and is an alumnus of the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. He was recently elected as a director of the Quality Texas Foundation.

Rose M. Martinez, Ph.D.
Director of Trustee Strategies
Community College Association of Texas Trustees

Dr. Rose Martinez currently serves as the Director for Trustee Strategies at the Community College Association of Texas Trustees. She also serves as a Clinical Professor for the Roueche Graduate Center at National American University.

In her 25 years of leadership in higher education, Martinez has led efforts in state policy analysis and advocacy, higher education campaign implementation, pre-college outreach, and student support programs. She has held positions of leadership at the University of California, Irvine; the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and The University of Texas at Austin. Martinez most recently served as the State Policy Consultant for Lumina Foundation. She is the recipient of seven academic fellowships, including the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)/Lumina Foundation Fellowship and several competitive research grants.

Martinez holds a Ph.D. in Educational Administration and a Master of Public Affairs degree, both from The University of Texas at Austin. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Joe May, Ed.D.
Chancellor
Dallas County Community College District

Selected as the seventh chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD), Dr. Joe May assumed his duties at DCCCD in late February 2014. Throughout his career, May has expanded opportunities for students who want to pursue a bachelor's degree by starting at a community college. At the same time, he brings a strong commitment to improve the Dallas economy by helping to grow middle-class jobs. He is known both nationally and internationally as a result of his relentless advocacy for the role of community colleges in solving today's most challenging social issues.

As the first member of his family to attend college, the chancellor realized the profound impact that higher education had not only on his life but also on society in general. This background inspired May to help start and then to become the founding president of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC), a national consortium of community colleges that is dedicated to ensuring everyone has the opportunity to pursue the "American dream." As a community leader and educator, he strongly believes in achieving academic excellence and has worked closely with public school districts, sponsored charter schools, career academies, and early college programs.

A hallmark of his leadership approach for community colleges is the creation of public-private partnerships. By forming these partnerships, May has helped jump-start new economic investment and job creation through organizations like RAMC as well as COMBASE. COMBASE, an abbreviation for community-based, is a consortium of many leading community and technical colleges across the United States whose members are dedicated to sharing innovative solutions to meet the challenges of the nation's rapidly changing economy. May serves on its board of directors as president.

May also is directly involved in building community college and business partnerships that enhance success for both students and businesses. He was influential in bringing the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program to Dallas (DCCCD teaches the education modules to new business owners) as well as a significant grant from JPMorgan Chase for Project On-Ramp, which trains certified nurse assistants to become patient care technicians so that they are able to earn up to 20 percent higher salaries.

May previously served as president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System; system president for the Colorado Community College System; and president of Pueblo Community College before he accepted the system's CEO position. Respected throughout the world, May has delivered consulting services to new community college initiatives in Japan, the United Kingdom, Russia, and Saudi Arabia. He also served in leadership roles at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas; Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas; and Vernon College in Vernon, Texas. May started his higher education career in 1978 as an adjunct faculty member at Cedar Valley College in the Dallas County Community College District.

A native of East Texas, May earned his doctorate in education from Texas A&M University-Commerce; he also holds Master of Education and Bachelor of Science degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Betty A. McCrohan, M.Ed.
President
Wharton County Junior College

Betty A. McCrohan has been President of Wharton County Junior College since June of 2001. Prior to becoming president, she held the title of Executive Vice-President of Administrative Services.

As President of Wharton County Junior College, McCrohan has overseen the openings of three new campuses, one in Matagorda County and two in Fort Bend County. She also has seen the college reach its highest enrollment to date, with more than 7,400 students.

McCrohan has worked in education for the past 40 years. Prior to joining Wharton County Junior College in 1989, she held several positions at Houston Community College, including Dean of Financial Affairs and Planning, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Budget and Compliance, and Programs Specialist-Assistant to the Vocational Dean. Other positions include: Statistician for the Post-Secondary Division of Occupational Education and Technology in Austin; Clerical Supervisor for the Adult Education Division of Occupational Education and Technology in Austin; and Elementary Teacher for Austin Independent School District.

McCrohan holds a Masters of Education degree with a major in Higher Education Administration from the University of Houston and a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Education from Angelo State University.

**Raymund A. Paredes, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**

Dr. Raymund A. Paredes is Texas Commissioner of Higher Education and CEO of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Paredes spent most of his academic career at UCLA where for 30 years he taught as an English professor and served for ten years as vice chancellor for academic development. In addition, he served as special assistant to the president of the University of California System in outreach efforts to improve access to higher education for students from educationally disadvantaged communities.

Prior to joining the Coordinating Board, Paredes was director of creativity and culture at the Rockefeller Foundation.

Paredes has served on the national board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters; he also served as a trustee of The College Board and Mercy College of New York, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Cultural Trust. He currently serves on the board of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. In 2007, he was named one of Hispanic Business Magazine's 100 Most Influential Hispanics.

Paredes was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. He attended The University of Texas at Austin, receiving a B.A. in English. He served in the U.S. Army for two years, including a 14-month tour with the First Infantry Division in Vietnam. After separation from military service, he resumed his education, receiving a master's degree in American Studies from the University of Southern California and his Ph.D. in American Civilization from The University of Texas at Austin.

George P. Pernsteiner
Senior Fellow, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Former President, State Higher Education Executive Officers
Chancellor Emeritus, Oregon University System

George Pernsteiner served as President of the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) from September 2013 until August 2017 after serving nine years as chancellor of the seven-campus Oregon University System. SHEEO is the national association of the chief executives of statewide governing, policy, and coordinating boards of postsecondary education.

Previously in his career, Pernsteiner served as Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Vice President for Finance and Administration at Portland State University; and Vice Provost and Chief Financial Officer at the University of Oregon. He also served in other roles in the Oregon Chancellor's Office, which he joined in 1989 after a career in local government in Seattle. He has taught at Portland State University, the University of Puget Sound, and the University of Oregon.

Pernsteiner earned his Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Seattle University.

Mark Allan Poehl, BBA, CPA
Director of Internal Audit and Compliance
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Mark Poehl is the Director of Internal Audit and Compliance for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Poehl joined the Coordinating Board staff in 2012 and has 28 years of state government audit experience. Poehl's work experience includes 19 years in higher education internal audit at the Texas A&M University System, as well as 5 years with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Poehl earned his Bachelors of Business Administration in Accounting degree from Texas A&M University. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Information Systems Auditor.

Michael L. Reeser
Chancellor & CEO
Texas State Technical College System

As Chancellor & CEO of the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System, Michael Reeser leads the only state-supported technical college system in Texas. Under Reeser's leadership, TSTC has become well known as an innovator in higher education, with the most noteworthy being the Returned-Value Funding Formula, a wholly outcomes-based approach to state funding. Also, TSTC is the only college in Texas to offer its students a money back employment guarantee.

Prior to being appointed Chancellor in 2010, Reeser served TSTC in various roles, including chief financial officer, college president, vice president, and dean of instruction.

In the early half of his career, Reeser was a banker and served in executive and management roles in Waco and Houston.

Reeser holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University and a Masters of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Arlington.

**James Henry Russell, CPA
President
Texarkana College**

President James Henry Russell is the eighth president of Texarkana College and began his term in June 2011. Texarkana College is a comprehensive community college established in 1927 with over 7,000 students enrolled annually.

President Russell's professional experience includes working as a licensed CPA and as the former superintendent of the Texarkana Independent School District. He has served the community as past chairman of the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Greater Texarkana, and president of his Rotary Club. He also has served on several state committees, including his election to the Texas Education Agency Commissioner's Cabinet of Superintendents.

Jeffrey J. Selingo
Author and *Washington Post* Columnist

Jeffrey J. Selingo is a best-selling author and award-winning columnist who helps parents and higher-education leaders imagine the college and university of the future and how to succeed in a fast-changing economy. His latest book, *There Is Life After College* (HarperCollins), explores how today's young adults need to navigate school for the job market of tomorrow.

Selingo is also the author of *College (Un)Bound: The Future of Higher Education and What It Means for Students*, a New York Times bestselling education book in 2013, and *MOOC U: Who Is Getting the Most Out of Online Education and Why*.

A regular contributor to the Washington Post, Selingo is a special advisor and professor of practice at Arizona State University and a visiting scholar at Georgia Tech's Center for 21st Century Universities. He is the former top editor of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, where he worked for 16 years in a variety of reporting and editing roles.

His writing has also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Slate*, and he is a contributor to LinkedIn, where you can follow his blog posts on higher education. He has appeared on ABC, CNN, PBS, and NPR. He is a senior advisor and professor of practice at Arizona State University and a visiting scholar at the Center for 21st Century Universities at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Selingo's work has been honored with awards from the Education Writers Association, Society of Professional Journalists, and the Associated Press. He has been the keynote speaker before dozens of associations and universities and appears regularly on regional and national radio and television programs.

Selingo received a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ithaca College and a master's degree in government from the Johns Hopkins University. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

**W. Myles Shelton, Ed.D.
President
Galveston College**

Dr. W. Myles Shelton began his service with Galveston College on Monday, July 2, 2007.

Shelton was the President of Clarendon College for eight years. Before that, he held a variety of leadership positions at Hill College in Hillsboro, including Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, Associate Dean of Students, Registrar, Director of Admissions and Records, Director of Computer Services, and Part-time Instructor.

Shelton is a member of several professional organizations, including the Texas Association of Community Colleges, Texas Community College Teachers Association, American Association of Community Colleges, and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He has also been a member of economic-development corporations, chambers of commerce, Boy Scouts of America and the Lions Club.

Shelton received his bachelor's degree in History, Master's in Economics, and Doctorate in Educational Administration from Baylor University.

Mary E. Smith, Ph.D.
Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy
Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Mary E. Smith has been a staff member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board since 1987 and now serves as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy. In this role, she is responsible for the administration and management of matters related to the Board's higher education academic planning and policy functions, and she provides leadership and coordination on key projects that cut across divisions of the agency. Smith also serves as the agency's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Coordinator for negotiated rulemaking. In this role, she is responsible for managing the agency's consensus-based process of developing policies, procedures, or rules relating to certain matters in collaboration with stakeholders who have shared interests. She has taught communication courses at The University of Texas at Austin and at St. Edward's University. She has made a number of presentations at various academic and professional conventions and conferences.

Smith served for five years as a program director in the Coordinating Board's former Division of Universities and Health-Related Institutions where her primary responsibilities included the review of new degree program proposals and the administration of the Minority Health Research and Education Grant Program. Smith spent her first 12 years of employment with the Coordinating Board in the Department of Personnel Services, where from 1996 to 1999 she served as the department's assistant director. Prior to her employment with the Coordinating Board, Smith spent 13 years working in health care organizations, with nine of those years serving in direct patient care positions.

Smith holds a Ph.D. in Communication Studies, a Certificate in Dispute Resolution, a Master of Arts degree in Speech Communication, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, all from The University of Texas at Austin.

Diane E. Snyder, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration
Alamo Community College District

Dr. Diane Snyder has been the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration at the Alamo Community College District (Alamo Colleges) since 2008. Under her leadership, Alamo Colleges achieved AAA bond ratings and has been recognized by numerous awards for performance excellence: Texas Comptroller Leadership Circle 2016 Platinum Award-financial transparency; Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation award (annually since 2010); National Purchasing Institute (NPI) Achievement of Excellence Award (annually since 2011); GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (annually since 2009); Recognized status with Texas Police Chief's Association Best Practices Program; 2012 Bellwether Planning, Governance and Finance Award; and GTOT Investment Policy Certificate of Distinction.

Snyder was selected into the inaugural class of the 2016-17 Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence, a ten-month executive leadership program for aspiring community college presidents led by the Aspen Institute and the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative. Other honors include being recognized as The San Antonio Business Journal's Best CFO 2010 Education Category.

Snyder is responsible for Financial Planning; Human Resources; Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management; Treasury; Accounting; Business Services; Student Financial Aid; Student Business Offices; Student Contact Center; Project Facilitation Office; and Public Safety. She also guides the nine-member, elected Board of Trustees on matters related to Alamo Colleges' \$500 million annual operating and capital budget. She has more than 25 years of progressively responsible experience in higher education, public accounting, operations and financial management; with a proven track record of improving service excellence, operational controls and efficiencies, especially in turnaround and high growth situations.

In May 2017, Snyder completed her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration (Community College Leadership specialization) at The University of Texas at Austin, with her research interests in Community College Project Management Process Maturity. She holds a Master of Science degree in Accounting from University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Behavior from Leslie College.

Neil Vickers, CPA
Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration
Austin Community College

As Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, Neil Vickers is Chief Financial Officer, directly responsible for Austin Community College's (ACC) budget, financing, and investment activities. In addition to these responsibilities, Vickers oversees a number of departments within the Finance and Administration division, including Business Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Facilities & Construction. He also oversees the offices of Business Processes & Initiatives and Institutional Records.

Vickers has served in a number of positions at ACC since 1997. Prior to taking the position of Executive Vice President, he held the titles of Vice President of Finance & Budget, Budget Coordinator, Financial Report Specialist, and Accounts Payable Specialist.

Vickers earned a bachelor's degree in Mathematics from The University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Accountancy from Texas State University. He has been a licensed Certified Public Accountant since 2003. Vickers has also taught for the ACC Accounting Department as an Adjunct Faculty.

**The Honorable John Zerwas, M.D.
Representative, Texas House of Representatives, District 28
State of Texas**

Representative John Zerwas, M.D. is serving his sixth legislative term in the Texas House of Representatives. He proudly serves the citizens of Texas House District 28, which encompasses northwestern Fort Bend County and is currently one of the fastest growing regions in the State of Texas.

Representative Zerwas currently serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. This is his first term to serve as the chair of this committee. Previously, Representative Zerwas served eight years on the House Appropriations Committee, four of which he served as chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee on health and human services. Zerwas is a member of the Legislative Budget Board, is past Chairman of the House Committee on Higher Education, and a past member of the House Committee on Public Health.

A physician for more than 30 years, Representative Zerwas is one of four doctors in the Texas House of Representatives. His perspective is important at a time when health and human services is one of the fastest-growing areas of state spending. Dr. Zerwas is past-president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. More than a decade ago, Dr. Zerwas co-founded a Houston area group practice which recently became part of US Anesthesia Partners, and he remains active in the operations of the partnership. He has previously served as the President of the Memorial Hermann Health Network Providers and Chief Medical Officer of the Memorial Hermann Hospital System.

Representative Zerwas graduated from Bellaire High School in 1973, and in 1978, he married his late wife Cindy Hughes. After graduating from the University of Houston, he earned his Doctorate in Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in 1980.

He and his wife Sylvia reside in Richmond, and together have six children and six grandchildren: Isabella, Matthew, Dashed, Oliver, Beatrice, and Tinley.