

Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference



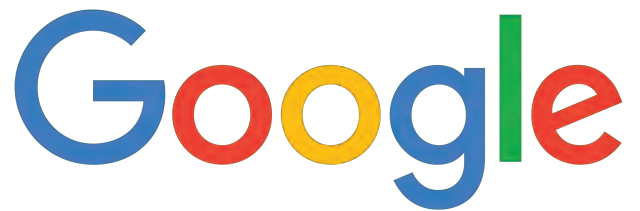
THECB

Thank you to our sponsors



The Meadows
Foundation

Serving the People of Texas



GREATER TEXAS FOUNDATION



EDUCATE TEXAS

at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS



TRELLIS[™]
FOUNDATION



TEXAS
BUSINESS
LEADERSHIP
COUNCIL



T.L.L. TEMPLE FOUNDATION

EST 1962

BUILDING A THRIVING RURAL EAST TEXAS

Welcome to the 2021 Texas Higher Education Leadership Conference!

As we begin this year's conference, we're grateful to be together with higher education colleagues and partners to discuss the unique challenges we've faced over the past year in Texas higher education.

While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Texas students and their families is profound, we commend our higher education leaders who have repeatedly had to pivot during this time. Thanks to your leadership, this historic disruption has also created a unique window of opportunity for innovations in teaching, learning, and program design.

Over the past two years, you – our college, university, and system leaders – rapidly and creatively responded to unprecedented disruptions while remaining resolute in your commitment to the mission of higher education. Your accomplishments will be discussed and applauded over the coming days with higher education leaders from across the state, as well as those charged with guiding policy and creating workforce opportunities for all Texans.

Together, we will continue to strengthen Texas higher education institutions and expand higher education opportunities, so every Texan can contribute to, participate in, and benefit from our state's robust economy. We look forward to our discussions with you these next two days.

Welcome to Austin!

Harrison Keller, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education

Fred Farias III, OD, MCSO
Chairman

Donna N. Williams
Vice Chair

S. Javaid Anwar

Richard L. Clemmer

Robert P. Gauntt

Emma W. Schwartz

R. Sam Torn

Welcome W. Wilson, Jr.

Daniel O. Wong

Matthew B. Smith
Student Representative

Agenda

Day 1: Thursday, Dec. 2

8 - 10 a.m.	Registration	Outside Zlotnik Ballroom
10 - 10:15 a.m.	Leadership Conference Opening Remarks <i>Dr. Fred Farias, III, OD, MCSO, Chairman, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</i>	Zlotnik Ballroom
10:15 - 11:30 a.m.	Updated 60x30TX Higher Education Strategic Plan <i>Harrison Keller, Ph.D., Commissioner of Higher Education - Moderator Neal Adams, Texas Higher Education Foundation Dr. Mark Escamilla, Del Mar College Ruth Simmons, Prairie View A&M University Stuart Stedman, UT System</i>	Zlotnik Ballroom
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Lunch Keynote <i>Lisa Gevelber, Grow with Google</i>	Zlotnik Ballroom
1 - 1:15 p.m	Break	

1:15 p.m.	Community College Budgeting and Financial Management <i>Required for new two-year regents and trustees</i> <i>Steve Head, Lone Star College - Moderator</i> <i>Susan Moore-Fontenot, Lee College</i> <i>Jennifer Mott, Lone Star College</i> <i>Neil Vickers, Austin Community College</i>	105	University and HRI Budgeting and Financial Management <i>Required for new four-year regents and trustees</i> <i>Dr. Loren Blanchard, UH Downtown - Moderator</i> <i>Joseph Duron, TAMU System</i> <i>Chuck Fox, UNT Health Science Center</i> <i>Sarah Keyton, TTU System</i>	106
2:05 p.m.	How COVID-19 Impacted Texas Higher Education <i>Dr. Pam Anglin, Paris Junior College - Moderator</i> <i>Dr. Archie Holmes, UT System</i> <i>Dr. Paul Klotman, Baylor College of Medicine</i>	105	Higher Education Governance and Oversight <i>Required for all new regents and trustees</i> <i>Brian McCall, Texas State University System - Moderator</i> <i>Carol Scott, Del Mar College</i> <i>Donna Williams, THECB</i> <i>Laura Wright, UNT System</i>	106
3:05 p.m.	Priorities for Higher Education Philanthropy <i>Charles Glover, Meadows Foundation - Moderator</i> <i>Scott Jenkins, Lumina Foundation</i> <i>Sue McMillan, Greater Texas Foundation</i>	105	Effective and Ethical Governance <i>Required for all new regents and trustees</i> <i>Nichole Bunker-Henderson, THECB - Moderator</i> <i>Jim Davis, UT Austin</i> <i>Nelly Herrera, Texas State System</i> <i>Augie Rivera, Del Mar College</i>	106

4 - 5 p.m.

Higher Education's Role in Addressing Workforce Needs and Driving the Economy

Zlotnik Ballroom

Angela Farley, Dallas Regional Chamber - Moderator
Bryan Daniel, Texas Workforce Commission
Gene Giovannini, Tarrant County College
Tom Johnson, Lamar State College Orange
Meagan McCoy Jones, McCoy Building Supplies

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception and STAR Award Poster Presentations

Courtyard

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Dinner Keynote
Ruth Watkins, Strada Impact

Zlotnik Ballroom

Day 2: Friday, Dec. 3

8 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Zlotnik Ballroom
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	The Texas Legislature and Higher Education	Zlotnik Ballroom
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Initiatives: Progress, Impact, and Opportunities <i>Ray Martinez, III, THECB - Moderator</i> <i>Guy Bailey, UT Rio Grande Valley</i> <i>Lori Fey, THECB</i> <i>Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College</i> <i>Mike Reeser, Texas State Technical College</i>	Zlotnik Ballroom
10:45 a.m.	Remarks from Governor Greg Abbott	Zlotnik Ballroom
11 a.m.	Closing Keynote: The State of Texas Higher Education <i>Harrison Keller, Ph.D.,</i> <i>Commissioner of Higher Education</i>	Zlotnik Ballroom



Neal Adams

Neal Adams is the president of Adams, Lynch & Loftin, P.C., in Grapevine, Texas. He earned a BBA in marketing from Texas A&M University and a Juris Doctor from Baylor University. Adams served in the United States Army and earned the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. Adams serves on a variety of boards, councils, and committees for Texas A&M University and was named by the Association of Former Students as a Distinguished Alumni in 2008. In 2010, he was inducted into the Hall of Honor, Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets. He served six years as a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, including as vice chairman of the board, and is the current chair of the Board of the Texas Higher Education Foundation. In October 2002 and 2007, Texas Lawyer magazine named him as the “Go-To-Lawyer” for school law in Texas, and he was named multiple times as one of the Texas Super Lawyers in school and education law by Texas Monthly. He is recipient of the 2016 Kelly Frels Lifetime Achievement Award by the State Bar of Texas Law School Section and the 2020 Dan Rugeley Price Memorial Award the from Texas Bar Foundation.



Dr. Pamela Anglin

Dr. Pamela Anglin has served as president of Paris Junior College (PJC) since 2003. She is a certified public accountant. Prior to becoming president of PJC, she served as chief financial officer and executive vice president of Grayson College, Vice President of Business Services at Blinn College, accounting faculty, and division director at Navarro College, and Director of Managerial Finance at Texas Christian University. Anglin has served two terms on the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors and two terms on the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Board of Trustees. She chaired the Community and Technical College Formula Funding Advisory Committee in 2019-2020. During Anglin’s tenure at PJC, the college participated in Achieving the Dream, was recognized twice as one of the 50 fastest growing community colleges in the nation, and was recognized with the 2012 Excellence in Education Award from the Texas Association of Businesses. PJC was one of 30 community colleges nationwide to participate in the AACC Guides Pathways Project in 2016. Dr. Anglin’s education includes an Ed.D. in Education Administration from Baylor University, MBA in accounting from Texas Christian University, BBA in finance from Texas A&M University, ABA from Grayson County College, and she attended Harvard University’s Institute for Education Management.



Guy Bailey

Guy Bailey was named the first president at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in 2014. During his tenure, Bailey’s commitment to providing a high-quality education at an affordable price has helped UTRGV become one of the fastest-growing universities in the nation and has elevated the university’s stature around the state and the country. The university enrolled over 32,000 students in fall 2020, becoming one of only nine public institutions in Texas to boast an enrollment of over 30,000. Additionally, UTRGV recently become one of just 24 institutions to earn the prestigious Seal of Excelencia from Excelencia in Education for its unwavering commitment to intentionally serving Latino students, while serving all. Prior to UTRGV, Bailey served as president at The University of Alabama and Texas Tech University; chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and provost and executive vice president of The University of Texas San Antonio. In 2019 he was named Border Texan of the year for his contributions to education and health care in the Rio Grande Valley. Bailey obtained his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from The University of Alabama and a doctorate in English linguistics from The University of Tennessee.



Dr. Loren J. Blanchard

Dr. Loren J. Blanchard joined the University of Houston-Downtown as its seventh president on March 15, 2021. In his role leading Houston's second-largest university, Blanchard oversees the university's historic downtown campus, UHD Northwest (serving Houston's northern communities), and off-site centers at Lone Star College campuses in CyFair and Kingwood. Blanchard previously served as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs at California State University (CSU), the largest and most diverse higher education system in the United States. Before arriving at CSU, Blanchard served as Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Blanchard's other leadership roles have included Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic and Multicultural Affairs at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center-New Orleans and the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Accreditation, Leadership and Accountability within the University of Louisiana System. A first-generation college graduate, Blanchard holds a bachelor's degree in speech pathology education from Xavier University, a master's degree in education from McNeese State University, and a Ph.D. in education psychology from the University of Georgia.



Nichole Bunker-Henderson

Nichole Bunker-Henderson serves as general counsel for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Prior to joining the Coordinating Board, she served the Office of the Attorney General for 15 years, rising from law clerk to chief of the Administrative Law Division, and most recently the Associate Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation. Bunker-Henderson has worked on diverse matters as a trial and appellate attorney and general counsel to state agencies. She is a frequent speaker on administrative law topics. During her 20 years of government service, she has also served as the deputy general counsel at the Texas Education Agency and worked for the Texas Senate and Texas Legislative Council. She earned a bachelor's degree in government from The University of Texas at Austin and a law degree from The University of Arizona.



Bryan Daniel

Bryan Daniel serves as chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), where he works to promote and support the growth of Texas' world-class employers and talented workforce. To champion that goal, he advances innovative workforce and economic development strategies in collaboration with TWC's education partners, local leaders, and industry to preserve Texas' competitive edge as the best place to work in the world. Prior to his appointment, Daniel led Governor Abbott's Economic Development and Tourism team, following terms as Texas State Director for Rural Development at USDA and Chief Administrator for Trade and Business Development at the Texas Department of Agriculture. Daniel is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural communications and a Master of Science in agricultural education.



Jim Davis

Jim Davis serves as the Vice President for Legal Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, where he performs the duties of chief legal officer, general counsel, and chief ethics officer. Prior to joining the university, Davis directed the litigation for the state of Texas as the Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation. Davis was previously a partner in the Austin office of Locke Lord and a briefing attorney at the Supreme Court of Texas in the chambers of Justice Alberto Gonzales. Davis is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin and Harvard Law School. Prior to attending college, Jim served in the United States Navy as a cryptologist stationed in Scotland.



Joseph Duron

Joseph Duron is a graduate of Texas A&M University, with degrees in accounting and finance, and a licensed CPA. He currently serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Texas A&M University System Offices. As Chief Administrative Officer, Joseph is responsible for directing the overall A&M System and System Offices budget and planning, coordination, and review. He is responsible for the oversight of the general comptrollership, which includes the financial accounting and financial reporting areas. He also directs the production, review, and timely submission of various agenda items, management reports, and ad-hoc analyses provided to the Texas A&M System Board of Regents, System Offices executive management, and member institutions and agencies. He provides oversight of Human Resources, Procurement/HUB, Benefits Administration, centralized bookkeeping, and aircraft operations for the System Offices. Joseph also assists the Governmental Relations office and executive management regarding legislative issues, such as formula funding, statutory requirements related to tuition and fees, bill analysis, fiscal notes, and appropriation analysis.



Dr. Marc Escamilla

Dr. Mark Escamilla is the president and CEO of Del Mar College. Under his leadership, college credit enrollment continues to increase, and the number of continuing and workforce credentials awarded has more than doubled in the past five years. The college has expanded its dual credit courses to 24 independent school districts across three counties and works closely with new and established business and industry in the region, providing workforce training for thousands of Coastal Bend residents annually. The college successfully completed five and 10-year accreditation reviews and has earned multiple national awards for financial accountability and budget transparency. The Del Mar Foundation joined the ranks of the top 100 community college foundations in the nation for overall financial assets and for annual fundraising. A Del Mar College graduate, with bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and a Ph.D. in educational administration from The University of Texas at Austin, Escamilla was selected as a "Distinguished Graduate of the Community College Leadership Program" from The University of Texas in 2009. Escamilla currently serves on the Legislative and Executive Committees of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and other educational and community service commitments.



Dr. Fred Farias

Fred Farias III, OD, MCSO, of McAllen, Texas, is president and CEO of 20/20 Vision Care. He has served on The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board since 2015 and was appointed chairman of the board by Governor Greg Abbott on June 3, 2021. He was previously vice chairman of the board and chairman of the Academic and Workforce Success Committee. He is also member of the Texas Higher Education Foundation. Farias is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, former president of the Texas Optometric Association and the Rio Grande Valley Optometric Society, and a former member of the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees. He was named the Texas Optometric Association's Optometrist of the Year in 2015 and the National American Optometric Association's Optometrist of the Year in 2016. He is a lifetime member of The University of Texas (UT) System Chancellor's Executive Committee and the UT Austin Development Board. Farias is active in the McAllen community and has served on many local and statewide boards. Farias received a Bachelor of Science from The University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree from Harvard Medical School, and a Doctor of Optometry from Southern College of Optometry.



Angela Farley

Angela is chief financial officer (CFO) and chief operating officer (COO) for the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC), one of the largest and most established business membership organizations in the nation. Farley leads the financial and operational efforts across the DRC's strategic pillars of economic development, talent attraction, education and workforce, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as the pro-growth public policy agenda that supports these areas. Prior to being named CFO and COO in January 2018, for five years, Farley was the DRC's Senior Vice President of Education and Workforce, where she led efforts to grow and develop the region's existing talent and workforce. Before joining the DRC in 2012, Farley was the CFO of Command and Control Environments in Grapevine, Texas. In 2018, Ms. Farley was chosen by Governor Abbott to represent the state of Texas at The White House Summit on State-Federal STEM Education, led by The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She has served on a number of boards and councils, including as Governor Abbott's appointee to the Pathways to Technology Advisory Council and the Dallas County Workforce Board and is a member of the DRC's Executive Women's Roundtable.



Lori Fey

As Deputy Commissioner for Data Analytics and Innovation, Fey leads the THECB's divisions of Data Management and Research, Funding and Resource Planning, Project Management and Improvement Office, and Strategic Initiatives. Her primary responsibilities have included coordination of the agency's efforts toward achieving the goals of the Texas higher education plan, 60x30TX. Her team has responsibility for overseeing data tracking and analysis for this important statewide effort. Previous to her current position, Lori worked in Texas public education and philanthropy since 2003 as a senior leader with the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. Among other initiatives, Lori was instrumental in the development of the Texas Student Data System for K-12 education. She also founded and led the Ed-Fi Alliance, an education data standards and advocacy organization aimed at streamlining school districts' abilities to equip educators with improved decision-making data. Most recently, she served as director of the Rebuild Texas Fund, a \$100 million private philanthropic fund aimed at spurring rebuilding efforts in the 41 Texas counties hardest hit by Hurricane Harvey. Lori holds a bachelor's degree in finance from McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin.



Chuck Fox

Chuck Fox is a chief fiscal officer at the University of North Texas. With more than 22 years of health-related institution financial management and budgeting, Fox leads The University of North Texas Health Science Center's budgeting and long-range planning functions, focusing on establishing alliances and partnerships across campus in order to contribute to the long-term sustainable growth of the Health Science Center. Before joining the Health Science Center, Chuck worked at UT Southwestern Medical Center, where he was responsible for fiscal reporting, accounting operations, and the controller over joint ventures and component units, emphasizing compliance and streamlining data reporting in order to provide key leaders with essential financial information.



Lisa Gevelber

Lisa Gevelber founded and leads "Grow with Google," Google's \$1 billion commitment to economic opportunity for all. Since 2017, Grow with Google has helped over 6 million Americans and tens of millions globally grow their skills, careers, and businesses. One of her most significant contributions is the creation of Google Career Certificates, which provide access to in-demand, high-paying jobs for people without college degrees. The certificates have provided upward mobility to tens of thousands. Gevelber also leads Google for Startups, which levels the playing field for underrepresented founders and helps startups thrive across the world. Gevelber has over 30 years' experience in general management, marketing, and product management, including over 20 years in Silicon Valley. Her career spans from early-stage startups to Fortune 50 companies, including Google and Procter & Gamble. As a member of the global leadership team of Google's Ads and Commerce business, she led marketing globally for eight years, helping the business grow from \$30 billion to more than \$130 billion. For the past 11 years, she has been the Chief Marketing Officer for the Americas Region at Google, accountable for new user acquisition, retention and revenue, brand and reputation efforts, and launching products in new countries.



Dr. Eugene Giovannini

Dr. Eugene Giovannini joined the Tarrant County College District as chancellor on August 22, 2016. He brings more than 30 years of professional experience at community colleges, including his most recent tenure as the founding president of Maricopa Corporate College in Scottsdale, Arizona, and 11 years as president of GateWay Community College in Phoenix. Giovannini previously served as the board chair for the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship and as a board member of the American Association of Community Colleges. His extensive experience with workforce development and industrial and economic development programs enabled him to lead the creation of the Center for Entrepreneurial Innovation, work that began in 2006 and continues strong today. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Giovannini has made giving back and serving others a priority throughout his career, as evidenced by his appointment on numerous boards of directors. He cares deeply about economic impact, collaboration, and proactively pursuing opportunities to strengthen communities. Giovannini earned a doctorate in community college education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and has a Bachelor of Science in business education and a Master of Education from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania.



Mary González

Mary E. González, D-District 75, is serving her fourth term at the Texas House of Representatives. Mary serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Public Education Committee, and is vice chair of the Local & Consent Calendars Committee in the Texas House. Throughout her time as a state representative, she has authored numerous bills to improve public schools, increase economic development, and support agriculture. She is vice chair for the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, secretary of the House Border Caucus, and the chair of the new Texas House LGBTQ Caucus. González received her bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, her master's degree from St. Edward's University, and her doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction - Cultural Studies in Education at the University of Texas at Austin. Previously, she worked at the National Hispanic Institute, the University of Texas at Austin, and as the Assistant Dean for Student Multicultural Affairs at Southwestern University. González currently serves as co-chair of the board of directors for Allgo, Texas' statewide queer people of color organization. González has been recognized by Latino Leaders Magazine for her leadership in education, was recognized as one of ten "Next Generation Latinas" by Latina Magazine, and as one of 10 newly-elected politicians to watch nationally by NBC Latino.



Dr. Steve Head

Dr. Stephen C. Head was appointed as the fourth chancellor of the Lone Star College (LSC) System in 2014. He began work at the college in 1984 and has a 30-year history of high-level positions at LSC, including serving as president at three LSC campuses and executive vice chancellor. His focus is on student access, equality, success, and completion; academic quality; workforce programs in alignment with community needs; and collaborative agreements with educational, business, and local civic organizations. Head received his Ph.D. in history from Texas Tech University. He earned a Master of Arts degree in history and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. In addition, he previously taught history undergraduate and graduate classes for LSC and university partners, and graduate classes in community college leadership and higher education finance. Head has served on the board of five area chambers of commerce and three economic development districts or councils. He is a frequent presenter at state and national conferences on community college issues. He also is active in community college issues through his participation and leadership roles in a number of local, state, and national organizations.



Dr. Brenda Hellyer

Dr. Brenda Hellyer is the chancellor of San Jacinto College, located in East Harris County. San Jacinto College has approximately 45,000 credit and non-credit students, five campuses, and several extension centers. In 2021, San Jacinto College was named a top five community college in the country and a Finalist with Distinction by The Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence out of more than 1,100 community colleges. Brenda holds a Bachelor of Science 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 in community college leadership from The University of Texas at Austin. She has been recognized with the Distinguished Graduate Award from the College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin and the Alumni Achievement Award from Fort Hays State University. Brenda has served on and chaired several boards, committees, associations, and commissions at the local, regional, state, and national levels. She has been recognized with various awards, including Western Region CEO of the Year from the Association of Community College Trustees, one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Women, Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and BAHEP's Quasar award.



Nelly Herrera

Nelly R. Herrera is the vice chancellor and general counsel of the Texas State University System (TSUS). She has been with the TSUS Office of General Counsel since 2011, serving first as an associate general counsel on the Texas State University campus before being promoted to deputy general counsel. Prior to joining TSUS, Herrera worked with the Texas Attorney General's Office, spending most of her career in the Tort Litigation Division, where she defended numerous governmental agencies throughout the state and served as the division chief of the Tort Litigation Division for 16 years. She received her B.A. from St. Mary's University in San Antonio and received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. She is board certified in personal injury trial law.



Dr. Archie Holmes

Dr. Archie Holmes joined The University of Texas System as Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs in October 2020. He provides oversight and guidance for the eight UT System academic institutions, which enroll more than 220,000 students, produced nearly 59,000 graduates, and have an aggregate annual operating budget of more than \$6.7 billion. Prior to joining UT System, Holmes was the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Virginia and was a faculty member at both the University of Virginia and the University of Texas at Austin. As Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, he served as chief advisor to and representative of the executive vice president and provost in academic matters related to the curriculum and general health and welfare of the academic units. Over this career, Holmes has co-authored over 110 refereed technical articles and 70 conference presentations and received numerous awards for his teaching and advising activities. Holmes received his bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees, both in electrical engineering, from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of California at Santa Barbara, respectively.



Scott Jenkins

Scott Jenkins is the strategy director for state policy at Lumina Foundation, an independent, private foundation in Indianapolis that is committed to making opportunities for learning beyond high school available to all. In that role, he leads the development and advancement of the foundation's state policy agenda. Jenkins has a broad and extensive background in institutional, state, and federal policy development and execution. Before joining Lumina, he served as education policy director to two governors: John Engler of Michigan and Indiana's Mitch Daniels. He also served as director of external relations for Western Governors University, and as a deputy assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Education in the George W. Bush administration. Jenkins holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Central Florida.



Dr. Tom Johnson

Dr. Thomas "Tom" Johnson has served as president of Lamar State College Orange (LSCO) since 2018. Prior to his presidency, Johnson served as Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs at Tyler Junior College, where he worked for 12 years. Johnson is a first-generation college student who possesses an A.A. in psychology; AAS in law enforcement; B.S. in criminology and corrections; M.S. in criminal justice management; and Ed.D. in higher education. He has over 20 years of progressive experience in higher education as well as being honorably retired from the Houston Police Department with 20 years of service. Johnson's view for LSCO is to be a place where hope meets opportunity, with a mission of transforming lives. He believes two-year colleges play a critical role in higher education because they meet students where they are in order to have a better life.



Dr. Harrison Keller

Dr. Harrison Keller is the Commissioner of Higher Education for the state of Texas. He has more than two decades of experience in educational budget and policy, digital learning, senior university administration, management, fundraising, and building effective coalitions among school districts, community colleges, universities, systems, and policymakers. A recognized innovator in policy and programs to improve college readiness and student success, especially for low-income and first-generation students, Keller is the founder and was the principal investigator of the OnRamps dual enrollment initiative, which provides college-level courses to thousands of high school students across Texas, and the Texas OnCourse initiative, which works with Governor Greg Abbott's Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative to improve secondary college and career advising across the state. Previously, Keller held several positions at The University of Texas at Austin, and before coming to UT Austin, he was Director of Research for the Texas House of Representatives and Senior Education Advisor for the Speaker of the Texas House. Keller has taught at Georgetown University, St. Edward's University, and the University of Texas at Austin. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame and an M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University.



Sarah Keyton

Sarah Keyton serves as the associate vice chancellor for state relations in the Office of Governmental Relations for the Texas Tech University (TTU) System. Keyton is responsible for supervising the day-to-day operations of the TTU System's governmental relations activity. She also fosters relationships with state elected officials, staff, and agencies to advance the TTU System and component institution's priorities. She joined the TTU System following nearly six years as the assistant director of the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). She served as the LBB's liaison to the Texas House of Representatives and oversaw the design, coordination, and implementation of budget and data teams' analysis and research. As an analyst, she served on the LBB's Business and Economic Development team and worked with its Higher Education unit. In 2012, Keyton moved into the higher education team manager position, where she provided presentations for legislative committees, legislators, and staff. She also served as the chairperson of the Texas Fiscal Officers Academy. Keyton earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Houston in 2002 and received a Doctor of Jurisprudence from The University of Texas at Austin School of Law in 2005.



Dr. Paul Klotman

Dr. Paul Klotman is president, CEO, and executive dean of Baylor College of Medicine. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Michigan and his M.D. from Indiana University. At Baylor College of Medicine, he oversees the only private health sciences university in the Greater Southwest United States, with total research funding of more than \$650 million. The medical school is ranked among the top 25 institutions for research and the top 20 for primary care by U.S. News & World Report. As the CEO of Baylor College of Medicine, he oversees approximately 15,000 employees and 3,500 students, residents, and fellows, and is responsible for the Baylor medical staff at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Texas Children's Hospital, the DeBakey VA Medical Center, Ben Taub Hospital and its affiliated clinics, the Menninger Clinic, and the Children's Hospital of San Antonio. He serves on the boards of directors of St. Luke's Health System and the Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, the college's jointly owned and governed private adult hospital. The enterprise revenue is over \$2 billion dollars with net assets of approximately \$2 billion.



Ray Martinez

Ray Martinez is the Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs and Workforce Education for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. His responsibilities include developing and maintaining administrative processes and strategies for streamlining students' pathways to affordable, high-quality, and high-value credentials; sustaining partnerships with higher education leaders and employers to accelerate innovation in educational delivery, research and development, and workforce education; and securing input and support from stakeholders to advance the agency's strategic priorities. Martinez previously was president of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, and before that was chancellor of Western Governors University Texas. He also has held senior government relations positions at Rice University and Texas A&M International University and was the director of the Committee on Higher Education in the Texas Senate. Martinez served in both the Clinton and Bush administrations, and has been an adjunct professor at The University of Texas School of Law and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. He recently completed a three-year term as a member of the board of trustees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.



Dr. Brian McCall

Dr. Brian McCall is chancellor of the Texas State University System, comprising seven institutions with more than 87,000 students and 16,000 faculty and staff. McCall holds a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's degree from Southern Methodist University, was a visiting post-graduate student at Oxford University, and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The University of Texas at Dallas. In 2012, he received the Distinguished Alumni Award from The University of Texas at Dallas. A long-time civic and community volunteer, McCall was founder and chairman of the board of The Empowerment Project, a nonprofit that has sent more than \$10 million worth of books to disadvantaged schools in the Republic of South Africa and helped construct a library in Vietnam through the Libraries of Love organization. The Empowerment Project also raised more than \$350,000 to provide direct support for the medical needs of children in north Texas. McCall has served several councils and boards, including the board of directors of the National Association of System Heads, and Texas' Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors as chairman, a position to which he was elected by the state's 38 public university presidents and six chancellors.



Meagan McCoy Jones

Meagan McCoy Jones grew up in San Marcos, Texas, and is a graduate of the University of Richmond in Virginia (B.A. in rhetoric and communication studies, Phi Beta Kappa) and of the University of Texas at Austin (M.A. in communication studies). McCoy Jones is the fourth generation in her family to work for McCoy's Building Supply. She worked her way up in the business and was promoted to president and chief operating officer in 2019. She is a member of the board of directors of McCoy Corporation, a partner in McCoy Remme Ranches, co-chair of the Legislative Committee of the Lumbermen's Association of Texas, a board member of the Texas Association of Builders, and an involved member of the Greater San Marcos Partnership, working on issues related to development, conservation, and affordable housing. She is a former board member and passionate supporter of Mobile Loaves & Fishes, a social outreach ministry that empowers communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless.



Sue McMillan

Sue McMillin joined Greater Texas Foundation (GTF) as president and CEO in September 2017. McMillin has worked in the field of higher education nonprofit management for over 28 years. Before joining GTF, she held several leadership roles at Texas Guaranteed Student Loan/TG (now Trellis Company). She was Vice President of Operations and Senior Vice President for Customer Relations and Business Operations, before leading the corporation for over 10 years as its president and CEO. Before joining TG, she worked for Guaranty Federal Bank as its Assistant Vice President of Retail Services and its Vice President and Director of Deposit Operations. McMillin has served on the boards of the National College Access Network, the National Student Clearinghouse, the National Council of Higher Education Resources, ELM Resources, and the United Way of Williamson County. She currently serves on the board of Texas Rural Funders, as the board chair of Texell Credit Union, and on Southwestern University's Board of Visitors. Sue holds a Bachelor of Arts from St. Edward's University.



Susan Moore-Fontenot

Susan Moore-Fontenot retired as director of human resources for Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District in 2014 after completing 38 years in public education. Her advocacy for community colleges began in 1988 as the first ethnic minority to serve on the Lee College Board. Susan has held all offices on the board. As chair of the policy committee for over 20 years, her contributions and passion have led to effective governance. She has led the college's presidential evaluation process since 1993 and chaired the college's recent Presidential Search Committee. Susan was appointed to the Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) Board of Directors and co-chairs the CCATT Education Committee. She has served as president of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators. An advocate for collaboration, Moore-Fontenot helped charter the Baytown Area Education Recruitment and Retention (BAER2) Program, a collaboration between the local school district, Lee College, and UHCL. She serves on the finance team of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., a national service organization benefiting youths and adults. She has also served on the finance team for an affiliate chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Moore-Fontenot's story is one of commitment to K-14 educational excellence through compassionate leadership.



Jennifer Mott

Jennifer Mott is the chief financial officer of the Lone Star College System, overseeing financial operations, facilities, and technology services. She provides strategic financial leadership and is responsible for managing the functional areas of Facilities and Construction; Financial Aid; Financial Planning, Analysis and Treasury; Financial Reporting and Operations; Real Estate and Resource Development; Supply Management; and Technology Services. Mott also serves on the board of directors of the North Houston Development Corporation. Previously, she served as Deputy Director of Finance for the City of Houston. Under the leadership of Mayors Bill White, Annise Parker and Sylvester Turner, Mott served in several high-level management roles. She has expertise in public finance, financial planning, budgeting, treasury, and capital management. Mott is passionate about financial management and has a proven track record of delivering strong leadership in public service. She's committed to the mission of operating the college system in a fiscally conservative manner, based on data, efficiencies, and accountability. In 2007, Mott received her M.A. in economics from Boston University. In 2005, she graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in economics from State University of New York College at Oswego.



Mike Reeser

Michael L. Reeser is chancellor and CEO of the Texas State Technical College System (TSTC), the only statewide public two-year technical college system with 10 campuses across Texas. Under Reeser's leadership, TSTC has become well known as an innovator in higher education operations. Two of the most noteworthy innovations are: (1) the Returned-Value Funding Formula, a state funding method based solely on student employment outcomes and not on enrollment census; and (2) the Money-Back Employment Guarantee, an employment assurance program that refunds tuition to students who can't find a job after earning a TSTC degree. Prior to being appointed chancellor in 2010, Reeser served TSTC in various roles, including chief financial officer, college president, and dean of instruction. In the early half of this career, Reeser was a banker who served in executive and management roles in Houston and Waco. Reeser is married and has four grown children. He holds a B.S. degree from Texas A&M University and an MBA from The University of Texas in Arlington.



Augie Rivera

Augustin “Augie” Rivera, Jr., is the general counsel for the Del Mar Community College District in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he serves as a member of the president’s executive team. Rivera joined Del Mar College in 2015 after more than 27 years of private practice in civil trial and appellate law throughout South Texas. A native of Driscoll, Texas, Rivera is a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Law School and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1988. His professional credentials include admission to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, and several U.S. District Courts. Rivera also serves as a board member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys and the Texas Association of Community College Attorneys and is also a member of the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education chapter at Del Mar College. Mr. Rivera’s lifelong and extensive commitment to community service has included volunteer work for the East Palo Alto Community Law Project and board service for the South Texas Council of the Boy Scouts and the public radio/television station KEDT TV/FM.



Carol Scott

Carol A. Scott, APR, Fellow PRSA, is chairman of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees and board chair of the Del Mar College Board of Regents, where she has served as a regent since 2014. Carol is a public affairs consultant from Corpus Christi serving a variety of business sectors, including energy, manufacturing, refining, financial, retail, and government. She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America’s (PRSA’s) College of Fellows and received PRSA’s Paul M. Lund Public Service Award. Carol is a graduate of Texas A&M University – Kingsville. She is past president of the Javelina Alumni Association, serves on the President’s Leadership Council, and is a Distinguished Alumnus of the university. Previously, she was elected to the Corpus Christi Independent School District Board of Trustees and served three terms as president of the board. She is a past president or chairman of the Texas Public Relations Association, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, and the Arts Council, among others. She is a graduate of Leadership Corpus Christi and Leadership Texas.



Ruth Simmons

Ruth J. Simmons is president of Prairie View A&M University. Previously, Simmons was a professor of Comparative Literature and Africana Studies at Brown University, and after completing her Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard, she served in various faculty and administrative roles at the University of Southern California, Princeton University, and Spelman College, before becoming president of Smith College, the largest women’s college in the United States. Simmons is the recipient of many honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship to France, the 2001 President’s Award from the United Negro College Fund, the 2002 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, the 2004 Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the Foreign Policy Association Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Centennial Medal from Harvard University. Simmons is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Council on Foreign Relations, and she serves on the boards of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Holdsworth Center. She received the Brown faculty’s highest honor, the Susan Colver Rosenberger Medal, in 2011. In 2012, she was named a ‘chevalier’ of the French Legion of Honor.



Evan Smith

Evan Smith is the CEO and co-founder of The Texas Tribune, a pioneering nonprofit, nonpartisan digital news organization whose deep coverage of Texas politics and public policy can be found at its website, texastribune.org, in newspapers and on TV and radio stations across the state, and in the print and online editions of the Washington Post. Since its launch in 2009, the Tribune has won international acclaim and numerous honors, including a Peabody Award, 23 national Edward R. Murrow Awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association, and three general excellence awards from the Online News Association. Smith is also the host of “Overheard with Evan Smith,” a weekly half-hour interview program that airs on PBS stations around the country. Previously, he spent nearly 18 years at Texas Monthly, including eight years as the magazine's editor and a year as its president and editor in chief.



Stuart Stedman

Stuart W. Stedman is the president of Stedman West Interests, Inc., a family investment office in Houston. He served on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as vice chairman from 2016 to 2017 and a chairman from 2017 to 2021. He currently serves a regent of The University of Texas System and is a member of the Texas Higher Education Foundation. Stedman graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with B.A. in Plan II, a JD, and an MBA.



Ruth Watkins

Ruth V. Watkins is the president of Strada Impact, where she is applying strategic integration of research, philanthropy, thought leadership, and policy to drive systems change efforts so that more individuals can successfully access and complete postsecondary education and training. Before officially joining Strada in April 2021, Watkins was the president of the University of Utah, where she increased degree completion rates and research funding, established innovative student funding models, and built strong partnerships with community stakeholders. Watkins drove innovation in research, education, and operational efficiency, and addressed societal challenges such as mental health and interpersonal violence. During her tenure at the University of Utah, the university produced more graduates in high-demand fields than any other state institution. She came to Utah in 2013 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she spent 20 years in leadership and faculty roles, including dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, vice provost, and associate provost. Watkins graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology. She earned a master's degree and a doctorate in child language at the University of Kansas, where she was a National Institutes of Health predoctoral fellow.



Donna Williams

Donna N. Williams is a vice president and program manager for Parsons Transportation Group, Inc., a global engineering and construction leader in facilities, advanced technology, and management processes. She has received numerous state and national accolades, including being named Parsons' 1993 "Engineer of the Year"; being recognized by US Black Engineer & Information Technology as "One of the 100 Most Important Blacks in Technology"; and being named a Prairie View A&M University Distinguished Alumni. She was appointed by President George W. Bush as the Director of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is involved in many civic activities and professional associations. She has served as board chairman for Justin F. Kimball High School Academy of Hospitality and Tourism, and as a member of several boards, including the Dallas African American Museum, the Texas State Foundation, and the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health. As an appointee to the Texas State University Board of Regents, she served two terms as vice chairman of the board (2011 & 2012) and chairman of the board (2013 & 2014). Mrs. Williams received a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Prairie View A&M University.



Laura Wright

Laura Wright of Dallas, Texas, was appointed to the University of North Texas (UNT) Board of Regents in November of 2015 and elected chair in August of 2019. A UNT alumna who holds a bachelor's degree and master's degree in accounting, Wright retired in 2012 after 25 years with Southwest Airlines Co., the last eight of which she served as chief financial officer (CFO) and Senior Vice President of Finance. She started with the company in 1988 and became Vice President Finance & Treasurer in 2001. She also served as Assistant Treasurer and Director Corporate Finance. Prior to joining Southwest Airlines, Wright was a manager with Arthur Young & Company. Wright currently serves on numerous prestigious public, private and nonprofit boards and is a strategic and financial advisor to nonprofit organizations. Wright has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including induction into the UNT Business School Hall of Fame in 2015. She was named among America's Best CFOs by Institutional Investor magazine in 2007, 2008, and 2009, was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by Air Finance Journal in 2008, was named Top 25 Women Finance Leaders by Treasury and Risk magazine in 2009, and was selected as Top Large Public Company CFO in 2011 by D Magazine.

Thank you for joining us for the
2021 Texas Higher Education
Leadership Conference.
See you next year!



THECB