



2026

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Executive Committee



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD Josh Vasquez

Josh Vasquez has been a resident of NWA for over 27 years. Josh is the Rogers Market President for Generations Bank. He has served

Northwest Arkansas in the Banking industry for over 17 years. During his career, he has had the privilege to serve in many capacities, including Management, Lending, Treasury Management, Business Development, & Community Outreach for the underserved, underbanked, & unbanked. Through this experience he has learned the importance of understanding and serving the financial need of individuals, families, and businesses. Josh has been an active volunteer member of the NWA Community. Josh is a Leadership Benton County graduate of Class 2018 and Leadership Springdale graduate of Class 2015. Josh also serves as a board member for L.I.F.E Prep of NWA, a Community Ambassador for Single Parent Scholarship Fund of NWA, an advisory board member for Salvadorenos Unidos para-Arkansas, & a Mentor for EforAll of NWA. Most recently, Josh was nominated and selected to the NWA Business Journal, 40 under 40 class of 2022. Josh enjoys spending time with his family and is enjoying learning to ride all the great bike trails in NWA. •



CHAIR ELECT Jaclyn Henderson Regions Bank

Jaclyn Henderson, a native to Rogers, is the Market Executive for Northwest Arkansas and Southwestern Missouri. Throughout her 16 year career with

Regions, she has continued to serve the corporate, small-business, governmental and non-profit banking needs in the region. Henderson is active in several different community groups in the area, serving as the Secretary for the Northwest Arkansas Community College Foundation, the Walton Arts Center Foundation, and the Civil Service Commission for the City of Rogers. She was selected as a recipient of the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal's 40 under 40 Class of 2021 and is a graduate of Leadership Benton County. She earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Arkansas and is a Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) from the Association for Financial Professionals. She lives in Rogers with her husband and two children. •



TREASURER Mike Dodge Carroll Electric Cooperative Corporation

Mike grew up in Richmond, IL. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Missouri – Rolla in 1

1998. During school, he worked as an engineering-intern for City Utilities of Springfield Missouri, where he worked in both the Electric T&D and the Power Quality departments. Mike was hired by Carroll Electric as an Engineer on January 19, 1998. He was promoted in July 2003 to VP, Executive Services, and in 2005 accepted the responsibility to become Vice President, Bentonville District. In his time with Carroll Electric, he has worked on a wide variety of projects throughout Northwest Arkansas. Mike is a member of Rogers Noon Rotary, the NW Arkansas Council Water and Utilities Committee, and the Beaver Lake Watershed Policy Advisory Group. In his spare time he enjoys all outdoor activities and attending sporting events with his family. •



PAST CHAIRMAN Michael Parker Nabholz Construction

Michael Parker began working in the construction industry right after obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Building Construction from Auburn

University, as well as a Minor in Building Administration. He has spent more than half of his 29-year career working for Nabholz, starting as the EVP of Preconstruction Services and working his way up to his current position as President of Central Operations. Michael is a past chair for the Arkansas Chapter of the United States Green Building Council, is certified through the Advanced Management Program, holds an ASHE Healthcare Construction Certificate, and is a graduate of the Leadership Greater Little Rock program. Currently, he is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Council, serves on the Urban Land Institute NWA Advisory Board, the Executive Committee of The Leukemia Lymphoma Society and the Dean's Circle of the Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design. •



PRESIDENT/CEO Raymond Burns Rogers Lowell Chamber

Raymond Burns is President/CEO of the Rogers Lowell Chamber in Rogers, Arkansas. He is one of the few Certified Chamber Executives in the

nation. The Rogers Lowell Chamber is a Five-Star Accredited Chamber, the highest certification of quality available in the industry. Only 146 of 7,022 chambers have earned this this honor. He has served the Chamber for the past 38 years. He is actively involved with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, serving on the Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, the Accreditation Board, and he is past chairman of the SMU Institute for Organizational Management, the profession's leading training program for Chamber professionals. He is past chairman of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives Certified Chamber Executive (CCE) Commission and is past chairman of the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce Executives and the Arkansas Economic Developers. He currently serves on the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce Board and Executive Committee. He served an 8-year term as a board member of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport Authority. He is a member of Rotary International and a member of Central United Methodist church of Rogers. Raymond and his wife Katie live in Rogers and have four children and five grandchildren. •

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Andrea Allen Onyx Coffee Lab

Andrea Allen is the co-founder of Onyx Coffee Lab. She is head of operations for all Onyx cafes and for the roastery. Andrea manages all

things people, and she creates and develops Onyx leadership roles. She also holds the title of 2021 U.S. Barista Champion and the runner-up 2020 World Barista Champion. In her spare time, she is hanging out with her husband and two daughters, an avid runner, and a barrel-racer (at the local rodeo). •



Austin Bryan HoganTaylor LLP

Austin is a Senior Wealth Manager and Certified Financial Planner® at HoganTaylor where he merges his tax and financial background to enhance

his client's experience. Austin graduated from the Leadership Greater Little Rock Class 2017 and since moving to Northwest Arkansas has graduated from the Leadership Benton County Class of 2021. His non-profit work includes the Arkansas Food Bank, the Leadership Benton County Alumni Association, Bentonville Moves Coalition Committee Member and most recently with Best Friends in NWA to honor their 2 rescue dogs. Austin and his wife, Anna, live in Bentonville where they are raising Sloane (7) and Gio (1). When Austin is not working you can find him traveling, riding the OZ trails, and cheering on his hometown Carolina Panthers. •



Ever Cuellar Sterling Bank

My name is Ever Cuellar, and I am a Community Banker at Sterling Bank in Rogers. I have been in banking for almost 13 years in various roles

ranging from part-time teller to mortgage lender. I am originally from Santa Ana, El Salvador but have lived in Northwest Arkansas for close to 20 years. My goal is to bring resources to underserved communities and communities to the resources Sterling Bank offers.

I currently live in Rogers with my wife Shelby who is a schoolteacher at Janie Darr Elementary. We have 2 daughters and a dog named Rebar. We love the outdoors and spend as much time as possible camping, cycling, swimming or just playing outside. We absolutely love this area and are proud to be a part of the community. •



Ryan Dagley Signature Bank of Arkansas

Ryan Dagley is the Rogers Market President for Signature Bank of Arkansas. He started at Signature Bank of Arkansas in May 2008 after working

for another financial institution. In college, he worked as a teller and had the opportunity to take the management training program, which lasted two years and gave him experience in each department of the bank. At 26, he became Vice President and Commercial Lender. Three years later, he was promoted to Senior Vice President and Loan Manager of the Bentonville market. He stayed in this role for 10 years before joining the Rogers team. •



Trevor Hensley Crafton Tull

Trevor Hensley is the Vice President of Marketing for Crafton Tull. He works from the firm's Rogers office, leading the internal marketing team, which is

responsible for new project pursuit efforts, corporate branding and communications, and promotional activities.

Trevor is a Certified Professional Services Marketer and is a member of the Ozarks Chapter of the Society for Marketing Professional Services. He is a Certified Remote Pilot and operates drones to capture commercial aerial photography and videography. He is a graduate of Leadership Owasso, Oklahoma and graduated from Leadership Benton County in 2023. Trevor is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter of The Urban Land Institute (ULI) and serves on the Public Relations Committee for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Arkansas. He and his wife Stephanie live in Bentonville with their two children. •

2027 Directors



Andrew Branch NWA National Airport - XNA

Andrew joined the Northwest Arkansas National Airport in April 2019 as Chief Business Development Officer and became Chief Operating

Officer in August of 2022. Prior to joining the team at XNA, Andrew worked for the State of Arkansas in a variety of roles including Chief Financial Officer for the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs, Vice President of Housing for the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, and Director of Finance for the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Andrew currently serves as the Public Trustee for the Arkansas Local Police & Fire Retirement System (LOPFI) and is a member of the Board of Directors for Community Clinic. He is a graduate of LeTourneau University (BS, Accounting), Texas A&M University (MBA), and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (JD). Andrew lives in Rogers with his wife, Dr. Yang Luo-Branch, and their daughter Lucy. •



David Keefauver J.B. Hunt Transport

David is the Executive Vice President of Dedicated Contract Services at J.B. Hunt. David began his career with J.B. Hunt after graduating from the

University of Tennessee in 1994. After stints in Memphis, Charlotte, and Atlanta he relocated to NW Arkansas in 2005 where he and Jennifer, his wife of 27 years, plan to never leave. David and Jennifer are proud parents of Jake and Ben, both currently students at the University of Arkansas. In addition to a B.S degree from The University of Tennessee, David also earned an MBA from Georgia State University. •



Alex Martelli PepsiCo

Alex Martelli is a Senior Sales Director with PepsiCo where he has spent a 17-year career, including six of the last eight here in Northwest Arkansas. His

journey with PepsiCo has included roles across the Beverages & Foods business in several US geographies including now with Walmart. Originally from the Seattle area, Alex lives in Bentonville with his wife Lauren & son Leo.

Alex has been involved with the Chamber starting in 2021, spearheading the introduction to PepsiCo and being the presenting sponsor of the NWA Community Showcase since 2022. He enjoys golf, travel, and spending time with family around the region including dining out & taking their son to the many NWA parks. •



Carol Silva Moralez Upskill NWA

As President & CEO of Upskill NWA, Carol Silva Moralez is leading the sectoral-based workforce development program and is

growing a robust stand-alone organization, providing lower income workers access to education and placing them into high-paying, high-demand careers in healthcare. Upskill NWA ensures education costs are paid for, works with Hark NWA to provide wrap around services, and provides each participant with a Career Navigator to help ensure the participant has the support they need to graduate. Together with the team at the Excellerate Foundation, Moralez is focused on building a region-wide collective that coordinates its efforts with philanthropic, education, healthcare, and social support partners to create a robust ecosystem of support for Upskill NWA program participants.

Moralez is a successful executive who spent 25 years advancing into multiple leadership roles in Walmart field operations before bringing her People and Operations leadership expertise to the Bentonville home office where she led teams in the design and development of functional and leadership training for Walmart's U.S. workforce. Prior to being Upskill NWA's President & CEO, Moralez was the Lead Partner responsible for Diversity and Inclusion and Leadership Development practices at SERVE2PERFORM, where she also served as the Co-Chair of LatinXNA.

Her community service includes the Bentonville Mayor's Community Council, Rotary Satellite Club of Bentonville, and Vice Chair of Community Clinic NWA Board and serves on Washington County's Community Economic Development Strategy taskforce. Moralez has a record of excellence having earned the coveted Helen Walton Community Award from Walmart and was the recipient of NWA Business Journal's 2020 Top Ten Women in Business Award. •



Kraig Pomrenke North Arkansas Chicks

Kraig Pomrenke is the Chief Operating Officer of North Arkansas Chicks LLC, which owns and operates four Chicken Salad Chick restaurants in

Bentonville, Fayetteville, Conway and Jonesboro. Pomrenke has been in Hospitality Operations for over 44 years and was recently the General Manager for the Embassy Suites NWA and Rogers Convention Center. He has been in Arkansas for over 7 years and came to NWA from Jonesboro where he was the opening General Manager for the Embassy Suites Red Wolf Convention Center. He has had previous stops in many leadership and business development positions in several markets all over the country. Pomrenke has been on the boards of Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau, Arkansas Hospitality Association along with past President of the Dakota Alliance Soccer Club. Kraig is the father of four adult children, with both of his sons proudly serving in the US Army. Kraig and his life partner Melissa live in Bentonville. •

2027 Directors cont.



Joseph Stevens
Kiefer Sage

Joseph Stephens is the Human Resources Manager at Keifer Sage in Rogers. He has twenty-three years of experience in Human Resources at

various levels. After relocating to the area in 2017, Joseph found Arkansas to be just to his liking.

Joseph holds a B.S. from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Ok, and a J.D. from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.

In his spare time, Joseph loves to attend various sporting events, concerts, and spending time with his family. •



Chad Evans
Arvest Bank

Chad Evans is the President and CEO of Arvest Bank, Benton County. In this role, he works with a dedicated team of financial service professionals to

serve the banking needs of Northwest Arkansas and of parts of southern Missouri. Chad is a Bentonville native and a 30+ year banker, serving in many capacities for Arvest over those years. Prior to returning to Benton County, he served for nine years as President/CEO of Arvest Bank in Joplin, MO. Chad and his wife, Jana, have two adult sons, both currently in college. He holds degrees from Arkansas Tech University and the Southwest Graduate School of Banking, which complement his extensive industry experience. He is passionate about his faith, his family, and serving the communities in Northwest Arkansas. •

2028 Directors



Kristin Baldwin
Smith Hurst, PLC

Kristin oversees business and financial operations, working closely with firm partners to drive growth and innovation in Northwest Arkansas's

legal sector. She manages budgeting, financial analysis, compliance, enterprise risks, and insurance programs, while building relationships with external stakeholders to strengthen the firm's competitive standing. With over a decade of experience in various legal practice areas, Kristin is an active community member, serving on advisory boards and volunteering with local organizations. Her leadership and service have earned her recognition, including the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal's 40 Under Forty and several volunteer awards. •



Bruce Barkley
KHBS/KHOG-TV

Bruce T. Barkley has been President and General Manager of 40/29 KHBS/KHOG-TV in Fayetteville/Ft. Smith, AR since July 2020, overseeing

news and sports programming for Northwest Arkansas and the River Valley. Previously News Director at WYFF News 4 in Greenville, SC, he led the station to top ratings and multiple awards, including seven Southeast Regional Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow award. Bruce is a Hearst INCLUDE Certified Change Agent, has completed the Riley Institute's Diversity Leadership Training, and has held leadership roles at various Hearst stations in Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee. He holds a B.A. in Communication from American University, where he captained the NCAA Division 1 baseball team. Bruce and his wife, Susan, recently moved to NW Arkansas and have three sons and a daughter-in-law across Arkansas, South Carolina, and Mississippi. •



Spencer Fox
Legacy National Bank

Spencer Fox has over 22 years of banking experience in Northwest Arkansas and currently serves as Senior Vice President and Benton

County Lending Manager at Legacy National Bank. A Pine Bluff native, he earned a B.S. in Finance from the University of Arkansas in 2003 and a graduate degree from the Barret School of Banking. He began his career at Bank of Rogers, later working at Simmons Bank before joining Legacy National Bank. Fox is a past president of both the Rogers Early Risers Rotary Club and Northwest Arkansas Emerging Leaders, where he also served on the Rogers/Lowell Chamber Board. He's active at First Baptist Church Rogers and coaches his son's U11 soccer team. He lives in Rogers with his two children, Will and Adeline. •



Debbie Jones
CEI Engineering Associates, Inc

With over 25 years of experience in Business Development and Marketing, she has led growth across Retail, Hospitality, Education, and

Commercial sectors. She specializes in negotiation, strategic planning, relationship building, operations, sales, and market research. Known for her innovative mindset, she blends fresh ideas with sound business strategies. She collaborates with a wide range of industry professionals to build strong, lasting partnerships. Her approach centers on understanding each business's unique needs and delivering a strategic, efficient, and enjoyable process. For her, success means connecting the right people to the right resources. •



Natalie Tibbs

Children and Family Advocacy Center

Natalie has worked since 2006 in various roles supporting the organization's mission to restore the

lives of those impacted by trauma. The CFAC merged with Restoration Village in January 2023. Natalie holds an Associate Degree in Nursing from Northwest Arkansas Community College, a degree in Psychology, and an M.S. in Leadership from John Brown University. She is the first certified full-time sexual assault nurse examiner in Arkansas and served as the Benton County Multidisciplinary Team Coordinator from 2009 to 2019. Natalie is on the boards of the Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas and Mercy Health System of NWA, and she has served on Mercy's Community Health Subcommittee since 2018. She is passionate about protecting children, building resiliency in those impacted by trauma, and breaking the cycle of abuse. Natalie, alongside her husband, has seven children and enjoys outdoor activities. •

Ex-Officio Directors



Ron Amos

Minuteman Press

Ron has spent over 30 years traveling the world working in the precious metal industry. In 2017, Ron returned to Northwest Arkansas to open his first

business, Minuteman Press. Ron serves on the Rogers Lowell Chamber's Small Business Council and is a board member of the Springdale Rotary Club supporting several of their events such as the Hogeye Marathon, The Pig Trail Mud Run, and the Rodeo of the Ozarks. Ron enjoys supporting several of the many non-profits in Northwest Arkansas. In his free time Ron enjoys wood working and fishing in the beautiful Ozarks. He and his wife Ginny reside in Northwest Arkansas. Ron has two adult children and two beautiful grandchildren. •



Lane Crider

Beaver Water District

M. Lane Crider P.E. is Chief Executive Officer of Beaver Water District (BWD), a wholesale water treatment supplier located in Lowell in

Northwest Arkansas. He joined Beaver Water District on Oct. 1, 2018, when he was hired by the BWD elected Board of Directors. Crider holds a Class IV Water Operators license, is a Registered Professional Engineer in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee, and has a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas. From 1989 to 2018, he worked for McGoodwin, Williams and

Yates, Inc. and MWY, a Division of Olsson Associates. He began his career with McGoodwin while still a student at the University of Arkansas in the role of intern. His nearly 30 years of experience with MWY includes water and wastewater treatment plant design; water transmission, distribution, and storage; wastewater collection and transmission; sludge application and industrial pre-treatment; street, paving and storm sewer design; sanitary sewer rehabilitation; municipal utility relocation and reconstruction; and many other areas of design and construction for private and municipal projects.

Crider currently serves as President of the Arkansas Board of Health, as well as the Chair of the Southwest Section American Water Works Association Water Utility Council. He serves as Secretary/Treasurer on the Board of Directors for Arkansas 811. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association (AWW&WEA). He has served on the state Board of Directors of the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers (ASPE) and is currently an officer of the Arkansas Water and Wastewater Managers Association (AWWMA). At the national level, Mr. Crider has served on the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Water Utility Council's Technical Advisory Workgroup for the review and response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) six-year review of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Crider is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the AWWA, the Southwest Section of the AWWA, the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the Arkansas Water Environment Association (AWEA), the AWW&WEA, the American Public Works Association (APWA), the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), and the ASPE. Crider's service to the community includes Rotary International, Northside Rotary Club, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Fayetteville, and Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, and on Fayetteville Public Schools Advisory Committees. His awards and recognitions include ASPE Young Engineer of the Year, ASPE Distinguished Service Award, Northside Rotary Club's Rotarian of the Year, and Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow. He was inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers in 2013. •



Angela DeLille

Spectrum

Angela DeLille is the Manager of Government Affairs at Cox Communications. In this role, Angela leads the political and government

relations strategies for Arkansas and advocates before elected officials and public entities to promote the interests of the company. She also works to build and maintain positive relationships with local, state and federal leaders.

Prior to joining Cox, Angela enjoyed a fourteen-year career as the Director of Government Affairs at the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas. She remains active in the organizations through committee work and as an Ex-Officio Board Member of the State Chamber of Commerce.

Angela is engaged with several industry associations. She currently serves as chair of the Arkansas Cable Telecommunications Association and is a member of Women in Cable Telecommunications and the Arkansas Society of Professional Lobbyists.

A native Arkansan, Angela graduated cum laude from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a bachelor's degree in Transportation and Logistics. She lives in Rogers with her husband, Justin, and son, Jackson. The DeLilles are avid sports fans and rarely miss a Razorback game. GO HOGS! •



Greg Hines

Mayor, City of Rogers

Greg Hines was sworn in as the 40th Mayor of Rogers on January 1, 2011. Greg attended Rogers Public Schools and the University of Arkansas. Hines

has dedicated many years of service to the people of Rogers. In 1998, he was elected as the youngest member in history to the Rogers City Council where he served for 12 years. Mayor Hines has deep roots in the community as a fourth generation Rogers native. He has had successful careers as a small business owner and in government, holding various positions in both the private and public sectors. Prior to being elected Mayor of Rogers, Greg spent 10 years as a law enforcement officer fighting crime on the streets and as the lead investigator in some of the most high profile crimes in Benton County. During his years in law enforcement, Greg was awarded the Investigator of the Year honor from the Benton County Sheriff's Office and the STEP Award for Outstanding DWI Enforcement as a uniformed patrol officer as well as many service commendations. Also, Greg served as the Director of Public Safety for Benton County. In this role, Greg oversaw the Road Department, Veterans Affairs, the Juvenile Detention Center, and the Community Service Program. He managed over 100 county employees and a taxpayer funded budget of \$10.4 million dollars.

Greg's accomplishments during his first two years in office include passage of a \$135 million dollar bond issuance, which has provided the residents of Rogers with a new state of the art aquatic park, sports complex, improved streets, and additional funding for the fire and police departments. Additionally, despite the Recession, the City of Rogers sales tax collections have been the highest in the City's history during 2011, 2012, and 2013.

Not only are Greg and his family active members of Central United Methodist Church, but he has served on the staff parish boards and on the board of trustees. He is an honoree member of the Rogers Noon Rotary. Also, Greg has been on the boards of: The Rogers Animal Shelter Advisory Board, Ozark Regional Transit Board, and as Vice-President of the Helen Walton Children's Enrichment Center Board of Directors. Most recently, Greg was awarded as the first class on the Wall of Distinction by the Rogers Public Education Foundation for his outstanding accomplishments.

Mayor Greg Hines is married to Lisa Brunner Hines and is the father of two beautiful daughters, Emily and Haley. •



Tom Hopper

TallChamps, LLC

Tom has been with Crafton Tull & Associates for 46 years designing and constructing numerous projects including the 5,000-acre community

at Holiday Island, the Rogers Industrial Park, the Barrington Center I and II office buildings and other public improvement projects in Northwest Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma and Southwest Missouri. Tom and his wife, Gloria, are officers of Tallgrass Development, Inc., which has developed Scottsdale Center. A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Tom played both football and basketball for the Razorbacks. He is a member of the Rogers Industrial Development Corporation, the Illinois River

Watershed Partnership, the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. Tom and Gloria have three grown children. •



Kaala House

The Agency Northwest Arkansas

My name is Kaala and I am beyond honored to join the Rogers Lowell Chamber Board of Directors.

I've been a real estate agent for about a decade now, and a broker for the last three years. With a last name like House, I often make the dad-level joke that I was born to be in real estate. But that's okay, because I love dad jokes and I love selling homes. There is nothing better to me than handing someone a set of keys after we just spent months searching for the right place and navigating the closing process together. Whether they are first time buyers, or they are selling their home, or they're buying an investment property, the feeling I get at the closing table has fueled every day I've spent doing this job. Not only has this path I've chosen led me to being a business owner, it's allowed me to create a beautiful life not just for myself, but for my son. It's allowed me to facilitate financial independence for the agents and staff I manage. And it's allowed me to have a hand in shaping the future of this community that I love so much, while growing relationships with my peers in other local businesses. The opportunity to keep doing that as a RLC board member is something I could not appreciate more. I'm looking forward to learning and growing in this role and can't wait to see what happens next. •



Braden Land

Rausch Companies

Braden is Senior Counsel for Rausch Companies, where he advises corporate operations and support teams on a broad range of legal areas

including litigation, real estate, company policies, human resources, and compliance matters for all portfolio companies in the real estate industry. Braden is licensed to practice law in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Prior to joining Rausch Companies, Braden served as associate corporate counsel for J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc, and engaged in private practice for a number of years. He has experience in litigation, labor, construction, data privacy and security, document and data management, regulatory and many other areas of law. Braden is a graduate of East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, and the University of Arkansas School of Law. He also holds a Master of Science in Supply Chain Management from the Sam Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas and a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Arkansas. Braden and his wife, Abby, enjoy spending time attending the athletic activities of their two children, and exploring local restaurants and businesses in Arkansas. •



Peter Lane

Walton Arts Center

Peter joined Walton Arts Center (WAC) in May 2009. Before that Peter served as President and CEO of the Mann Center for the Performing Arts in

Philadelphia, the summer home of the Philadelphia Orchestra and spent a decade as Executive Director of the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall.

In his first five years at WAC, he successfully oversaw the reintroduction of the visual arts at WAC, developed and secured multi-year funding for the Artosphere Arts and Nature Festival and led community efforts to reconstitute the region's symphony orchestra.

Under Peter's direction WAC is now the home of SoNA, as well T2, Community Creative Center and Trike Theatre, a professional theatre company for youth. With his leadership, WAC purchased Arkansas' largest outdoor music venue the Walmart AMP.

Additionally, the Walton Arts Center is in the process of raising funds for a multi-million dollar renovation to the Dickson Street theater complex and Peter continues to lead the efforts with board members, staff and community stakeholders in the planning, developing and fundraising for WAC's multi-campus expansion, envisioned to be completed over the next decade.

Peter serves on the boards of the Northwest Arkansas Council, Downtown Bentonville Incorporated and is a classically trained bassist. He enjoys sailing, biking and great food and wine. •



Juli McWhorter

Freeman Health System

Juli McWhorter, RN, BSN, MSN, serves as Chief Executive Officer of Northwest Medical Center –

Bentonville, working alongside Northwest Medical Center – Springdale CEO Kory Browning to coordinate the Northwest Health market in Northwest Arkansas. With more than 30 years at Northwest Health, McWhorter has held multiple leadership roles, including CEO of Northwest Medical Center – Willow Creek Women's Hospital and Northwest Health Physicians' Specialty Hospital, as well as chief administrative officer, chief operating officer, and chief nursing officer at Willow Creek.

Under her leadership, Willow Creek achieved numerous distinctions, including becoming the nation's first Center of Excellence for Vaginal Birth After Cesarean (VBAC), Arkansas's first Baby-Friendly designated hospital, and the state's first to earn The Joint Commission's Perinatal Care Certification. The hospital also received Press Ganey's 2022 Human Experience (HX) Guardian of Excellence Award® and was voted "Best Place to Have a Baby" for five consecutive years.

McWhorter serves on the board of Dress for Success NWA, supports the March of Dimes, and participates as a three-time Susan G. Komen BigWig. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Western Governors University. •



Barry Meohring

Benton County Judge

Barry Meohring was elected Benton County Judge in 2016. In this role, he leads over 200 county employees and manages a budget of more than \$20

million. The responsibilities of the county judge include overseeing the County Road Department, Planning and Environmental, Emergency Services and the County's 911 Department, all county facilities and many of the internal departments such as Accounting, Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. Before becoming County Judge, he served two terms on the Benton County Quorum Court, and spent much of that time deeply involved in the County's budgeting and finances. He and his wife Cindy moved to Benton County in 1999 and have three children. •



Chris Moore

Mayor, City of Lowell

Chris has lived in NWA for over 30 years. He graduated from Rogers High School, then served in the U.S. Navy for 6 years. Following his Navy

career, he joined the Army National Guard. He opened his first business in Lowell in 2008. He was elected as Mayor in November 2018 and in January 2019, he began his four-year term as Lowell Mayor. Streamlining government operations and focusing on Community Development is where Mayor Moore will be devoting much of his efforts over the next few years.

Chris and his wife Katie have three young children. •



Joey Msall

Black Hills Energy

Joey Msall, PE, serves as Director of Operations for Black Hills Energy in Arkansas, where he develops and executes the operating strategy for all

service, construction and maintenance activities that support the Black Hills Energy natural gas system and customers in Arkansas. With more than 450 employees and nearly 7,300 miles of gas system infrastructure in Arkansas, Black Hills Energy proudly serves nearly 180,000 customers in 100 communities.

A licensed professional engineer in Arkansas and Texas, Msall has worked in leadership and engineering positions in the natural gas industry for 12 years and was previously a design engineer in private firms.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas, a Master of Science in civil engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Msall is a 2021 graduate of Leadership Arkansas Class XV. •

Ex-Officios cont.

He and his wife, Sarah, have two children, Hannah and Ethan, and live in Rogers. During his free time, Msall enjoys traveling with his family, watching Razorback games and spending time outside running and cycling. •



Dr. Jeff Perry Rogers Public Schools

Dr. Jeff Perry started as the Superintendent for the Rogers Public Schools on July 1, 2022. He was previously the superintendent of the

Hamblen County School District in Tennessee which serves 10,500 students. He has been an educator for 35 years, which includes 18 years as a superintendent. He began his professional career as a high school teacher and coach in Norton, VA. He later served as an assistant principal at both the high school and middle school level and then as a principal of a large elementary school in Riner, VA. He has served as a superintendent of schools in Byers and Kremmling, CO. as well as in Wise and Wythe County, VA.

Perry earned a bachelor's degree in social sciences and history at Clinch Valley College in 1986, a master's degree in educational administration from Virginia Tech in 1990 and a doctorate in educational administration from Virginia Tech in 1994. He also earned an additional master's degree in reading from Radford University in 1998.

Perry has been a very active member of the communities he has served. Most recently, he was honored with the Community Leadership Awards for both Hamblen County and the City of Morristown as well as two Rotary Avenue of Service Awards in 2021. He was also recognized as the regional Superintendent of the Year in 2020 and in 2018. •



Eric Pianalto Mercy Northwest Arkansas

Eric is a Northwest Arkansas native and has been with Mercy since 1994 in a variety of roles.

He became President of Mercy

Hospital – Northwest Arkansas in November 2013. Prior to his role as President, he was Chief Operating Officer for regional operations in Arkansas and Oklahoma. He was born at St. Mary's Hospital in Rogers into a family of Italian immigrants and sharecroppers who settled in Tontitown during the 1890's. He graduated from Springdale High School and received his BSBA from the University of Arkansas. He later earned a master's degree in Business Administration from Webster University. Eric is a past chairman of the Tontitown Grape Festival and a past president and continued member of the Arkansas Medical Group Managers Association and serves on an advisory committee for the Arkansas State Medical Board Association as well as the board of directors for Arvest Bank. He also serves on the Board of The NWA Ronald McDonald House. He and his wife Dawn have three daughters. •



Gus Reyes-Jacobo Arvest Bank

Gus has worked in the banking community of Northwest Arkansas for the last several years serving as a liaison for the Spanish speaking community and local

businesses. He has served as an ambassador for the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce for 3 years and is involved in several other area non-profit organizations. He's currently going through Leadership Benton County and is a part of NWA Emerging Leaders.

Originally born in Mexico, Gus is the oldest sibling of a first-generation immigrant family. At the age of 4, his family moved to Rogers, Arkansas. Gus is a graduate of Rogers High School and obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas in Public Relations and Broadcast Journalism. Becoming the first in his family to attend and graduate college.

Gus spends his leisure time engaging in musical activities, camping trips, and frequent visits to coffee shops in the local area. On weekends, Gus enjoys spending quality time with family and enjoys grilling. Additionally, Gus is a member of the worship team for Cross Church and a big Razorback fan! •



Dennis Rittle NWACC

Dennis C. Rittle, Ph.D., is the President of NorthWest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville, AR. He has served in higher education since

1995. Before coming to NorthWest Arkansas Community College, Dr. Rittle served 7 years as the President of Cowley College in Arkansas City, KS and 3 years as the Provost and Executive Vice President of Learning at Ozarka College in Melbourne, AR. He was the first in his family to attend college and earned a two-year degree with the Community College of the Air Force while serving as a meteorologist in the United States Air Force. Dr. Rittle is a highly respected scholar and presenter in local, national, and international settings to include being a guest lecturer and presenter in venues such as Bentonville, AR, at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, and in Oxford, UK. Dennis and his wife, Christy, have been married for 32 years. Recently, they celebrated the wedding of their son and the birth of their daughter's first child. Dennis and Christy enjoy spending time in nature and volunteering their time and resources to meet community needs. •



Amy Schlesing AEP/SWEP CO

Amy's extensive experience includes serving as a war correspondent for the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, where she reported from conflict

zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to her journalism career, she has held significant roles, such as a trusted policy and communications

Ex-Officios cont.

advisor to former U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor, where she worked across Arkansas and provided support in Washington, D.C. Her previous roles also include transforming global internal communications at Tyson Foods, revamping communications for a Missouri hospital system, and serving as the executive director of communications at Arkansas' flagship university, where she led strategic communications.

Amy holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and a master's certificate in mediation and conflict resolution from Missouri State University.



Drew Stoner First Security Bank

Drew Stoner is a seasoned professional in the mortgage industry with over 15 years of experience. He was a top producer for a prominent

regional bank before assuming the role of spearheading mortgage sales efforts at First Security Bank.

Drawing from his extensive experience spanning various economic cycles, Drew navigates clients towards tailored mortgage solutions that best suit their financial goals. At First Security Bank, he leads a dedicated team committed to delivering exceptional customer service and leveraging the institution's diverse range of products and competitive rates.

Outside of work, Drew finds fulfillment in his role as a husband and father. Married to his wife Alex for four years, they reside in Rogers with their two children, William and Parker Kate. •



Denise Thomas Arkansas World Trade Center

A respected business strategist both in Arkansas and across the globe, Denise Thomas has more than 25 years of experience in international

trade. She has built a career connecting people and products through bilateral partnerships that focus on ethical sourcing and sustainability. Denise is passionate about helping small businesses grow and access the global marketplace, and she uses her expansive network to empower professionals with the tools they need to increase clientele and connect with the right partners.

A 14-year veteran of the World Trade Center Arkansas, Denise most recently served as the Center's director of Africa, European and Middle East trade. But her career in economic development began in Florida, where she joined the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce in 1998.

There she created a small business center with the U.S. Small Business Administration to house several chambers and centers under one roof. The location became a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs.

A California native, Denise has made her home in Northwest Arkansas since 2003, when she joined Walmart as a recruiter. She worked with the world's largest retailer to build strategic teams in diverse markets, both domestically and internationally.

Eager to share her talents and resources, Denise works to empower the next generation of Arkansas leaders by encouraging them to live complete, rich, harmonious, love-filled lives. •



Stennett Thompkins State Farm

Stennett has been an Agent with AAA Insurance since 2005 and has over twenty-seven years of insurance experience. He is a recipient of

several distinguished awards including Agent of the Year and Top Producer. Stennett holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing and a MA in Organizational Management. He currently serves on the Board for the Bentonville Rotary Club and past Boards of the Northwest Arkansas American Red Cross and the Rogers Lowell Chamber. Stennett and his wife Celia are native Texans and they have two children, Andrew and Naomi. •



Dick Trammell Chairman Emeritus

Dick Trammel is a native of Pocahontas, Arkansas and a 1960 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science Degree in

Business Administration. He was the recipient of the University of Arkansas Alumni Association's Outstanding Community Service Award in 2001. After college, Trammel returned to his hometown and was active in the cotton gin and grain elevator business until 1970. He then became Vice President and was a founding director of Planters and Stockmen Bank. In 1975, Trammel moved to Rogers, Arkansas to become a vice president of First National Bank & Trust Company, which later became Arvest Bank, Rogers. He currently serves as Executive Vice President, a member of the Board of Directors and Board Secretary of Arvest Bank, Rogers.

He is Past Chairman of the Board of the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. He is a Past Chairman of Downtown is Uptown and Leadership Rogers Steering Committee. He has served on the Rogers-Lowell United Way board and twice served as drive chairman.

Trammel was the recipient of the Chamber's "Good Neighbor Award" in 1982 and the "Pride of Rogers" award in July of 2000. The Chamber Board renamed the annual "Good Neighbor Award" to the "Dick Trammel Good Neighbor Award" in February 2007.

Trammel is a past president of the Rotary Club of Rogers, past governor of Rotary International District 6110 in 1985-1986 and was a member of the 2000 Rotary International District 6110 Group Study Exchange Team to the Ukraine.

Trammel's affiliations are many, focusing on healthcare, education and the arts. His contributions to the region and to the state have earned him numerous honors and awards in recognition of his outstanding commitment and dedication to his community and its residents.

Dick is married to Nancy Trammel and together they have six children, eight grandchildren and two great grandsons. Dick is an active member of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas. •



Brent Watkins

Benchmark Group

Brent Watkins is a seasoned professional with over 30 years of experience in the construction industry, including more than two

decades in engineering consulting. His career reflects a deep commitment to excellence, strategic thinking, and collaborative leadership. Since 2018, Brent has served as a Program Manager, where he leverages his unique ability to balance big-picture vision with meticulous attention to detail—ensuring that complex initiatives are executed efficiently and effectively. His leadership style is marked by clarity, foresight, and a results-driven mindset.

Brent's dedication to the industry and his organization is further exemplified by his role on the Board of Directors at Benchmark Group, where he has contributed meaningfully for the past two years. His board service underscores his strategic insight and commitment to organizational growth and innovation.

Throughout his career, Brent has consistently demonstrated the ability to guide teams, manage multifaceted programs, and deliver value across all phases of construction and engineering projects. •



Jeffrey Wood

Tyson Foods, Inc.

Jeffrey Wood helps build community for Tyson Foods Inc., a global food company in Springdale, Arkansas. Tyson Foods is the nation's second

largest publicly traded food company, the leading U.S. producer of chicken and beef and a leader in pork, pizza toppings and crusts and a variety of prepared foods. Wood spent 21 years in media and marketing before joining Tyson Foods. Eight of those were spent as a sportswriter, including for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, and as a contributor for The Sporting News and other regional publications. He later covered agriculture as a business reporter for Arkansas Business, eventually becoming editor of the Northwest Arkansas Business Journal and ultimately its vice president and publisher.

In his current role, he helps manage special stakeholder and Team Member engagement plus special projects for Tyson Foods. He's a member of Tyson's LINC program and the company's Multicultural Business Resource Group.

Wood holds a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Arkansas and is a graduate of the Milestone Leadership Journey at the Soderquist Center for Leadership and Ethics.

Wood is on the Emerging Leaders of Northwest Arkansas Advisory Board in Rogers. He and his wife, Trish, have three school-age children and reside in Cave Springs, Ark. •



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