TRIP BOOK

7TH AMERICAS COMPETITIVENESS EXCHANGE
on Innovation & Entrepreneurship
CENTRAL TEXAS | APRIL 2 – 7, 2017

www.riacevents.org/ace/texas

#ACXchange
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Dear ACE participants,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Seventh Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE), on behalf of the Organization of American States (OAS)- Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), the U.S. Department of Commerce (International Trade Administration-ITA and Economic Development Administration-EDA), the U.S. Department of State (Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS), the Government of Mexico as the 2016-2017 Chair Pro Tempore of RIAC, and the great State of Texas.

You were selected from a highly competitive pool of global and regional leaders to participate in this activity, which is designed to share good practices, connect talent and networks, and generate multiple opportunities to explore and expand the links between our economies. ACE plays a critical role in strengthening hemispheric and global ties by building on ideas and models that work to create jobs for our citizens. At the OAS, we believe that when the right partners increase their level of interaction the opportunities for job creation, increased investment, and improved prosperity are optimized.

Since 2014, ACE has been an important vehicle in advancing commerce and trade between participating economies, accelerating business prospects, and promoting collaboration among stakeholders.

As the U.S. Economic Development Administration states, “Economic Development creates the conditions for economic growth and improved quality of life by expanding the capacity of individuals, firms, and communities to maximize the use of their talents and skills to support innovation, lower transaction costs, and responsibly produce and trade valuable goods and services. Economic Development requires effective, collaborative institutions focused on advancing mutual gain for the public and the private sector. Economic Development is essential to ensuring our economic future.”

We live in a time of unprecedented opportunity for our citizens to participate fully in a 21st century economy: an economy characterized by innovation, research and development, value-added production, exports, and emerging sectors such as advanced manufacturing. I hope you will embrace this opportunity to establish new partnerships and economic opportunities as we work together towards building the future of our region.

Kim Osborne
Executive Secretary for Integral Development Organization of American States
Greetings:

As Governor of Texas, it is my pleasure to welcome all in attendance to the 2017 Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACE) Tour.

In Texas, we are proud to have a strong economy based upon a business climate conducive to growth, prosperity and upward mobility. Our economic environment fosters competition and innovation, keeping the Lone Star State at the forefront of business and industry in the United States.

ACE helps bring together decision-makers from across the globe to secure new international and regional partnerships. The goal of these partnerships is to develop business relationships and strengthen innovation while creating new economic development opportunities.

I applaud the efforts of all involved in hosting and bringing this event to the cities of Austin, College Station, San Marcos, Fredericksburg, New Braunfels and San Antonio. The partnership of these regional communities and their robust plan to present a weeklong Central and South Texas program highlights the best of our great state.

As you come together to forge new partnerships, strengthen the old and share ideas and knowledge with your peers, I commend you all for your commitment to business excellence and wish you future success.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in wishing you a successful event.

STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott
Governor
THE ACE 7 PROGRAM

Information from the Communities and Speakers and High Level Experts

FREDERICKSBURG
April 4

SAN MARCOS
April 5

SAN ANTONIO
April 2 and 3

AUSTIN
April 7

COLLEGE STATION
April 6

NEW BRAUNFELS
April 4
Texas is the second largest state in the United States by both area and population. Geographically located in the south central part of the country, Texas shares borders with the U.S. states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico; and the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas, while the Gulf of Mexico is to the southeast.

Houston is the most populous city in Texas and the fourth largest in the U.S., while San Antonio is the second most populous in the state and seventh largest in the U.S. Other major cities include Austin, the second most populous state capital in the U.S., and El Paso.

Due to its size and geologic features such as the Balcones Fault, Texas contains diverse landscapes that resemble both the U.S. southern and southwestern regions. Although Texas is popularly associated with the U.S. southwestern deserts, less than 10 percent of Texas’ land area is desert. Most of the population centers are located in areas of former prairies, grasslands, forests, and the coastline.

As of 2014, Texas had a gross state product (GSP) of $1.648 trillion, the second highest in the U.S. Its GSP is greater than the GDPs of Australia and South Korea, which are the world’s 12th- and 13th-largest economies, respectively.

Texas’s large population, abundance of natural resources, thriving cities and leading centers of higher education have contributed to a large and diverse economy.
Greg Abbott, the 48th Governor of Texas, continues building on his record of strong, conservative leadership. Previously the longest-serving Attorney General in Texas history and a Justice on the Texas Supreme Court, Governor Abbott has long defended the constitutional principles on which this state and our nation were founded.

Governor Abbott’s vision for an even stronger Texas of tomorrow is focused on creating more jobs and economic opportunity, elevating our schools and education system, building the transportation infrastructure needed to keep the economy growing and securing the Texas border.

Understanding it that Texas must lead the way for our nation, Governor Abbott continues to fight to preserve our shared values—like faith, family and freedom—for future generations.

Following the successful 2015 Legislative Session, which saw many of his Bicentennial Blueprint priorities earn strong bipartisan support, Governor Abbott signed into law the largest tax cut in Texas in nearly a decade, including an increase in the homestead exemption and a permanent 25% cut in the business franchise tax.

His Governor’s University Research Initiative will help Texas universities attract the best and brightest minds. With voter approval in November 2016, billions of dollars will be added for Texas roads—without raising fees, tolls, taxes or debt.

A staunch defender of our liberties and 2nd Amendment rights, Governor Abbott made protecting Texas communities his top priority during his tenure as the 50th Texas Attorney General.

Abbott previously served as a Justice on the Texas Supreme Court and as a State District Judge in Harris County.

A native Texan, Governor Abbott was born in Wichita Falls and raised in Duncanville. After graduating from The University of Texas with a B.B.A. in Finance, he received his law degree from Vanderbilt University. Shortly after graduating from law school, he was partially paralyzed by a falling tree while jogging.

Governor Abbott is an avid sportsman and hunter. He and his wife, Cecilia, have been married for 35 years. She is a former school teacher and principal, and the first Hispanic First Lady of Texas. They live in Austin. Their daughter, Audrey, attends college.
The 7th ACE will kick off in Forbes’ #1 “Hottest City for Millennials” - San Antonio, the largest city in Central Texas and the 7th largest in the United States. With a population, close to 1.5 million, San Antonio is one of the most diverse, internationally connected and inclusive cities.

With a vibrant culture and economy, it is consistently ranked among the fastest-growing cities in the United States and in 2018 will be celebrating its 300th anniversary.

The leaders and decision makers that attend ACE Central Texas will get a firsthand look at the depth of opportunities that exist within the region and in San Antonio, in industries such as bioscience and healthcare, aerospace, cybersecurity, energy, and transportation manufacturing.
The Honorable Ivy R. Taylor
Mayor of San Antonio
www.sanantonio.gov/mayor

Ivy R. Taylor was elected Mayor of San Antonio on June 13, 2015. Prior to her election, she earned an appointment to the seat from her City Council colleagues in July 2014, making her the first African-American woman to serve as mayor of a city with more than one million people and only the second female mayor of San Antonio. Before becoming mayor, she served on City Council for five years.

Mayor Taylor is focused on making San Antonio a globally competitive city where all residents are connected to opportunities for prosperity. To achieve this, some of the mayor’s initiatives include developing a sustainable city budget, implementing the Comprehensive Master Plan, creating a job-friendly environment, growing the workforce, investing in human capital, establishing affordable and livable communities, and building and maintaining basic infrastructure.

Working alongside the City Council, she helped achieve unanimous approval for the Vista Ridge Pipeline project, which will ensure the water supply for one of the nation’s fastest growing cities. After a two-year stalemate, the mayor helped facilitate a mediated agreement between the city and the police union. She has assisted in contract negotiations to make transportation network companies operational in the city, achieved functional zero in the initiative to End Veterans Homelessness, established My Brother’s Keeper San Antonio to improve the life outcomes of young men, and balanced two budgets.

Mayor Taylor completed the Leadership San Antonio class sponsored by the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and in 2004 was acknowledged by the San Antonio Business Journal as a “Rising Star” in their “40 under 40” class.

Mayor Taylor obtained Bachelor’s Degree in American Studies from Yale University in 1992. In 1998, she received a Master’s Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mayor Taylor is a devoted wife and a mother. She and her husband Rodney have been married for nearly 17 years, and her daughter Morgan is now 12 years old.
DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR

LA VILLITA HISTORIC VILLAGE

www.getcreativesanantonio.com/Explore-San-Antonio/La-Villita

La Villita, south of the River Walk in downtown San Antonio, was originally settled nearly 300 years ago as one of the city’s first neighborhoods. In 1939, La Villita Historic Arts Village was established and the neighborhood was adapted into a center for teaching regional arts and crafts, and to serve as an artist’s market. Today, nearly 30 shops and galleries offer distinct handcrafted items by artists from San Antonio and surrounding areas. In La Villita, you will find paintings, folk art, textiles, sculptures, copper wares, jewelry, and more. Plus, in the midst of these tree-lined walkways and plazas, you can enjoy a savory culinary experience at the area restaurants with options ranging from traditional Mexican flavors to steakhouse favorites.

Dr. Richardson B. Gill

Historian

Dr. Richardson B. Gill, born and raised in San Antonio, has earned numerous academic degrees in several fields from the University of Texas at Austin, including history, electrical engineering, mathematics, physics, anthropology, and archaeology. His business career has centered on banking and wine production. He is the author of the groundbreaking book, The Great Maya Droughts: Water, Life, and Death (University of New Mexico Press, 2000), and its Spanish version, Las grandes sequías mayas: Agua, vida y muerte (Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2008), which explore the collapse of classic Maya civilization between the eighth and tenth centuries. Dr. Gill serves on the boards of several community and academic organizations.
San Fernando Cathedral (also called the Cathedral of Our Lady of Candelaria and Guadalupe) is a cathedral of the Roman Catholic Church that is located in downtown San Antonio, Texas, USA. It is the mother church of the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the seat of its archbishop. San Fernando Cathedral has always been at the center of San Antonio. It is a special place that occupies a unique position in this city and for the many visitors who come by the thousands every year.

San Fernando Cathedral was founded on March 9, 1731, by a group of 15 families who came from the Canary Islands at the invitation of King Phillip V of Spain and is the oldest, continuously functioning religious community in the State of Texas. This church was planned to be at the center of the life of this city. The Cathedral building has the added distinction of being the oldest standing church building in Texas and, for all of its more than 281 years, has been serving the people of the Archdiocese and San Antonio. For almost 95 years, San Fernando served as the church for all of the religious denominations of San Antonio as the Catholic Church was the only recognized religion of the Spanish and Mexican governments prior to Texas’ independence.

The cathedral is also known as the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria y Guadalupe and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is notable as one of the oldest cathedrals in the United States. The original church of San Fernando was built between 1738 and 1750. The walls of that church are now the sanctuary of the cathedral, which gives rise to its claim as the oldest cathedral in the State of Texas. The church was named for Ferdinand III of Castile, who ruled in the 13th century. The baptismal font, believed to be a gift from Charles III, who
became King of Spain from 1759, is the oldest piece of liturgical furnishing in the cathedral. The cathedral was built by settlers from the Canary Islands, for this reason, the interior is a picture of the Virgin of Candelaria, the patroness of the Canary Islands.

In 1831, Jim Bowie married Ursula de Veramendi in San Fernando.

In 1836, the cathedral, still a parish church, played a role in the Battle of the Alamo when Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna hoisted a flag of “no quarter” from the church’s tower, marking the beginning of the siege.

SPANISH GOVERNOR’S PALACE

www.nps.gov/nr/travel/american_latino_heritage/spanish_governors_palace.html

The Spanish Governor’s Palace, a National Historic Landmark, is the last visible trace of the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar and the only remaining example in Texas of an aristocratic 18th-century Spanish Colonial town house. Plans for the building originated as early as 1722. Upon its completion in 1749, the house served as the Commandancia, or residence and working office of the Captain of the Presidio. Later, it became the home of the Spanish governors who lived in San Antonio. The Spanish built the Presidio of San Antonio de Bexar to protect the area’s missions, including the San Antonio de Valero Mission (The Alamo) and the missions in San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, as well as the growing Spanish colony. The Spanish Governor’s Palace is all that is left of this important and influential presidio.
MISSION SAN ANTONIO DE VALERO
(ALAMO)

www.missionsofsanantonio.org/the-alamo

The Alamo Mission in San Antonio is commonly called The Alamo and was originally known as Mission San Antonio de Valero. It was founded in the 18th century as a Roman Catholic mission and fortress compound, and today is part of the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site in San Antonio, Texas, United States. It was the site of the Battle of the Alamo in 1836 and is now a museum in the Alamo Plaza Historic District.

The compound was one of the early Spanish missions in Texas, built for the education of area American Indians after their conversion to Christianity. In 1793, the mission was secularized and then abandoned. Ten years later, it became a fortress housing the Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras military unit, who likely gave the mission the name Alamo. During the Texas Revolution, Mexican General Martin Perfecto de Cos surrendered the fort to the Texian Army in December 1835, following the Siege of Béxar. A relatively small number of Texian soldiers then occupied the compound for several months. They were wiped out at the Battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836. When the Mexican army retreated from Texas several months later, they tore down many of the Alamo walls and burned some of the buildings.

For the next five years, the Alamo was periodically used to garrison soldiers, both Texian and Mexican, but was ultimately abandoned. In 1849, several years after Texas was annexed to the United States, the U.S. Army began renting the facility for use as a quartermaster’s depot. The U.S. Army abandoned the mission in 1876 after nearby
Fort Sam Houston was established. The Alamo chapel was sold to the state of Texas, which conducted occasional tours but made no effort to restore it. The remaining buildings were sold to a mercantile company which operated them as a wholesale grocery store.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) formed in 1895 and began trying to preserve the Alamo. In 1905, Adina Emilia De Zavala and Clara Driscoll successfully convinced the state legislature to purchase the remaining buildings and to name the DRT as the permanent custodian of the site. Over the next century, periodic attempts were made to transfer control of the Alamo from the DRT. In early 2015, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush officially removed control of the Alamo to the Texas General Land Office.

On July 5, 2015, the Alamo and the four missions in the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park were designated UNESCO World Heritage sites.
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE TOUR
SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

www.nps.gov/saan/index.htm

In the 16th century, Spanish missionaries and soldiers began moving north out of the Valley of Mexico to found missions and presidios. The Spanish Empire extended its claim in the New World to the land along the San Antonio River, the present day site of the City of San Antonio, converting American Indians to Christianity, acculturating them to the European lifestyle, and making them Spanish citizens. The San Antonio missions played a major role in all aspects of Spanish colonial frontier life as they related to religion, the military, culture, and agriculture. The Franciscans established the first mission in San Antonio, the San Antonio de Valero Mission, also known as The Alamo, in 1718. A second mission, Mission San José, was constructed two years later a few miles downstream from Mission Valero. About a decade later, three other missions, which had first been in East Texas, were relocated to San Antonio. The park includes four of the missions in San Antonio—Espada, Concepción, San José, and San Juan and parts of the irrigation systems that supported the missions that the Spanish erected to help defend, settle, and expand the Spanish frontier into Texas.

This highly significant group of cultural resources sheds light on the history of Spanish and Hispanic Texas and the American Indians with whom the Spanish interacted, and documents the far-reaching effects of the missions. The park provides visitors an up-close look at the architecture, art, and sculpture of the Spanish colonial period in Texas and an opportunity to learn about the Spanish and the
American Indians at the missions. Over time, as American Indians and the Spanish and later Hispanic settlers learned to live and work with each other, their traditions blended to create the distinct culture that is still integral to the American Southwest.

The Spanish founded their first mission in Texas in 1690 near present-day Weches, Texas and named it Mission San Francisco de Los Tejas. By 1731, the mission moved to the San Antonio River area where it was renamed Mission San Francisco de la Espada. The mission’s friary was built in 1745 and its church finished in 1756. Today, the mission is partially in ruins, but its historical records offer great insight into the mission lifestyle, which resembled Spanish villages and culture, sustained by the work of American Indians. The Spanish taught the Coahuiltecan Indians, who had a hunting and gathering culture, skills in farming, carpentry, and weaving to help feed and clothe the mission residents, and construct mission buildings as well as other structures.

The dry climate of southwest Texas made irrigation crucial for growing the crops that would ultimately determine the success of the new missions. Missionaries and Indians built seven gravity-flow ditches, five dams, and an aqueduct in order to distribute water from the San Antonio River over a 15-mile network that covered 3,500 acres of land. Constructed between 1731 and 1745, Espada Aqueduct is the only remaining Spanish structure of its type in the United States. The San Antonio community continues to use both the Espada Mission church and the aqueduct. The missions each had an acequia. This system of irrigation ditches was used to channel water from the river to the orchards and fields where crops such as corn, beans, squash, melons, cotton, sugar cane, apples, peaches, and grapes were grown.

Originally founded in 1716 in what is now eastern Texas, Mission Nuestra Señora de la Concepción de Acuña was one of the missions authorized by the Spanish government to serve as a buffer against the threat of French invasion from Louisiana into Spanish territory. In 1731, the Franciscans transferred the mission to its current site in the San Antonio River area. The mission church, which took 20 years to build and was dedicated in 1755, remains today as an iconic image of the architectural style used in Texas during the Spanish occupation. Concepción is of great significance because it was the headquarters of the Father President, who was the chief proprietor of Texas’ Queretaro missions.

Mission Concepción stands proudly as the oldest, best-preserved stone church in the United States. The massive old stone church in the Mexican Baroque style has two identical bell towers that mark the corners of the church’s entryway. Supporting the entrance door are two columns, with a stone cross above the doorway. The walls of the limestone building are four feet thick, and inside the church, painted on the walls’ plaster or stucco, colonial decorations or frescos are still visible. The overall design of Concepción is in the shape of a crucifix. The vaulted roof has a dome. Recent research suggests the placement of windows was a deliberate attempt to illuminate the two side altars on specific feast days.
Still present at the property, its convento influenced the design of most mission convents built throughout California.

The Mission of San José, known as the “Queen of the Missions,” was the largest of the San Antonio Missions and was viewed as the model among the Texas missions. The successful Mission of San José served as the area’s social and cultural center and contained about 350 Indian converts at its height. The mission, through the help of the Native American converts, sustained the community with extensive agricultural fields and herds of livestock. By the 1920s and early 1930s, this once thriving mission had fallen into disrepair. Through the help of the San Antonio Conservation Society and the Federal Government’s Works Projects Administration, the mission underwent extensive restoration and was rededicated in 1937. The reconstruction of San José during this time demonstrates the nation’s devotion to conserving the missions of San Antonio. The remaining segments of the church, convent, mill, and granary that the missionaries completed in 1782 offer a selection of frescos and sculptures that are examples of the style of the stonework that the nation’s southwestern territories developed during the late 18th century.

Mission San Juan de Capistrano was originally founded in east Texas in 1716 to serve the Nazonis Indians; however, the mission proved to be unsuccessful and the Spanish moved anything transportable to the present mission site in San Antonio in 1731. The mission structures on this second site date from 1756 and include San Juan de Capistrano’s church, friary, and granary. The historical records and archeological studies of this mission have provided great insight into understanding the development of the mission.

Mission San Juan de Capistrano has two restored Indian quarters that the Indians built within the mission compound. The Indian homes consisted of jacales or huts, which they made with adobe—a mixture of mud and straw they baked together and used as bricks. The San Juan missionaries benefited greatly from their American Indian neighbors, who provided the mission with cultivated food crops and game. These products eventually helped other missions and presidios, and as the farm produced a surplus of food, San Juan’s economy began to thrive through a successful trade network that stretched from Mexico to Louisiana.

Today, the five missions (Mission San Antonio de Valero (Alamo), Mission San José, Mission Concepción, Mission San Juan and Mission Espada) represent the largest concentration of Spanish colonial missions in North America and have been named a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

UNESCO encourages the identification, protection, and preservation of cultural and national heritage around the world. To be chosen as a World Heritage Site, the missions had to meet demanding selection criteria that verified their historic importance. This rare honor has been bestowed upon only 23 sites in the United States. The missions are the first World Heritage Site in Texas.
Colleen Swain was appointed Director of the World Heritage Office on April 1, 2016. As the city prepares for the increase in visitation as a result of the UNESCO World Heritage Designation to our five Spanish colonial Missions, Ms. Swain is responsible for the overall leadership of the World Heritage Office, as well as promoting the Missions through the implementation of the World Heritage Work Plan, a dynamic document that sets short and long term goals and is a direct result of community input.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Swain served as Assistant Director of Center City Development & Operations Department (CCDO) until March 2016. In this role, she led the redevelopment and rebranding of Travis Park, and developed OPEN a successful downtown pop-up program. Both Travis Park and Open received a Downtown Achievement Merit Awards in 2015 from the International Downtown Association and Centro San Antonio’s Downtown Best Award in 2015. Ms. Swain also spearheaded various projects for the City Manager’s office geared towards revitalizing downtown San Antonio including the Downtown Mobile Food Truck Pilot Program, the implementation of Better Block, and the development of the Alamo Plaza Concept Plan, Travis Park Concept Plan, and the Downtown Retail Study.

From 2006 to 2011, Ms. Swain served as the Assistant Director of Downtown Operations, where she oversaw the maintenance of downtown, the promotion of cultural facilities, the preservation of the River Walk, and downtown special events.

In addition to her 15 years of public service, Ms. Swain has almost 10 years of non-profit and private sector experience in marketing, public relations, special events and retail development.

Colleen Swain
Director, World Heritage Office
100 W. Houston Street, Suite 1900
San Antonio, Texas 78205
www.sanantonio.gov/WorldHeritage
colleen.swain@sanantonio.gov.
Suzanne Scott was appointed General Manager of SARA in September 2007. Working closely with the Board of Directors, she oversees and works with a talented staff to extend SARA’s environmental leadership, stewardship and expertise while inspiring actions for healthy creeks and rivers within the San Antonio River Basin. As the chief executive officer of SARA, she directs SARA’s programs, projects and efforts and manages the agency’s annual budget.

Scott began her career with SARA in May of 2000. She established the agency’s first intergovernmental and public information office to increase SARA’s presence in the community and enhance its partnerships with local, state and federal governments. Under Scott’s leadership, SARA has advanced its mission to inspire actions for healthy creeks and rivers within the San Antonio River Watershed by working closely with a multitude of governmental partners, citizen stakeholders, and private sector contributors.

She has led the agency’s efforts to plan, develop and secure funding for the $384 million San Antonio River Improvements Project in Bexar County to enhance access to and restoration of 13 miles of the San Antonio River. The project has added miles of hiking, biking, and paddling trails to the river, while restoring the environment and creating more appreciation and value from this treasured natural resource. The completion of the river’s restoration served as a key factor for the nomination and recent inscription of the San Antonio Missions as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The success of the restoration of the San Antonio River has led to SARA’s project management of the Bexar County funded San Pedro Creek Improvement Project as well as projects jointly funded by the City of San Antonio to improve Elmendorf Lake, Olmos Creek and other key creeks within the San Antonio River Watershed.

Scott is equally proud of the lasting improvements SARA has made in the health, safety, and appreciation of the San Antonio River through its nationally accredited water quality laboratory; the creation of nature parks and paddling trails throughout the agency’s four-county district; the development and implementation of flood mitigation projects and water quality improvements to promote sustainability throughout the San Antonio River Basin. Scott supports SARA’s leadership in regional and statewide water issues by serving as chair of the South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Committee and the Guadalupe/San Antonio Bay and Basin Area Stakeholder Committee.

Suzanne obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Advertising & Public Relations at Texas Tech University and holds a Master of Urban Administration from Trinity University. She is a third-generation public servant following in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother who also worked in the public sector.
The San Antonio Spurs are an American professional basketball team based in San Antonio, Texas. The Spurs compete in the National Basketball Association (NBA) as a member club of the league’s Western Conference Southwest Division. The team plays its home games at the AT&T Center in San Antonio. The team was founded in 1967, and since the creation of the team, the San Antonio Spurs have won the NBA’s National Champion title five times. Their colors consist of Black, silver, and white.

The San Antonio Spurs play their home games at AT&T center. The multipurpose arena is owned by Bexar County which hosts the NBA team, concerts, and professional bull riding. The seating varies from event to event with 18,418 for basketball, 16,151 for ice hockey, and 19,000 for concerts or gatherings, and contains 2,018 club seats, 50 luxury suites and 32 bathrooms.
EVENING WELCOME RECEPTION
PARAMOUR ROOF TOP BAR

www.paramourbar.com/

A unique bar that provides many different cocktails. Each of its 20 signature beverages have been perfected over time, handcrafted, and available only at Paramour. Paramour offers a wonderful view and setting to kick back and enjoy the culture and entertainment that is San Antonio.
My passion for food began when I was five years old at my father’s restaurant in a San Antonio Westside neighborhood. Some of my earliest memories include the aroma of freshly made tortillas from the next-door molino, meals of savory barbacoa and handmade tamales. My father’s firm hand and conviction of self-improvement through education encouraged me to leave home after high school to attend the Culinary Institute of America in New York and become a chef. Early on, my career took me to some of the most exclusive resorts in the country including the Mirage Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas and the Four Seasons Biltmore in Santa Barbara, California.

But it was my yearning for home, the love of my culture, and my entrepreneurial spirit that led me back to San Antonio. In 1994, I opened True Flavors Catering and quickly built a solid reputation. Since its inception, True Flavors has notably grown to be one of San Antonio’s most regarded caterers, receiving the 2006 Operator of the Year award and being a two-time recipient of the National Association of Catering Executives’ Caterer of the Year.

Throughout the years, I have been inspired by Mexico and the cultural distinctiveness of each region’s art, agriculture, and most importantly, the cuisine. Mexico’s food and traditions inspired me to bring authentic and accessible interior Mexican cuisine to American diners. Opened in 2010, La Gloria is that vision realized. The menu reflects the culinary treasures I discovered in the pueblitos, mountains and coastal villages of Mexico-- from the aromatic carnitas of Michoacán and the succulent tortas ahogadas of Guadalajara to the complex and refined tequilas born from Jalisco’s blue agave fields. La Gloria has been featured in New York Magazine, The Boston Globe, Washington Post, USA Today, Food & Wine, Texas Monthly, Bon Appetit, Poder, Travel & Leisure, NBC Latino, Southern Living and many others.

My second restaurant venture, The Frutería - Botanero by Chef Johnny Hernandez, opened in 2012 in the heart of San Antonio’s Southtown and was inspired by Mexico’s colorful fruit stalls. This unique eatery offers fresh fruit cups, licuados (smoothies), tortas and tostadas during the day and by night, the space transforms into a contemporary Botanero offering botana-style Mexican tapas and fruit-infused specialty tequilas and cocktails. We have expanded La Gloria and The Frutería into Houston’s George Bush Intercontinental Airport and the San Antonio International Airport. My hope is to share with our customers what I love most about Mexico: the vibrant culture, its hospitality and last, but certainly not least, its wonderful cuisine.
The Henry B. González Convention Center (formerly San Antonio Convention Center) is the City of San Antonio’s convention center located in Downtown San Antonio, Texas, along the banks of the River Walk.

The facility is a central component in the city’s convention industry. The Center, named for the late US congressman Henry Barbosa González, hosts more than 300 events each year with over 750,000 convention delegates from around the world.

The original Convention Center was built as part of HemisFair ’68 by a joint venture of two general contractors Darragh & Lyda Inc. of San Antonio, Texas and H. A. Lott Inc. of Houston, Texas. Today, the Henry B. González Convention Center has significantly expanded since 1968. It is now 514,000 square feet of contiguous exhibit space with 86,500 square feet of column-free multipurpose space, over 70 meeting rooms, and 2 ballrooms which include the largest ballroom in Texas. The Henry B. González Convention Center is also home to the Lila Cockrell Theatre, a performing arts venue.
The Honorable Joe Krier
City Council District 9
San Antonio

For more than two decades, Joe Krier was a driving force behind every important civic and economic development initiative in San Antonio and the South Texas region. From 1987 through 2007, he served as President and CEO of The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, managing a $4M budget and a staff of 36 association professionals. Under his leadership, the 2,000-member organization was the area’s primary advocate for business, helping build a stronger, more broadly based San Antonio economy.

Responsible for raising millions of dollars for four rounds of base closings under the Base Realignment and Closure process (BRAC), he helped develop and implement the 2005 strategy that resulted in San Antonio’s success and new position as the home of all military medical training. He played an integral role in securing major infrastructure projects for San Antonio, including the AT&T Center and the Alamodome, and was an indispensable partner in the creation of a number of organizations that will benefit San Antonio for decades to come, including San Antonio Sports (formerly the San Antonio Sports Foundation), Free Trade Alliance San Antonio, and the San Antonio Tourism Council. His efforts to create BioMed SA and the San Antonio Technology Accelerator Initiative (SATAI) helped build the area’s medical, biomedical, and technology industries.

Elected and appointed to various statewide and national leadership positions, Krier was the Founding Chairman and Board member of Texans for Safe Reliable Transportation and served as Chairman of the San Antonio Mobility Coalition (SAMCo). He was appointed by Governor Perry to both the Interim Study Commission on Transportation Financing and the Texas Department of Transportation Strategic Plan Task Force. The late Governor Ann Richards appointed him to a six-year term on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, where he served as Chairman of the Task Force on the Development of the Technology Work Force, Chairman of the Universities Committee, and Board Secretary.

On November 7, 2013, Krier was appointed by City Council to fill the District 9 vacancy. He was later elected to the District 9 position in May of 2014.

Krier is a graduate of UT-Austin, where he received his undergraduate and law degrees. While at The University, he was chosen President of the Students’ Association, was a participant in the Texas-Chilean Exchange Program, and was a member of the Friars Society.

Krier is married to UT-Austin undergraduate and law school alumnus, former State Senator, Bexar County Judge and UT Regent, Cyndi Taylor Krier.
Patricia Muzquiz Cantor

Assistant Director of the Convention and Sports Facilities

Patricia Muzquiz Cantor is the Assistant Director of the Convention and Sports Facilities (CSF) Department for the City of San Antonio. She oversees the operations of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Lila Cockrell Theatre, Alamodome, Carver Community Cultural Center and asset management and ground lease for the Nelson W. Wolff Municipal Stadium and Toyota Field. Patricia’s career with the City began in 1997. She has served in the role of Assistant Director since 2013. Patricia has over 13 years of experience in the visitor industry.

Ms. Muzquiz Cantor holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Texas at San Antonio and Bachelor degree from Texas A&M University at College Station.

Patricia Muzquiz Cantor
Assistant Director, Convention and Sports Facilities
900 E. Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
patricia.cantor@sanantonio.gov
www.alamodome.com
www.sahbgcc.com
www.thecarver.org
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KEY INDUSTRIES

www.sanantonioedf.com/history

The origins of San Antonio’s commerce dates back to its history as a trading post and settlement of its five Spanish missions that are now designated a World Heritage site. On the cusp of celebrating our city’s 300th Anniversary, San Antonio’s economy over the years has evolved into a stable, diverse economy through its evolving industry sectors: advanced manufacturing, bioscience, financial services, logistics/distribution, new energy, IT/cybersecurity, military/defense. Leading companies such as USAA, NuStar Energy, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Texas, Valero Energy, HoltCat, Tesoro, Zachry, Frost, Rackspace, Medtronic, H-E-B and many others successfully operate in San Antonio. Since the establishment of the SAEDF over 40 years ago, San Antonio has seen a period of dramatic and diverse industry growth.

San Antonio builds upon its rich history and today is a center of activity and growth, attracting companies and young professionals defining an era of limitless opportunity.
Game of Threats™ is a digital game that is designed to simulate the speed and complexity of an actual cyber breach. The solution integrates elements of gamification and game theory to provide an interactive client experience where a client team tries to defend itself from a threat actor team (also played by company personnel). The game environment creates a realistic experience where both sides are required to make quick, high impact decisions with minimal information. At its core, Game of Threats™ is a critical decision-making game that has been designed to reward good decisions by the players and to penalize teams for making poor decisions. Players walk away with a better understanding of the steps they need to take to better secure their companies or organizations.
Will Garrett

Executive Director

Cyber Security San Antonio

Will Garrett is the Executive Director of CyberSecurity San Antonio, an industry-driven program created to accelerate the growth of the cybersecurity sector. He is the co-founder of the Build Sec Foundry, an incubator located at Geekdom in the heart of the San Antonio Tech District, which is developing and growing new cybersecurity products and technology.

Garrett leads the Cybersecurity Industry Council of the San Antonio Chamber where he pursues ecosystem building strategies through and with the support of local companies, academic institutions, and military partners. He managed the Cybersecurity Business Bootcamp program that offered mentorship, training, and support for military members transitioning from service to entrepreneurship. Prior to assuming the role at CyberSecurity San Antonio, Garrett served as the lead for the Chamber’s Economic Development Department and managed federal and state advocacy trips, the annual Stars & Stripes Over San Antonio fireworks show, and the Chamber’s Celebrate America’s Military events.

Garrett was born in Austin, Texas and lived Johnson City, Texas, during his high school years. He majored in Communication Studies and International Studies and graduated from Texas Lutheran University (TLU) with a Bachelor of Arts in 2006. Garrett holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Garrett is married to Elizabeth Garrett and has two daughters, Poppy Elizabeth and Lilly Kate.
NETWORKING LUNCHEON
MEXICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF SAN ANTONIO

https://icm2.sre.gob.mx/culturamexsa

The Mexican Cultural Institute at San Antonio is the Permanent Cultural Representation of the Mexican Government in the city. The Institute has been linked since its beginnings to the cultural life of San Antonio, and one of its main tasks is to ensure the growth and strengthening of such links by promoting direct and active participation of the community.

The creation of the Mexican Cultural Institute is the product of a great effort by the Mexican Government that began in 1958 with the foundation of the “Gallery of Mexican Art” at the General Mexican Consulate of San Antonio, Texas. In 1968 the Institution Cultural de Mexico displayed substantial examples of Mexican art at the “Hemisfair 1968,” and, in 1972 the Mayor of the City of San Antonio presented the Mexican President with the current facilities of the Institution Cultural de Mexico at San Antonio. The Institute depends directly on the General Office of Cultural Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mexico.

Over its 50 years of existence at Hemisfair Park, the Institute Cultural de Mexico has been able to maintain an important place in the cultural life of San Antonio, thanks to its wide range of events designed to show the many faces of the Mexican culture. For this purpose, the Institute has three galleries, a multiple purpose room and an auditorium that can hold up to 250 people.
Mónica Del Arenal

Director
Mexican Cultural Institute of San Antonio

Mónica Del Arenal is an Architect, has a Master’s Degree in Restoration of Monuments by the UPC in Barcelona, and has a specialty in Historic Buildings, Collections, and Sites: Sustainable Strategies for Conservation, Management and Use by the University College London.

She collaborated in Seville with the Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos studio in 2002, on the New Rijksmuseum Project in Amsterdam and the Atelier Building.

She was invited to the Getty Conservation Institute to present ‘Via Recreactiva: Architecture and Heritage for Everyone,’ in the American institute of Conservation and later participated in the Conservación de Patrimonio Edificado (Conservation of the Built Heritage) training in the ICCROM in Rome in 2007.

Monica directs Albertina Proyectos Culturales, a studio focused on investigating heritage and territory, the diffusion of cultural heritage, and conservation education. She has published and completed exhibitions in Italy, Spain, the United States, Canada, and Mexico. One of the most prominent exhibits in Rome was ‘Tutte le strade portano a Roma... anche quella di Guadalajara’ in the Palazzo Firenze in 2007.

Her most recognized publication is “Guadalajara, de alarifes, catrines y bicicleteros” (Guadalajara, Builders, Gentlemen, and Bicycle Makers) and the documentary “Los constructores de la Guadalajara Moderna” (The builders of Modern Guadalajara).

In June of 2012, she was given the Graduate of the Year Award by the Asociación de Graduados MOB, A.C (Association of Graduates MOB, A.C.) for her trajectory as a researcher, and for her promotion of projects centered on urban and architectural heritage.

In 2011 she received two prominent recognitions. The first was the annual award from the Benemérita Sociedad de Geografía y Estadística (Meritorious Society of Geography and Statistics), only given to distinguished people who have had journeys that benefit the Jaliscense society in the context of science and art. She also received third place in the Premio Obras CEMEX 2011 (CEMEX Works Award), for Identificación del Patrimonio Arquitectónico y Urbano de la Zona Metropolitana de Guadalajara ‘La Ronda’ Project (Identification of the Architectural and Urban Heritage of the Metropolitan zone of Guadalajara ‘The Round’) in the category of Special Awards – Social Impact.
Robert M. McKinley

The University of Texas at San Antonio, Institute for Economic Development

As Associate Vice President for Economic Development, Robert McKinley directs the UTSA Institute for Economic Development (IED), in fulfillment of the university’s public service mission. UTSA is the second largest and the fastest growing campus of the 15-component UT System with 28,400 enrollment, and over $50 million in sponsored research.

Since joining UTSA in 1990, he has guided the IED’s steady growth to currently provide 29,500 businesses annually with consulting, training and research services. IED’s principal programs extend UTSA’s presence through 10 offices spanning 79 counties along the South-West Texas Border with a business population of 135,600 SMEs and a general population of 6.9 million, with certain programs operating nationwide in both the U.S. and Mexico. The IED team includes 150 staff, routinely involving 25-30 students engaged in service-learning roles and faculty collaboration for specialized research requirements.

Mr. McKinley also represented the national Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC), serving as Chair of the Board of Directors, 1999-2000. The ASBDC network of 1000 Centers nationwide served 750,000 Small Businesses last year, effectively leveraging federal funds with academic, state and municipal resources to efficiently deliver management and technical assistance as a complement to SBA finance and procurement programs of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

As part of the executive team, Mr. McKinley has assisted with UTSA’s organizational evolution toward premier university status by facilitating the 2016 Strategic Plan process and serves on the TEAM 2016 management group guiding its implementation. He also has led business process reviews and other task forces, such as UTSA’s NCAA.

He received a recertification, and was recognized by the Alumni Association with the 2007 Distinguished Service Alumni Award.

Mr. McKinley is married to Esther Ng, originally of Hong Kong, and they have four grown children. His educational background includes a Masters in Public Administration from The University of Texas at San Antonio, and a B.S. in Community Development from The Pennsylvania State University.
SITE VISIT

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER (BAMC)

www.bamc.amedd.army.mil/

Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), located at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, serves as the largest and most robust military healthcare organization within the Department of Defense (DOD). Both inpatient and outpatient services are provided by approximately 8,800 staff members, including active duty military personnel from each of our uniformed services, federal civilian employees, and contractors.

Our medical center provides safe, quality, evidence-based care for up to 425 military and civilian inpatients. BAMC providers also care for more than 4,000 patients each day during visits to six separate outpatient clinics including CPT Jennifer M. Moreno Primary Care Clinic, McWethy Troop Medical Clinic, Taylor Burk Clinic at Camp Bullis, Schertz Medical Home, Westover Medical Home, and the Corpus Christi Occupational Health Clinic. Advanced rehabilitative services are provided at the Center for the Intrepid, a unique facility that is at the cutting edge of Warrior care. Troop leadership is provided by the Warrior Transition Battalion and Troop Command.

Forty of the hospital’s 425 beds are designated for the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research (USAISR) Burn Center. The Burn Center – verified jointly by the American Burn Association (ABA) and the ACS-COT – serves alongside the Level I Trauma Center to provide emergency services for residents from 22 separate counties in South Texas.
Since 2001, BAMC has played a crucial role in the provision of care for combat casualties wounded around the world. As the sole verified Level I Trauma Center within the DOD, BAMC simultaneously provides emergency services during 80,000 emergency department visits with 4,000 trauma admissions annually and serves the premier medical readiness training platform for all services and other federal entities; care extends throughout the globe as military providers continue to deploy to combat zones throughout the world.

Prominent on the hospital campus, and surrounded by four Fisher Houses, the Center for the Intrepid (CFI) stands as a preeminent extremity injury rehabilitation center. Dedicated in 2007, the CFI was designed to advance rehabilitation and recovery of many our most severely injured combat casualties. Monumental advances in prosthetic care for amputees and functional restoration for patients undergoing limb salvage are among the hallmarks of the CFI.

Serving over 250,000 beneficiaries in the greater San Antonio area, on an average day, BAMC provides 4,064 outpatient visits, cares for 69 inpatients, fills more than 5,165 prescriptions, conducts more than 12,333 laboratory and 905 radiology procedures and performs 106 surgeries.
BG Jeffrey J. Johnson began his formal education at Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri. He graduated in 1987, a Distinguished Military Graduate with a BS in Biology. BG Johnson then graduated in 1991 from medical school at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colorado. Subsequently, he completed his residency training in Family Medicine at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. BG Johnson furthered his professional training by completing a fellowship in Faculty Development at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He is a Board Certified Fellow in Family Medicine.

BG Johnson continuously aspires to be a student and teacher. He graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2011 earning a Master’s Degree in National and Strategic Studies. He completed additional military training including Command and General Staff College, Interagency Institute of Federal Healthcare Executives, Medical Strategic Leadership Course, Joint Medical Planners Course, Tactical Combat Medicine Course, Medical Management of Chemical Casualties, Medical Management of Biological Casualties, Army Primary Flight Surgeon Course, NASA Primary Trans-Atlantic Abort Landing Site Course, Hyperbaric Medicine Course, and Basic Airborne training.

BG Johnson’s assignments include Commander, Wiesbaden Health Clinic, Wiesbaden, Germany from 1994-1997; Battalion and Group Surgeon, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 1997-1999; Director of Resident Training, Family Medicine, Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 2000-2005; Division Surgeon, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 2005-2007; Combined Joint Task Force-82 Command Surgeon, Bagram, Afghanistan from 2007-2008; Commander, Irwin Army Community Hospital, Fort Riley, Kansas from 2008-2010; Assistant Program Manager Health Affairs, Office of the Program Manager, Saudi Arabian National Guard, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 2011-2012; Commander, 44th Medical Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina from 2012-2014; Director, Health and Wellness, G3/5/7, U.S. Army Medical Command, Falls Church, Virginia from 2014-2015; Command Surgeon, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea, Yongsan, Korea. He has deployed in support of Operation Provide Hope (Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova), Operation Sharp Point (Kenya), Counter Drug Operations (Bolivia, Honduras), and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) twice. He currently serves as the Commanding General of Brooke Army Medical Center, Deputy Commanding General, Regional Health Command - Central (Provisional), JBSA Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and the Deputy Market Manager for the San Antonio Military Health System.

BG Johnson’s decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal. He is a Senior Flight Surgeon and has earned the Parachutist and Expert Field Medical Badge. He is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit.
Captain Elizabeth Montcalm-Smith

Commanding Officer

Naval Medical Research Unit San Antonio

CAPT Elizabeth A. Montcalm-Smith has dedicated her Navy career to performing basic research and medical technology. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Washington College, Maryland in 1980 and a certificate in Medical Technology from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. in 1981. CAPT Montcalm-Smith received her Ph.D. from the Uniformed Services University in 1991, focusing her research on the role of eicosanoids on the gastric mucosal barrier.

After her commission to the U.S. Navy in 1991, CAPT Montcalm-Smith was assigned to the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) in Bethesda, Maryland. During her assignment there, CAPT Montcalm-Smith’s research examined the inwardly rectifying potassium channel in macrophages.

She was also an active instructor for the Medical Effects of Nuclear Weapons class sponsored by AFRRI. CAPT Montcalm-Smith’s next assignment took her to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where she assumed the supervisory position of Laboratory Manager. As such, CAPT Montcalm-Smith was responsible for 40 enlisted personnel, 15 civilians, and a $1.5M budget. She formalized TQL structure in the laboratory, decreasing costs while increasing efficiency and morale.

Her next assignment was at National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), Bethesda, Maryland. While at NNMC, she managed a $4M OPTAR, 50 civilians, 51 enlisted members, and 26 officers. During this time, CAPT Montcalm-Smith was also assigned to USNS COMFORT as the Laboratory Manager and Director for Ancillary Services. CAPT Montcalm-Smith completed training exercise Baltic Challenge to Lithuania and a deployment to New York City immediately following September 11, 2001.

On November 2001, CAPT Montcalm-Smith was assigned to the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC), Silver Spring, Maryland. While assigned to NMRC, CAPT Montcalm-Smith was the Principal Investigator for three research work units: pharmacological interventions to DCS, the role of cerebrocortical lipid oxidation in oxygen toxicity, and acclimation to DCS and its mechanisms.

Her next assignment was at the Office of Naval Research (ONR) where she managed the Undersea Medicine Research Program and was the Deputy for Code 342, Force Health Protection. In 2010, CAPT Montcalm-Smith left ONR and returned to NMRC to manage the Advanced Medical Development Program and worked to develop devices for en route care, vaccines for infectious diseases, and resuscitation fluids.
In October 2012, CAPT Montcalm-Smith became the Executive Officer at NMRC. While at NMRC, she led the Medical Research & Development Enterprise in setting up a headquarters function, managed Medical Inspector General Inspections, coordinated evacuations from NAMRU-3, and developed a new financial model.

CAPT Montcalm-Smith assumed command of the Naval Medical Research Unit -San Antonio (NAMRU-SA) as the commanding officer in June 2015.

EVENING AT THE PEARL
THE PEARL

http://atpearl.com/

The “Pearl”, a former German brewery that operated from 1883 until 2001 and a landmark just north of downtown, is today the crown jewel in revitalization efforts in San Antonio and provides a unique gathering place to eat, live, learn and work on the banks of the San Antonio River. With 324 apartments, fifteen restaurants and cafes, thirteen retailers and eighteen resident businesses as well as a twice weekly Farmers Market, this neighborhood is always full of life and activity.
HOTEL EMMA

www.thehotelemma.com

The luxury Hotel Emma is located in the historic Brewhouse. The hotel is named in honor of Emma Koehler, a towering figure in Pearl history. Emma ran the brewery after her husband and Pearl president Otto Koehler died in 1914. She was an ingenious CEO who kept the brewery going during Prohibition by converting operations to dry cleaning, auto repair and making near-beer ice cream, and soda. While other breweries were shutting down, Emma kept her entire workforce employed. She turned over control of the company to a nephew in 1933, but was a formidable presence at the brewery until her death in 1947.
Elizabeth Fauerso, chief marketing officer at Pearl, a mixed-use development just north of downtown San Antonio, oversees the entity’s marketing and public relations department. While she is a native San Antonian with deep roots here, she actually spent her youth growing up bouncing between Europe, Los Angeles, and southeast Iowa.

She is the child of ubercreative parents — her father, a musician and her mother, a writer, and teacher. During an interview for the position of teaching English in Chile, she drew upon her strong liberal arts education from Trinity University and impressed the interviewer with her command of philosophy — especially that of German philosopher Martin Heidegger and his philosophy on the power of language. She eventually landed the job — writing case studies for his management consultancy in Mexico City.

Her work allowed her to see the world. Fauerso followed that as vice president and executive director of strategic planning at Dieste, a leading Hispanic marketing agency, overseeing product development for brands such as Levi’s, AT&T, Proctor & Gamble, and PepsiCo. She also worked with advertising entity Zuckerman Fernandes & Partners and then had her own marketing firm in San Francisco and London. She also served as group planning director at Bromley Communications here in San Antonio.

Having the opportunity to live and work in such far-flung places offered Fauerso the perspective of an outsider, which she says has been central to her professional development. Though she’s an insider in San Antonio, she’s never lost that edge that comes with being an outsider too, and she mines that perspective in her work.

This is certainly how Fauerso treats the Pearl, a space that has a language, a temperature and a heartbeat where the community and the development engage in a real relationship of give-and-take. For her, working to expand Pearl and overseeing its evolution is not about “branding” it as one particular thing. It is about helping to create stories around the space that reflect its past, present, and future.
NAO LATIN GASTRO BAR

www.naorestaurant.com/

NAO Latin Gastro Bar, an extension of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), provides an exploration of Latin American cuisine and beverages. The CIA has campuses in New York, California (two locations in the heart of Wine Country), Texas (San Antonio only), and Singapore.
Fernando Salazar  
**Managing Director**  
The Culinary Institute of America  
**Fernando Salazar** brings with him an extensive knowledge of the world of gastronomy.

Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Salazar began his hotel career in New York City with Helmsley Hotels and continued his career at Westin hotels, where he remained for 13 years. In 1996, Salazar moved to Omni Hotels and Resorts where he was named Vice-president of Food and Beverage for this luxury chain.

Fernando Salazar joined Wyndham Hotels and Resorts in 2007 as Vice-president of Food and Beverage for the brand.

In 2015, Salazar joined the prestigious Culinary Institute of America, San Antonio campus as a Managing Director where he is excelling in his new position and where he created a new concept – Nao Latin gastro Bar, for the school’s restaurant, which has garnered top accolades in the city.

Salazar, who is a frequent speaker at national conferences on F&B related topics, was presented in 2010 with the prestigious Silver Plate Award as Hotel Operator of the Year for his contributions to the industry. The Culinary Institute of America proclaimed him Ambassador of the CIA and awarded him the Gold Medal of Honor for creativity, leadership and mentoring efforts. Salazar was also selected among thousands of successful immigrants to be a case study in the 2009 Sociology textbook for 11th graders.

He is a member of the International Food and Beverage Forum, a group of 50 experts dedicated to the promotion of the industry worldwide and has received the President’s Award in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013 for his contributions to this organization.

Salazar is International Advisor and permanent judge of the renowned Spanish National Tapas Competition and of the International Tapas Competition of Culinary Schools, a competition for culinary students from around the world, event that he created and founded in 2009; both events are celebrated annually in Valladolid, Spain.

In November 2010, and due to his extensive expertise in food and beverage, he was named International Advisor and Universal Ambassador of the International School of Culinary Arts in Valladolid Spain and, in 2014 Salazar was inducted into the Royal Academy of Spanish Gastronomy and named International Ambassador, the only non-Spaniard to be inducted into this prestigious organization.
RIVER BARGE RIDE

River Barge

The *river barge* provides a serene and pleasant way to navigate from the Pearl back to downtown and allows passengers to experience the famous San Antonio River Walk, a verdant oasis of cypress-lined paved paths, arched stone bridges, and lush landscapes. It gently winds through the city center, providing millions of visitors each year with easy access to the city’s cultural hot spots, historic sites, and other attractions.
NEW BRAUNFELS

The 7th ACE will stop in New Braunfels, Texas - ranked in 2016 as the second fastest growing city in the United States with a population over 70,000 and expected to reach 85,000 by 2021. Founded by skilled German and Hispanic craftsmen, New Braunfels became a trade and tourism center early that have led to a great quality of life. Its geographical location between Austin and San Antonio on IH-35 has helped to foster a diverse, business economy. Led by a strong entrepreneurial spirit, the New Braunfels visit will showcase four themes covered by the program: bio-med, healthcare, creative economy and workforce development.
Barron Casteel, a partner at Casteel & Casteel received his B.A. from Baylor University in 1993 and his J.D. from Quinnipiac College in 1997. Barron practices Family Law, handling divorces, adoptions, modifications, custody disputes, civil litigation and more. He also handles Probate matters, Guardianships, Wills and Estates. He practices in Comal, Hays, Guadalupe, Bexar and Gonzales counties. Barron is very involved in community activities and was elected mayor of New Braunfels in 2014.

He is a member of the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce Blue Coats, a member of the Elks Lodge, an Opa with the Wurstfest Association and serves on the Wurstfest board. He has served and continues to be involved with the Sophienburg and NBISD Educational Boards.

Barron and his wife Michele enjoy spending time with their two sons playing sports, camping, fundraising, hunting and fishing, floating the river and other outdoor activities.
Alamo Colleges – Central Texas Technology Center (CTTC) was originally suggested in 2000 while the New Braunfels long-range strategic and comprehensive plan was being created. In 2000, a private firm from Nebraska (Clarus) was hired to look at the local demographics, employers (including prospective employers), and local high schools for an opportunity to bring higher education to the region. The Clarus group accomplished numerous local scans that included the target population as well as other regional indicators and concluded that the region would support a post-secondary institution within the area.

In 2004, the CTTC opened after being built with $3 million raised via the EDA, local sales tax corporations in New Braunfels and Seguin, a Wagner-Peyser grant via Alamo Colleges, and a grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority. The initial campus of 25,000 sf was designed to be doubled in size when needed. When created in 2004, the Central Texas Technology Center provided post-secondary education for the first time to the City of New Braunfels, with an emphasis on workforce training. Our community is not in a community college taxing district. So we had to create partnerships and provide the “sticks and bricks” to entice an educational provider. This was the first time Alamo Colleges of San Antonio ventured outside their taxing district to provide such services, estimated at approximately $1 million annually.

As time progressed - the original 25,000 sf became saturated not only during peak attendance periods, but also during off-peak periods necessitating the exploration of a campus expansion. In 2010, the Clarus Group was again contacted to accomplish a regional study with a focus on the same population demographics accomplished during the 2000 study, but an additional focus was placed on existing employers to workforce opportunities. The completed study again supported long range regional goals and would include a campus expansion for continued support of the workforce as well as arts and sciences programs.
The overarching goal of the expansion project was to double the size of the Central Texas Technology Center, or to add 25,000 sf to facilitate more space for workforce training in the South Central Texas region. The campus was unable to offer additional classes with the 2,500+ student enrollment. Changing educational needs had evolved over the years since 2004 to a need for both academic and workforce training. Once the goal was established in September 2012, Chamber staff was tasked with leading the effort. The City staff was in a support role. Alamo Colleges worked with a stakeholder group to create the curriculum and space needs for the expansion. Both New Braunfels and Seguin created a joint Advisory Committee for the school when it was established. That group met with college and city officials to establish the plans for the expansion. In the years since the initial campus was constructed for $3 million, it was now estimated the cost to be $6 million for the duplicate expansion. In May 2013, the City of New Braunfels had an $83 million bond election on four major needs, including streets and drainage, parks, a new recreation center, and including $4 million for the CTTC expansion. All items passed by a wide margin.

An EDA grant for $1.25 million was applied for and received in 2014. This is the second such grant for the school from the EDA. The City of Seguin via their economic development sales tax corporation provided $600,000 toward the project, and the New Braunfels economic development sales tax corporation provided the balance of the funds.

The new college campus opened for classes in Fall 2016. The increase of availability of credit Arts and Sciences courses increases the capacity for a student to earn a full associate degree at the center. Additionally, the expansion has added capacity to serve students with Tier III biology and chemistry labs to support STEM courses and career pathways. Lastly, the expansion area allows for full career pathways for the students attending the center in high-demand careers such as nursing and manufacturing.

The tangible benefits for the workforce development training area is that not only the continuing education training is readily available, but the credit bearing courses to support a full associate degree in areas such as manufacturing operations applied science, logistics management applied science, and welding technology applied science is as well. Other positive improvements that are available include the repurpose of the existing facility to support our local workforce partners with providing a trained, work-ready workforce within the region to fill in-demand jobs. Additionally, the reutilization of workforce development space provides opportunity to support training needs of newly recruited businesses, as well as business prospects exploring the area for development or reshoring of jobs.

The effectiveness of locating a regional training center in the area supports large scale company training development of their employees. One specific project of a large manufacturing company resulted in training of over 3,500 enrollments in job specific training. Additionally, student success rates are much greater at the regional center. The student success
rates are calculated by the number of students earning credit for a course (an A, B, or C letter grade) versus the total number of students enrolled in each of the courses. The regional center has boasted an average of 87% over four semesters.

In August 2013, the Alamo Colleges became the first U.S. community college to sign an agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Universidad Tecnológica El Retoño (UTR) in Mexico. Soon after, other rectors and representatives from new Bilingual Technical Universities (BTU) met at Alamo Colleges and signed three new agreements. Under the framework of Becalos, Alamo Colleges and the BTU updated their MOUs in anticipation of further collaboration. The SEP-Becalos Santander Universidades Exchange Program was a four-month long academic and professional development experience for 87 BTU undergraduates during the fall 2014 semester. Based on their academic profiles and professional aspirations, students were placed at one of the Alamo Colleges. The two overall goals of the Becalos program partnership are to increase the academic and practical knowledge of BTU undergraduates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields and to increase cultural understanding and affinity between the United States and Mexico. The Alamo Colleges secured a commitment to fund Becalos students through the Fall 2017 academic year.

Central Texas Technology Center
C/o Chester Jenke
2189 Fm 758
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-608-2101
cjenke4@alamo.edu
www.alamo.edu/cttc

Michael Meek
390 S. Seguin Ave,
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Phone: 830-625-2385
michael@innewbraunfels.com
www.innewbraunfels.com
Michael Meek

President
Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce

Michael Meek has been with the Chamber since 1988 in various capacities, assuming the CEO position in 1995. Prior to moving to New Braunfels, Meek worked for firms such as Johnson and Johnson and Texas Instruments in Sales and Marketing Management nationally. He holds a BBA and is a Certified Economic Developer, one of approximately 1,000 nationally. He serves as a grader in the program each year.

The Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce has the responsibility for recruitment via professional services agreements with the City of New Braunfels, County and Economic Development Foundation. The Chamber also manages the affairs of the local Economic Development Foundation. He is a graduate of the Institute of Organizational Management and the Economic Development Institute. TxDOT named him a “roadhand”, one of only two ever given in Comal County.

During Meek’s time in New Braunfels the last 29 years, major accomplishments include bringing post-secondary education to the community, a major expansion and remodeling of the Civic Center, the founding of the Communities in Schools Organization, bringing 9,000 new jobs to the community with dozens of companies, the Leadership New Braunfels program and a major remodeling of the Chamber offices. The Herald-Zeitung named Meek their Citizen of the Year in 2002 for his efforts in creating the Central Texas Technology Center. The Chamber membership has doubled in size in his tenure and receives many honors statewide for its programs. He is most proud of the staff he has assembled, with an average tenure of 15+ years in the management ranks.

Meek is a Past State Chairman of the Texas Economic Development Council (2006) and served as State Chairman of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives in 2003. He is only one of two individuals to have ever headed up both state associations. He serves as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Comal County Industrial Development Authority, Braunfels Foundation Trust, and staffs the New Braunfels Industrial Development Corporation (4B Board).
Robert Camareno has a passion for public service and is honored to be the City Manager for the City of New Braunfels, the second fastest growing city in the country. As City Manager, he is responsible for the day to day operations of the City. The City Manager is one of three employees of the City appointed by the Council.

Robert was born in New Braunfels, graduated from New Braunfels High School, received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Phoenix in Accounting and is a member of the International City/County Management Association and the Texas City Management Association.

After high school, Robert honorably served in the United States Marine Corps for three years and received two meritorious promotions. Robert started his professional career as an accountant with a large certified public accounting firm in Arizona. After eight years with the firm, he went on to become the Finance Director and Interim City Manager for the City of Eloy, Arizona. He then served the City of Casa Grande, Arizona as a Budget Analyst, Supervising Accounting and Interim Finance Director.

Because of a desire to be closer to his parents, Robert moved back to Texas to become the Assistant City Manager/ Director of Finance for the City of Copperas Cove, Texas. He then reached a professional goal by becoming a City Manager in the City of Buda, Texas. In 2008 Robert realized a personal goal - to serve his hometown, New Braunfels, Texas. First as the Assistant City Manager and then City Manager since 2013.

Robert is married and has three children. Because of his dedication to serve others, he currently volunteers as a member of the Board of Directors for Communities in Schools, an organization that works hand in hand with schools, communities and families to help students stay in school and succeed in life. He previously served on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Comal County, the Eloy Chamber of Commerce, Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce and Upstarts.
Dr. Federico Zaragoza

Vice Chancellor of Economic and Workforce Development
Alamo Community College District

Dr. Federico Zaragoza has been the Vice Chancellor of Economic and Workforce Development at the Alamo Community College District (ACCD) since 2004. Under his leadership, ACCD received the prestigious American Association of Community College Trustees’ 2005 National Workforce Excellence Award for ACCD’s role in developing exemplary job training programs for Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Boeing, and Lockheed Martin. Dr. Zaragoza serves on several local, state, and national boards and committees. These include the National Council on Workforce Education (NCWE), the National Automotive Manufacturing Training and Education Consortium (AMTEC), National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) – Education Committee, the Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA), Future of the Region, Inc. (FORI), San Antonio Manufacturers Association, San Antonio Empowerment Zone Governance Board, and Tomorrow’s Future Workforce National Committee. He was originally appointed in 2010 and reappointed in 2013 by US Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) established to enforce national education standards for accrediting agencies or associations. In 2013, he was also appointed to the American Association of Community Colleges – 21st Century Workforce Education Implementation Committee.

He was instrumental in establishing the Alamo University Center – a Multi-Institutional Teaching Center that allows Alamo Colleges graduates to earn Bachelors and Master Degrees from five partnering universities in the region (Texas State University, Texas A&M San Antonio, Wayland Baptist, St. Mary’s University, and Incarnate Word University. He has also worked with area businesses, independent school districts and community stakeholders to implement innovative articulated school and career partnership programs, such as the Alamo Area Aerospace Academy, Advanced Manufacturing, Health Professions, and Information Technology Security Academies. Dr. Zaragoza is also credited for implementing the award winning ACCD Workforce Specialty Centers serving three rural communities and San Antonio’s west side inner city neighborhoods. In 2013, LERN awarded the “National Instructional Innovation Award to the Alamo Colleges for the “Just in Time” Training programs developed by Dr. Zaragoza.
Chester Jenke

Manager
Central Texas Technology Center

Chester Jenke is the Central Texas Technology Center Manager and oversees the center’s operation that includes credit courses, continuing education courses, and other programming at the center. The overall goal of the center is to make quality educational programs available for local students in the New Braunfels and Seguin area. Mr. Jenke serves as the community liaison between Alamo Colleges and the various business and governmental agencies from the local area. He is also the liaison between the center and the Central Texas Technology Center Advisory Board. Chester obtained his bachelor’s degree from Wayland Baptist University, his master’s degree from Touro University, and is currently enrolled as doctoral student at Texas Tech University – studying Community College Leadership. He has been employed by Alamo Colleges for three years.
Resolute Health Hospital is a working to positively improve the health and wellbeing of people living across Comal, Guadalupe and Hays counties. A full service hospital, Resolute Health Hospital opened June 24, 2014. It was designed to look and feel more like a hotel than a hospital, but it is the laser focus on exceptional care provided by our caregivers for our patients, families and guests that is what sets Resolute Health Hospital apart.

With a goal to expand access to full service medical care across the tri-county area, Resolute Health Hospital offers enhanced stroke care, the areas first and only level 3 NICU services, and advanced screening technology for breast and lung cancer. Resolute is the area’s only provider of a wide variety of minimally-invasive robotic surgical options. The hospital has been awarded Chest Pain Accreditation, and the Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) has awarded accreditation to Resolute Health Hospital’s Laboratory. Resolute Health Hospital consistently scores high marks for patient satisfaction, employee engagement, quality and service.

The hospital is located on the Resolute Health wellness campus, which features green spaces, walking trails and gardens, physician offices, healthy dining choices, a fitness center, outpatient rehabilitation and imaging services and more. Resolute Health Hospital has 128 Licensed Beds, 24 dedicated Emergency Beds, 4 Operating Rooms
(expanding to 12), 2 Cath Labs (expanding to 4), 78 Medical/Surgical Beds, a 16 Bed Intensive Care Unit, and an 8 (expanding to 16) Bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Our on-site primary care clinic provides convenient, customer-focused medical care and our partner urgent care clinic, MedPost Urgent Care offers children and adults a less expensive and faster alternative to emergency room care. Resolute Health Hospital has been named one of the top 10 most wired health systems in the country for its one-of-a-kind electronic medical record system that helps the hospital and partner physicians better track patient health outcomes.

**Resolute Health**
C/o Danyl Butler  
555 Creekside Crossing  
New Braufels, TX 78130  
830-500-6617  
dabutler@resolutehealth.com  
www.resolutehealth.com
Sandy Ethridge

Sandy Ethridge has served as the Associate Administrator for Resolute Health Hospital since 2016 where she has been responsible for more than 400 employees, leading quality improvements and growth, operational initiatives, and increasing patient revenues and admissions in the 128-bed facility. Throughout her career with BHS, Sandy has served in numerous leadership roles including Associate Chief Operating Officer and Director of Radiology for North Central Baptist Hospital (NCBH), and Interim Chief Operating Officer, Senior Operational Improvement Engineer, and Associate Chief Operating Officer for Baptist Medical Center (BMC). Sandy has been a dedicated employee of BHS since she joined the system as Director of Radiology for NCBH in 2005. She has more than 25 years of experience in the health care industry. Sandy earned her Master’s degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and her undergraduate degree in Radiologic Technology from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. She also holds a Certificate in Radiology Technology, which she earned in 1993 from the BHS School of Health Professions.

Elizabeth Cardenas

BSN
Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)

Elizabeth Cardenas, BSN, is Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) for Resolute Health Hospital, a position she has held since 2012. Before serving at Resolute, Elizabeth was the CNO for Mission Trail Baptist Hospital. There she was directly involved in staff education/scenario preparedness, implementation of new technology for patient care, and facility expansion in 2011. During her tenure at Baptist Health System she has served on many improvement projects, among them Infection Prevention and Surgical Services Committees. Elizabeth has a Master in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of the Incarnate Word.
GRUENE, TEXAS

Gruene Historic District began its transition to the bustling tourist town it is today in 1975 when entrepreneur Pat Molak purchased Gruene Hall, Texas’ oldest continually operating dance hall, and began the restoration of what was then a ghost town. He operated the Hall as a sole proprietor until 1977 when he and Mary Jane Nalley became business partners. In 1980, they acquired as much of Gruene as was available for sale, which included about 18 acres and numerous buildings. They then restored the buildings and opened various businesses. They now own and operate Gruene Hall, the Gristmill River Restaurant & Bar, Gruene Antique Company, Cotton Eyed Joe’s, The Grapevine, Mozie’s and Cantina del Rio, and lease property to The Barn Pottery, Gruene General Store, Gruene Outfitters and The Pomegranate. Gruene Historic District was placed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1975, and the district and many of Gruene’s buildings have Texas Historical medallion markers. Gruene is located on the banks of the Guadalupe River 1 miles off I-35 in New Braunfels, Texas.

Special events in Gruene scatter the yearly calendar, including: Gruene Music & Wine Festival, the Americana Music Jam, Tour de Gruene, the Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist, Texas Clay Fest, various 5 and 10K runs and walks, Old Gruene Market Days and more. For information, call (830)629-5077 or visit www.gruenetexas.com.
GRUENE HALL

Gruene Hall, built in 1878, is Texas’ oldest continually operating and most famous dance hall. By design, not much has physically changed since the Hall was first built. The 6,000 square foot dance hall with a high pitched tin roof still has the original layout with side flaps for open air dancing, a bar in the front, a small lighted stage in the back and a huge outdoor garden. Advertisement signs from the 1930’s and 40’s still hang in the old hall and around the stage.

Throughout its history, Gruene Hall has held weekly dances and played host everything from traveling salesmen to high school graduations to badger fights. Today, the Hall continues to be a center for Gruene and Central Texas’ social and entertainment scene and the activities are just as varied. In any given week, locals hold court in the front bar for happy hour while possibly at the same time, the filming of a movie or commercial or preparation for a festival, fundraiser or a major corporation’s private party may be taking place in the main hall or beer garden.

Under the current ownership, Gruene Hall has become internationally recognized as a destination tourist attraction and major music venue for up-and-coming as well as established artists. Since 1975, the Hall has played host to many celebrities whose pictures adorn the walls. The overriding attraction mentioned by artists and patrons alike is the intimacy created between the audience and performer because of their close proximity.
and the building’s rich history. The owner’s booking direction has been focused on singer-songwriters and artists who play original material.

This approach has provided a fertile proving ground for many former “new talents,” and as a result, the big winners have been the Hall’s patrons.

One never knows if the artist they see at the Hall today will be a star tomorrow, but the quality of the music is always top notch. Famous artists who have played the Hall include: George Strait, Garth Brooks, The Dixie Chicks, Rodney Crowell, Loretta Lynn, Bo Diddley, Lyle Lovett, Delbert McClinton, Jerry Jeff Walker, Asleep at the Wheel, Albert Collins, Ernest Tubb, Fabulous Thunderbirds, Steve Earle, Tracy Lawrence, Chris Isaak, John Prine, Arlo Guthrie, Texas Tornadoes, John Conlee, Guy Clark, Billie Joe Shaver, Merle Haggard, Johnny Bush, The Mavericks, Robert Earl Keen, Leon Russell, Kris Kristofferson, Hal Ketchum, John Hiatt, Townes Van Zandt, Jim Lauderdale, Ray Price, Los Lobos, Buddy Guy, Ryan Bingham, Radney Foster, Aaron Neville, Willie Nelson, Billy Jo Shaver, Little Richard, Pat Green, Jerry Lee Lewis, Keb Mo, Todd Rundgren, Dennis Quaid & The Sharks, Lee Ann Womack, The Robert Cray Band, Raul Malo, Patty Griffin, Buddy Guy, Miranda Lambert, Dierks Bentley, and Charlie Robison.
THE GRISTMILL

Situated on a bluff overlooking the Guadalupe River, this spectacular restaurant nestled under the shade of towering oak trees has been the perfect getaway for a unique casual dining experience for thirty years.

The former cotton gin once processed crops raised by area farmers until the wooden structure burned to the ground in 1922. All that remains of the water-powered mill today is the three story brick boiler room – now the Gristmill River Restaurant & Bar.

Located in the historic district of Gruene just beneath the famous Gruene water tower, we opened in 1977, serving steaks and hamburgers from a tiny kitchen in the corner of the building. Our menu still features thick steaks and large hamburgers, but the restaurant also serves up popular South Texas fare like chicken fried steak, fried catfish, grilled chicken, enormous sandwiches, fresh fish and special dishes like tomatillo chicken and bronzed catfish. Fudge pie, the enormous strawberry shortcake and our signature Jack Daniel's Pecan Pie are famous desserts. A full bar with a good wine list and fresh squeezed lime margaritas are also big hits.

The Gristmill was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 as a part of the Gruene Historic District. These days, the Gristmill is a destination restaurant serving thousands of people per year in our unique, rustic, river bluff setting.
Our multi-level restaurant features outdoor and indoor dining with sweeping views of the river, special dining rooms with native stone fireplaces, an indoor bar with waiting area and wood burning stove, a relaxing beer garden and a merchandise store. The River Grove, added in 1998, is a refreshing open air, bricked patio nestled in a grove of trees overlooking the river.

In recent years The Gristmill has played host to many familiar faces including John Travolta, Robert Duvall, Rob van Winkle (aka Vanilla Ice), Tiffani Amber Thiessen of 90210 and Saved by the Bell, Erik McCormack of Will & Grace, Sherman Hemsley of The Jeffereons, Lou Diamond Phillips, Mary Lou Retton and Dan Rather. The Gristmill has also served several notable politicians including former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, former Texas Governor Ann Richards, Texas Governor Rick Perry, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Notable sports figures include the San Antonio SPURS, former head coach of the 49ers Bill Walsh and former UT coach Darrell Royal, and the Gristmill provided food for the X Games at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Last but not least, countless music artists have been guests at the Gristmill including George Strait, Rodney Crowell, John Hiatt, Pat Green, Bruce Robison, Cody Canada, Robert Earl Keen, Aaron Neville, Joe Ely, Lyle Lovett, The Smashing Pumpkins and Evanescence.

Mary Jane Nalley

Co-Owner Patrick S. Molak Corp. & Gruene Texas Partnership LLC.

Formerly in the Real Estate and Banking fields Nalley formed an entrepreneurial partnership with fellow San Antonian, Pat Molak in 1977 that resulted in the revival of Gruene, Texas, the National Register Historic District in New Braunfels, and the development and operation of several restaurants in San Antonio. The company owns and operates Gruene Historic District’s anchor businesses, Gruene Hall and the Gristmill River Restaurant and Bar, as well as Mozie’s, Cantina del Rio, Gruene Antique Company, Cotton Eyed Joe’s, The Grapevine, Lone Star and The Company Store in Gruene and Josephine Street in San Antonio. She has a BBA in finance from Texas A & I University.
Terri Adams

Chief Operating Officer, Schlitterbahn Waterparks

Terri Adams has been an integral part of Schlitterbahn’s evolution from a small, local attraction to the most popular seasonal waterpark in the United States. As chief operating officer, Terri oversees all operations at Schlitterbahn’s waterparks and resort facilities.

Terri began her career with the Schlitterbahn organization in 1978 and has held a variety of managerial positions within the company before being appointed chief operating officer. Under her direction, Schlitterbahn has become an industry leader in aquatic safety training and operations innovation. Serving as general manager from 1993 through 2005, she lead the company through a period of rapid expansion, which resulted in more than doubling the number of attractions and yearly attendance at the resort in New Braunfels. She championed the growth of the company’s park portfolio with the addition of Schlitterbahn Resort and Waterpark on South Padre Island, Schlitterbahn Galveston Island (the world’s first convertible water park), Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City and the latest addition, Schlitterbahn Resort and Waterpark in Corpus Christi.

Terri has been a leader in the development of safety and training effort for the industry, serving as a Senior Associate for Ellis and Associates. She has served as an active board member on a variety of Chambers of Commerce and Convention and Visitor Bureaus as well as the New Braunfels Christian Academy and past board chair for the Texas Travel Industry Association.

In 2015, Terri was honored to received the Tall in Texas Award, presented by the Texas Travel Industry Association. This award is presented to an individual for their outstanding contributions to the Texas travel and tourism industry and TTIA. Said Terri about the award, “It’s easy to be a champion and work hard for things you love – visitors that travel to our great communities AND the great state of Texas.”

She lives in New Braunfels, along with her husband Brad. She has two adult children, Luke and Sarah, of whom she is very proud.
Located in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, Fredericksburg is a city of approximately 11,000 residents with a vibrant economy based on agriculture, tourism, education, specialty food and beverage production, precision component fabrication and medicine. Founded in 1846 by 120 German pioneers on the frontier of Texas, the city today offers a high quality lifestyle in an area of scenic beauty, while also providing easy access to two of the fastest growing metropolitan areas of Texas and their international airports.

Tim Lehmberg, Executive Director
Gillespie County Economic Development Commission
302 East Austin Street
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
(830)997-6523
edc@fbgtx.org
www.gillespiecountiedc.com
Linda Langerhans is a native of Fredericksburg, growing up surrounded by the German tradition and culture that makes Fredericksburg what it is. Linda served as Fredericksburg’s mayor from 1992 to 2000 and was reelected in 2014. Mrs. Langerhans owns and operates a retail business on Main Street and serves as a volunteer in several organizations.

Some of her concerns as mayor of the City of Fredericksburg involve managing the growth of Fredericksburg in a way that embraces change but does not lose the values and German heritage that have made Fredericksburg a great place for generations of families as well as the quality of life that has attracted newcomers.

HILL COUNTRY MEMORIAL

A consistent nationally ranked Top 100 Hospital, Hill Country Memorial is recognized for its quality by both leading medical professionals and patients beyond Fredericksburg.

But its true strength evolves from deep local roots in Fredericksburg and Gillespie County, Texas. When the new hospital opened its doors on Valentine’s Day, 1971, more than 5000 people arrived to tour the new facility. This equaled the entire population of Fredericksburg at the time. The reason for the involvement is that 93% of Gillespie County residents made a financial commitment to the project.

Just as impressive is the personal involvement by community members. Before the hospital was built, 135
Charter members of the Auxiliary helped raise funds. The hospital opened with 77 active volunteers, a legacy that continues to this day. As a non tax-supported hospital, HCM continues to draw on local support through the HCMH Foundation. Over the years, hospital Galas have raised more than $2.7 million to help fund countless projects, including the Cardiac Rehab Program, Community Fitness Trail, Indoor Community Fitness & Therapy Pool, Women’s Pavilion, Cancer Resource Center, ICU Equipment and Furnishings, Digital Mammography Unit, Angiography Equipment, Single Patient Rooms, Computed Tomography Scanner, and other life-saving improvements.

The hospital is now an 86-licensed bed facility, has a state-of-art ICU wing, a new surgical department, programs and facilities, along with other expansions of capacity and services.

Today HCM employs 650 people who share the hospital’s Vision to Empower Others. Create Healthy.

When it comes to health care, Hill Country Memorial (HCM) offers remarkable unparalleled care and a top reputation nationally. HCM was recognized in 2012 by Truven Health Analytics as one of the nation’s Top 100 Hospitals. The accolade is based on outcomes in 10 categories, from patient safety and satisfaction to adherence to medical and clinical standards. Even more important are the innovative ways that HCM delivers the highest quality health care to the 10 counties it serves, and beyond.

HCM embraces a consideration of exceptional care that provides services from prevention and wellness, to leading edge diagnostic and acute care, to home and hospice care that addresses the health needs of every generation.

Jayne Pope
Hill Country Memorial Hospital
1020 State Highway 16 South
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830-997-1303 office
www.hillcountrymemorial.com
jpope@hillcountrymemorial.org

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/hillcoun
Facebook: @hillcountrymemorial
Twitter: @RemarkableHCM
Instagram: hillcountrymemorial
Jayne E. Pope

MBA, RN, FACHE, Hill Country Memorial

Jayne E. Pope. MBA, RN, FACHE is the Chief Executive Officer for Hill Country Memorial, a 2014 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient. Prior to accepting the CEO position, Jayne served as Chief Nursing Officer at Hill Country Memorial. Formerly, Jayne was the CEO of Clinic Systems at a large network of clinics in Central Texas, which she led in achieving the highest level of Patient Centered Medical Home recognition.

Ms. Pope received her Masters of Business Administration from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and her Bachelor’s Degree in nursing from the University of Western Ontario. A visionary and strategic leader, Jayne has increased staff ownership of key initiatives, resulting in empowered teams, remarkable patient outcomes and accelerated leadership development. Hill Country Memorial patient experience and Value Based Purchasing performance rank in the top decile of the nation. The hospital serves seven primary counties in Central Texas. Truven Health Analytics has named Hill Country Memorial a TOP 100 Hospital in the nation for five consecutive years—in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Emily Padula

RN, MHI, FACHE, Hill Country Memorial

Emily Padula. RN, MHI, FACHE is the Chief Strategy Officer at Hill Country Memorial Healthcare in Fredericksburg, Texas. HCM has been a Truven 100 Top Hospital for the last five consecutive years and is a recipient of the 2014 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. Emily provides leadership for HCM’s strategy to Empower Others. Create Healthy. for generations to come. Her role also includes executive oversight for the hospital’s growth efforts, healthcare integration across the continuum, accountable care organization, and clinical quality. Her experience includes clinical analytics, healthcare operations leadership in ambulatory care, acute and post-acute care, clinical staff education, and direct patient care.
Dr. Richard and Bunny Becker (proprietors) bought the property looking for a log cabin to renovate for a weekend cabin. The Beckers began searching for a log cabin to renovate in order to create a hill country getaway from their home in San Antonio. The couple have traveled extensively abroad and have always been passionate about experiencing culinary and wine delights. The Beckers enjoyed frequenting the few local wineries as well. The cabin was discovered in 1990 and along with it, 46 acres of raw land, fallow fields of deep sand, and Precambrian granitic soils 1500 feet above sea level. The site was rich with native Mustang grapes, a time honored and essential component of the local German Heritage. Both Richard and Bunny were successful gardeners in their own right, and the dream of a commercial vineyard and “maybe” a 1500-case winery began to take shape. In 1992 the first plantings were lovingly placed in the ground by friends and family, including the Becker’s two sons, Will and Joe. The first harvest in 1995, laid the foundation for what is now just over a 100,000-case per year winery. Becker Vineyards’ wine has been served in the stateliest of settings, including the White House and the renowned James Beard House. Becker Farms, Inc. employs 50 people and farms 46 acres of estate fruit and lavender along with the famous Stonewall peach orchards. As you make your way down Becker Farms Road, you will take in fields of native wildflowers, peach orchards, and seasonal hay production. Our wines were served to 3 Governor’s Dinners at the White House and a couple of private dinners; featured in Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast, Bon Appetit; won two double golds at the San Francisco International Wine Competition; won a silver at the Concours de Vin in Lyon, France.

Nichole Bendele
Becker Vineyards
464 Becker Farm Lane
Stonewall, Texas 78671
(830)644-2681
www.beckervineyards.com
nichole@beckerwines.com
**Nichole Bendele**

**Becker Vineyards**

Nichole Bendele is the Public Relations & Tasting Room Coordinator at Becker Vineyards. A graduate of Tarleton State University with a Bachelor of Art Degree in English and a Minor in Tech Writing; she also has the Court of Master Sommeliers (CMS) Level One and the Wine, Spirits and Education Trust (WSET) Level Two. Bendele began working for Becker Vineyards in 1996 when it opened to the public.

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**Dr. Ed Hellman**

**Texas Tech University**

Dr. Ed Hellman is Professor of Viticulture, holding joint appointments with Texas Tech University and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. He has more than 33 years' experience conducting Extension programs, applied research, and teaching related to commercial grape production. As Viticulture Extension Specialist with Texas A&M, he developed several websites including the Winegrowing Regions of Texas and the award-winning Texas Winegrape Network. He also established the highly successful Texas Viticulture Certificate Program in 2007, and the Winemaking Certificate Program in 2014.

Dr. Hellman teaches Grape Production at Texas Tech, and advises graduate students at both Texas Tech and Texas A&M. His current research includes economic feasibility of robotic technology in vineyards, evaluation of powdery mildew prediction models, and development of a mobile application for grape pest management recommendations.

Prior to Texas, Dr. Hellman was Extension Viticulturist for seven years with Oregon State University, where he edited the book Oregon Viticulture, and received national recognition for the Northwest Berry & Grape Information Network website. Dr. Hellman’s honors include the 2015 Outstanding Extension Educator from the American Society for Horticultural Science; 2015 T.V. Munson Award from the Texas Wine & Grape Growers Association; and the 1998 Search for Excellence Award from Oregon State University Extension.
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, in cooperation with the State of Texas, finances and operates the National Museum of the Pacific War. The Admiral Nimitz Foundation was established in 1964 (as the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Naval Museum, Inc.) to support a museum honoring Fredericksburg’s native son, Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces, Pacific Ocean Area. The museum was founded in 1967, in honor of the men and women who served in the Pacific Theater in World War II. The building where the dinner is located is the old hotel, owned by Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz’s grandfather, Charles Nimitz, and was purchased in 1855.

The hotel owned by Nimitz’s grandfather Charles Henry Nimitz was restored to its original design and renamed the Admiral Nimitz Museum by an act of the Texas legislature in 1968. The original intent was to focus only as a memorial to Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz. In 2000, the complex was renamed Admiral Nimitz State Historic Site - National Museum of the Pacific War and is dedicated exclusively to the Pacific Theater battles of World War II. The conning tower of USS Pintado (SS-387) is at the main museum entrance. The Pacific Combat Zone is a re-creation of a Pacific island battlefield, and includes a Quonset hut hospital, a PT boat and base, Japanese tank, palm trees, and machine gun placements. Re-enactments, called Living History exhibits, are held throughout the year. The Veterans’ Walk of Honor and Memorial Wall can be found within the Memorial Courtyard.

On May 8, 1976, the 130th anniversary of the founding of Fredericksburg, the Japanese government gifted the museum with the Japanese Garden of Peace. The garden was designed by Taketora Saita as a replica of the private garden of Gensui The Marquis Tōgō (1848–1934), the main
Imperial Japanese Navy commander in the Russo-Japanese War. Fleet Admiral Nimitz personally admired the Marquis Tōgō, having previously helped to establish a war memorial to the Japanese admiral.

The outdoor Plaza of the Presidents was dedicated on September 2, 1995, the 50th anniversary of Fleet Admiral Nimitz’ acceptance of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard the USS Missouri (BB-63). The plaza is a tribute to the ten United States Presidents who served during World War II: Franklin D. Roosevelt (Commander in Chief), Harry S Truman (Commander in Chief), General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower (Army), John F. Kennedy (Navy), Lyndon B. Johnson (Navy), Richard Nixon (Navy), Gerald Ford (Navy), Jimmy Carter (Navy), Ronald Reagan (Army) and George H. W. Bush (Navy).

George H.W. Bush cut the ribbon in 1991 for the $3 million gallery bearing his name. The George H.W. Bush Gallery is home to an I.J.N. Ko-hyoteki class midget submarine (which participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor), a Japanese Kawanishi N1K “Rex” floatplane, and an American North American B-25 Mitchell. In 1991, the land for the Bush Gallery was bought from H-E-B Grocery. Money for the gallery was privately raised in the 1990s through the efforts of finance chairman Lee Bass and a board that included baseball star Nolan Ryan and Ernest Angelo, a former mayor of Midland. Admission tickets cover both museums. In addition, the museum is currently home to the PT boat PT-309.

Bush later reflected that “terrifying experiences” of war helped him to become a man: “I have often wondered why me, why was I spared when others died.

On December 7, 2009 the museum hosted the Grand Re-Opening of the newly expanded George H. W. Bush Gallery where the second floor houses the Nimitz Education and Research Center. Former President George H. W. Bush his wife Barbara, along with Texas Governor Rick Perry, cut the ribbon. The ceremony was attended by survivors of the Attack on Pearl Harbor, and drew a crowd of 5,000 people.

Erick Roy
328 East Main Street,
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
830-997-8600 x. 211
www.pacificwarmuseum.org
eroy@nimitzfoundation.org
(214)455-6176 cell
www.facebook.com/nationalmuseumofthepacificwar/?fref=ts
General Michael W. Hagee

**General, USMC (Retired) - President and CEO**

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation

A native of Fredericksburg, Texas, General Hagee served as the 33rd Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. His military career took him to innumerable foreign countries in combat and peace. His numerous military assignments included Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Deputy Director of Operations at the U.S. European Command, Director of Strategic Plans and Policies U.S. Pacific Command and Executive Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence.

Besides his military assignments, he has served in a number of diplomatic missions in the Pacific and Middle East.

In addition to his government service, he also serves on several boards of directors and advisory boards, both national and international, in areas that include government services, manufacturing, electronics and communications.

He remains active in public service and foreign policy debates and has been one of the leading proponents of “Smart Power”, testifying before Congress and providing advice to Senators, and Congressmen on both sides of the aisle. He also serves as the Co-Chair of the Commission on Fuel and Geopolitics. He has a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering and a Masters Degree in International Relations. He is a fellow at the University of Texas’ William P. Clements Jr. Center for History, Strategy & Statecraft.

He participates in numerous educational, civic and charitable organizations.
Dave Campbell

Heartland Enterprises

Obtained a BS in Economics from Lehigh University and an MBA from the University of Michigan. Had a 20 year corporate career working for General Motors, International Minerals and Chemicals, and SC Johnson: culminating as President of a subsidiary of SC Johnson. Purchased Heartland Enterprises in 1997 and have built the business into a successful advanced manufacturing, ISO certified, production machine shop. Have served as Board Chairman of the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce, President of the Fredericksburg Independent School District, Chairman of the finance committee of the Hill Country Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, Chairman of Visioning 2020 oversight committee, and Chairman of the Systems Go Board of Directors. Currently serving on the board of directors of the Hill Country University Foundation, Fredericksburg Independent School District, San Antonio Manufacturers Association, and Systems Go, along with being a member of Rotary.

Tim Lehmberg

Gillespie County Economic Development Commission

Tim Lehmberg is Executive Director of the Gillespie County Economic Development Commission in Fredericksburg. He is a native of the Texas Hill Country and a seventh generation Texan. He graduated from Texas A&M University and attended St. Mary’s University School of Law. He worked as a commercial banker in San Antonio for what was initially RepublicBank Corporation and formerly had ranching and small business interests in the Hill Country and southwest Texas. He has resided in Gillespie County since 2006. Tim serves on numerous boards and committees in Fredericksburg and the Hill Country and has been associated with the Economic Development Commission since 2008.
SAN MARCOS

Located midway between Austin and San Antonio, the Greater San Marcos region boasts a talented and diverse population of 3.5 million within a 60-mile radius with the infrastructure, affordability and quality of life that make it an attractive location to live, work, and play. The city of San Marcos, with a population of 60,000, sits at the center of the innovation and economic growth of the Austin-San Antonio Corridor, the area Forbes recently hailed as “America’s Next Great Metropolis” which is growing (in terms of population, jobs and economy), at a pace faster than that of Austin, San Francisco, New York and Chicago. San Marcos is on the southern end of the Austin Metropolitan Area and is the county seat of Hays County, ranked as the fastest growing county in the U.S. by the Census Bureau, which also ranked San Marcos as America’s fastest growing city for three consecutive years (2013-2015). Within a 45-mile radius of the city of San Marcos can be found a diverse population of 2.6 million and a labor pool of 1.3 million. Participants will hear first-hand about initiatives to accommodate this fast pace of growth with community, business and academic leaders who are driving the regional economy in the heart of this “Innovation Corridor”.

Adriana Cruz, President
Greater San Marcos Partnership
1340 Wonder World Drive, Suite 108
San Marcos, TX 78666
512-393-3400
Adrianac@greatersanmarcostx.com
The Honorable John Thomaides

Mayor of San Marcos

John Thomaides was elected as Mayor of San Marcos December 2016. He served on the San Marcos City Council for 4 terms beginning in 2003. Mayor Thomaides served as the City’s representative on the Lone Star Rail District, the Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency, and the Council’s Finance and Audit Committee. He has also served on several City Council negotiating committees to evaluate and recommend development agreements on behalf of the City. An active member of the National League of Cities University Communities Council and its Transportation, Infrastructure and Services Committee, Mr. Thomaides has joined several trips to Washington, D.C. to work on behalf of San Marcos with federal officials and agencies. The City was awarded $10 million in federal funding to help build the Wonder World Drive extension as the result of one visit and $25 million for disaster recovery as a result of a more recent visit. Over the last 10 years San Marcos has secured $55 million in federal funding due to federal legislative efforts. He is a tireless advocate for government transparency, making San Marcos a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community, working for sidewalks, the mural arts program, and has taken beautiful underwater photography of the San Marcos River. Mr. Thomaides served as chair of Open San Marcos, a citizen organization that advocates for government transparency. The City Council has adopted a transparency policy and has been recognized by the Texas Comptroller’s office for meeting strict online financial transparency. He served on the Steering Committee for Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee from 2011 to 2013, resulting in the adoption of the “Vision San Marcos: A River Runs Through Us” master plan in 2013. Mr. Thomaides has represented the community on the City’s Drainage Advisory Board, the Citizen Review Commission, Transportation Advisory Board, Convention and Visitor Bureau, Capital Area Planning Council, Main Street Advisory Board, Minority Economic and Tourism Board, Austin-San Antonio, Inter-municipal Commuter Rail District Board and the Sunset Advisory Board.

A native of Philadelphia, Pa., Mr. Thomaides has lived in San Marcos since 1993 and is the owner of the Alpha Pure Water Company.
Texas State University is the fourth largest university in Texas with over 38,000 students who choose from 98 bachelor’s, 90 master’s and 12 doctoral degree programs. As an Emerging Research University, and a Hispanic-serving Institution, Texas State offers opportunities for discovery and innovation to faculty and students.

Texas State students come from around the globe, and the student body is diverse. Fifty percent of Texas State students are ethnic minorities. In fact, Texas State ranks 14th in the nation for total bachelor’s degrees awarded to Hispanic students.

Located in the Texas Hill Country, where blackland prairies roll into beautiful hills, Texas State enjoys a setting that is unique among Texas universities.

The beauty of the crystal-clear San Marcos River and the stately cypress and oak trees on the campus add to the charm of the university’s picturesque setting.

As the university’s student population has grown — from 303 in 1903 to 38,808 in 2016 — the San Marcos campus also has expanded. Today, the campus has grown to 491 acres. Texas State has an additional 4,000 acres of academic, agricultural, research and recreational areas.
BOBCAT STADIUM

Bobcat Stadium was built in 1981 and is the home of Texas State University Bobcat Football. With recent additions including the Jerry D. and Linda Gregg Fields West Side Complex and the North Side Complex, Bobcat Stadium has elevated to one of the best 30,000 seat stadiums in the country.

Dr. Denise Trauth, President
Texas State University
601 University Drive
San Marcos TX 78666
512-245-2121
President@txstate.edu

www.riacevents.org/ace/texas
Denise M. Trauth, Ph.D.

President
Texas State University

Denise M. Trauth became President of Texas State University in 2002. Before joining Texas State, Dr. Trauth was provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in English at the College of Mount St. Joseph, a master’s degree in journalism at The Ohio State University, and a Ph.D. in mass communications at The University of Iowa. She is married to Dr. John Huffman, professor emeritus at Bowling Green State University and UNC Charlotte. They have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Under Dr. Trauth’s leadership, the university has experienced its largest construction program since being founded in 1899; became a federal Hispanic-Serving Institution; was designated a Texas Emerging Research University; has been reclassified as an “R2: Doctoral University – Higher Research Activity” under the Carnegie Classification system, and moved to the FBS subdivision of NCAA Division I.

Dr. Trauth is a member and former president of the Austin Area Research Organization, serves on the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Research Institute, is a member of the Philosophical Society of Texas, currently serves as President of the Sun Belt Conference, and is a member of the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum.

She also currently serves as President of the Greater San Marcos Partnership. She has served on the American Council on Education’s Commission on Women in Higher Education and serves as the presidential sponsor of that organization’s Texas Network for Texas Women in Higher Education.
Adriana Cruz

President
Greater San Marcos Partnership

Adriana Cruz is the President of the Greater San Marcos Partnership, a regional economic development organization working for the city of San Marcos, Hays and Caldwell Counties, established to encourage and nurture economic growth in the heart of the Austin-San Antonio corridor. With more than 20 years of leadership experience in economic development and marketing at the state and regional level, she leads the organization’s efforts to diversify and strengthen the region’s economy through high quality jobs and investment by implementing a comprehensive multi-year economic development strategic plan. As part of this plan, she promotes the region across the U.S. and abroad.

Most recent accomplishments for GSMP under her leadership are the announcement of more than 2,300 new jobs and over $250 million in investment including Amazon’s newest fulfillment center, Best Buy’s first and only e-commerce sales operation in Texas, and EPIC Piping, the world’s largest pipe fabrication facility under one roof. Prior to assuming this role, Cruz was the Vice President of Global Corporate Recruitment for the Austin Chamber of Commerce where she was project lead in several high profile corporate relocations and expansions including Apple, Facebook, eBay, Hanger Orthopedic, Samsung and LegalZoom. Prior to that she served in Governor Perry’s Economic Development and Tourism office, leading Texas’ highly successful marketing efforts to promote the state as a top location for jobs and investment.

In January 2016 she was appointed by Governor Abbott to the Texas Economic Incentives Oversight Board to review the efficiency of Texas’ incentive programs. She serves on numerous boards including the Foreign Trade Zone of Central Texas, University Federal Credit Union, Texas State University’s STAR Park Commercialization Advisory Council, and United Way of Hays County. In 2016 she won the Austin Business Journal’s Profiles in Power: Central Texas Women of Influence Award. Cruz holds a B.B.A. from The University of Texas at Austin.
Pike Powers
CEO
Pike Powers Group, LLC

Pike Powers, a native of Beaumont, is a graduate of Lamar University and The University of Texas Law School. He served more than seven years in the Texas House of Representatives from his native Jefferson County. In 1983, he served as chief of staff to Texas Governor Mark White. Beginning at that time, Powers began helping advance the state’s high-tech, information and entrepreneurial economy. He has been a principal participant in mobilizing Central Texas to create a business/civic/philanthropic network. He also advises emerging technology leaders within and beyond Texas borders on creating economic development initiatives and shaping a collaborative future.

Powers was a leader in creating the Texas technology initiatives established in 2002 to redefine and reinvigorate the collaboration between government, academia and private industry. In response to that strategy and the need to stay globally competitive with incentive programs, the State of Texas created a $295 million Enterprise Fund in 2003 and the Emerging Technology Fund in 2005.

For the first four quadrennial occasions that the National Law Journal named its list of 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America, Powers was included, together with such other well-known attorneys as Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Treasury Secretary and Texas Governor John Connally. He was one of only 36 lawyers named to all four of the first such lists.
Walter E. Horton Jr, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for Research and Federal Relations and Chief Research Officer
Texas State University

Prior to joining Texas State, Dr. Horton served as the Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at the Northeast Ohio Medical University. Dr. Horton has an outstanding reputation as a scientist and scholar working in the area of arthritis research. He has served as a full member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Skeletal Biology Development and Disease study section and currently serves on NIH review panels focused on commercializing research findings. Dr. Horton began his career working in drug discovery for Eli Lilly and Company and then led an intramural research program at the National Institute on Aging, NIH.

Dr. Horton earned his B.Sc. in zoology, cum laude, from Kent State University and his Ph.D. in anatomy and cell biology from the University of Cincinnati. He was awarded a National Research Service postdoctoral fellowship from the NIH in the area of molecular biology.

Jose Beceiro

Director of Strategic Partnerships
Texas State University San Marcos

Jose Beceiro is the Director of Strategic Corporate Partnerships for Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Most recently, Beceiro served as the Associate Director for Research Relations for the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. Beceiro’s professional background also includes serving as the Director of Clean Energy Economic Development at the Austin Chamber of Commerce and as an economic development consultant for Austin-based AngelouEconomics.
THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Meadow Center for Water and the Environment’s mission is inspiring research and leadership that ensure clean, abundant water for the environment and all humanity. Their Vision is a world where all people understand and embrace the value of water and environmental stewardship. The Meadows Center fulfills its mission by integrating activities across four pillars of action in powerful ways. Their work in each of these pillars begins at Spring Lake – one of the largest artesian springs in the world – and ripples outward across Texas and beyond. The four pillars are Research: Conducting Solutions-Focused Research; Education: Encouraging life-long learning; Stewardship: Cultivating a stewardship ethic; and Leadership: Transforming Knowledge into Action.

Since 2002, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment has received over $31.6 million in research grants. Texas Stream Team has trained 8,993 citizen scientists who have served 50,530 hours monitoring 429 sites across Texas waterways since 1991.

The crystal clear water found in San Marcos is fed by the bubbling springs found at river’s headwaters, known as Spring Lake. During this session, you’ll learn about the unique and important research being done through Texas State University’s Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, located at this rare and historical location.

Dr. Andy Sansom
Texas State University
Meadows Center for Water and the Environment
201 San Marcos Springs Drive
San Marcos TX 768666
512-245-9201
as22@txstate.edu
Dr. Andrew Sansom

**Executive Director, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment**

**Texas State University**

**Andrew Sansom** is one of Texas’ leading conservationists. He is a former Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Executive Director of the Texas Nature Conservancy. For his commitment to the management and protection of natural resources, Dr. Sansom is a recipient of the Chevron Conservation Award, The Chuck Yeager Award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Pugsley Medal from the National Park Foundation, the Seton Award from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nature Conservancy. He is a Distinguished Alumnus of Austin College and Texas Tech University.
THERMON MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Thermon’s mission is to provide safe, reliable and innovative mission critical industrial process heating solutions that create value for our customers.

Solely focused on the heat tracing industry since 1954, Thermon provides heat tracing solutions to the petroleum industry in the upstream, midstream, and downstream components of oil and gas production, processing, storage, and distribution. The upstream sector can require elevated temperatures to move the crude oil and/or winterize water lines above ground. The midstream/downstream refining sector, as well as chemical and petrochemical, requires winterization for various processes and distribution of the products.

Thermon actively participates in professional organizations such as IEEE/IAS- PCIC, ISA, NIA, and IEC. For decades Thermon personnel have been in leadership positions of these important global organizations.
Peter Baen

Manager of the Offshore/Maritime Market Development
Thermon Industries

Peter Baen is Manager of the Offshore/Maritime Market Development at Thermon Corporate Headquarters in San Marcos, Texas. He’s been with Thermon for over 35 years in various capacities from Research Physicist to Corporate Training Director. In addition to his current primary role he is Senior Product Manager for Steam Heating Products for Thermon worldwide.

With degrees in Physics (BS 75) and Mathematics (BS 75, MS 77) from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, Baen was a member of the Math Department faculty at Texas State before joining the Thermon Company in December of 1976.

Baen is an author on numerous steam and electrical heat tracing topics and has had more than a dozen (12) technical articles published internationally. He has also been involved in the development of many different Standards & Recommended Practices related to the testing, selection, installation, operation and maintenance of electrical heat tracing for refining, chemical, power generation and other process industries.

Donny Hirsch

Director, Corporate Manufacturing
Thermon Industries

Donny Hirsch is the Director of Corporate Manufacturing for Thermon Industries based in San Marcos, Texas. He has served in various manufacturing and management roles throughout Thermon for over 30 years, starting in 1986.

Mr. Hirsch has been involved with, and lead multiple operation start-ups in different countries including, Canada, the Netherlands and Russia to support Thermon’s international growth. He also served as the project manager for multiple expansion projects at the corporate headquarters in San Marcos.

Serving as the representative member of the San Marcos Manufacturer’s Association (SMMA) since 1998, Mr. Hirsch has been involved with numerous projects and fundraising activities to support the local community through scholarships and community projects. He is the former Vice President and current SMMA President.

Mr. Hirsch and his wife live in New Braunfels, Texas and are members of Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church. Hobbies include spending time at his ranch, entertaining family and friends.
Harish Malkani

President and Co-Founder
RSI, Inc

Harish Malkani is the President of RSI, Inc., which he cofounded in 1983. RSI stands for “Response, Service and Innovation” and is a Texas-based, worldwide distributor of electro-mechanical parts and services. RSI, Inc. distributes products and services across global defense, energy, commercial aerospace, industrial, and transportation industries. Mr. Malkani’s corporation also includes a Computer Ruggedization and Integration (CRI) division, which specializes in rugged electronics design and manufacturing. RSI-CRI has developed several state-of-the-art products for extreme environments for notable clients such as the U.S. Air Force, Halliburton and Raytheon.

Before founding RSI, Inc. Mr. Malkani worked at Raychem Corporation for more than ten years, where he held positions as a Manufacturing Engineer, Research and Development Scientist, Global Director of Product Management and more. As an R&D scientist, Mr. Malkani received the President’s Silver Dollar award for scientific achievement. Mr. Malkani obtained a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Pune, India. He also earned a Masters of Business Administration in Marketing from California State University.
Dr. Hector Aguilar

Dean of Continuing Education at Austin Community College

Dr. Hector Aguilar is the Dean of Continuing Education at Austin Community College. There he oversees more than 100 short workforce programs that help people get trained to get a job in healthcare, trades, engineering, technology and emerging fields, IT/CS, Education/Teaching, Business and many other specialized areas. He also oversees the division that provides customized training to thousands of employees at different companies such as Samsung, St. Davids, Visa, etc. Continuing Education supports companies and adults in all of Central Texas and counts on a team of more than 400 Instructors and 60 Staff members.

Prior to becoming Dean, Dr. Aguilar was Chair of the Electronics and Advanced Technologies Department which was comprised of two-year Associate Degrees and Certificates in Electronics, Robotics and Automation, Nanoelectronics, Power Plant Technology, Renewable Energy Technology, Lineworker Technology, and BioInstrumentation. There, he had the opportunity to create four of the six programs.

Prior to working at ACC for 18 years, Dr. Aguilar worked for Rockwell International/Allen Bradley Automation and Controls and Applied Materials/Semiconductor Equipment OEM.

Dr. Aguilar Holds a PhD in Educational Administration focused on College Presidency Training from UT Austin, an MBA from UT El Paso, and a Bachelor in Electrical Engineering from NMSU.
Momar “Mo” Mattocks

President
CFAN

Momar “Mo” Mattocks has 19 years of experience in various aspects of manufacturing and operations management. His experience crosses the transportation & energy sectors both in mechanical and electronic products & processes.

Currently, Mo has been the President of CFAN in San Marcos, TX for the last 6 months. CFAN is the leader in the production and repair of large polymer based composite fan blades primarily for the commercial aircraft engine market. CFAN employs approximately 600 employees and has revenues of approximately $180M per year.

In his previous role, Mo was the Manufacturing Center of Excellence (COE) Project Manager for GE’s Industrial Solutions business, leading the creation and setup of 2 key manufacturing plants. Mo led two cross-functional teams from commercial, technology, construction, & manufacturing towards the timely and cost effective initiation of both greenfield and brownfield operations that will roll out brand new products.

Mo joined GE Transportation Systems in 1996 as part of the Technical Leadership Program. During his two years in the program, he held assignments in locomotive assembly in Erie, systems test engineering in Erie where he let the build of the test locomotive required to release the AC6000 locomotive product line, global services in Kansas City, and engine assembly in Grove City, Pa where he led the improvement of material management to their key engine production line.

In 1999, he became a Black Belt for the GE Transportation Propulsion COE where he reduced shop defects per unit by 22% and supplier defects per unit by 9%.

Mo then served as a Manufacturing Business Leader from 2001 to 2002 where he improved injury rates by 15% and product defects by 11% while leading a manufacturing team of roughly 130 hourly and salaried employees in EHS, delivery, cost, & inventory metrics.

In 2002, he became a Product Quality/Reliability Master Black Belt where he drove product and process improvements resulting in product failure improvements across all key metrics thru metric definition, metric visibility, and team ownership.
In 2003, Mo returned to Kansas City as the Lean Six Sigma Leader for Global Signaling where he improved product quality by 35%, drove out $20MM+ in cost, and improved key product cycle times by 67%.

In May 2007, Mo was appointed as Global Signaling Supply Chain Leader where he led roughly 325 salaried & hourly personnel in 4 locations across 3 countries in the manufacture of electronic control equipment for the railroad industry. He improved inventory by 13%, and achieved 8% in labor productivity,

In 2011, Mo became the General Manager of Industrial Repair Operations for GE Energy Services, which now aligns with GE Energy Management. In this role, he was responsible for 13 repair facilities and 500+ employees across the U.S. and Canada. In this role, Mo exceeded profit impact expectations 7 straight quarters and met productivity expectations for 8 straight quarters.

Mo holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mo currently lives in Atlanta, GA and has 3 children aged 13, 12, & 10.

Lee Graham
President of Mensor
The Science, Technology and Advanced Research (STAR) Park is a 58 acre site that hosts STAR One, Texas State’s first building dedicated to the university’s research and commercialization efforts. Construction on STAR One started in October 2011 and was completed in October 2012. This 20,000 square foot facility serves as a technology accelerator for start-up and early-stage businesses, and will provide tenants access to secure wet labs, clean space, conference room and office space.

The incubator program at STAR One is designed to foster the development of new commercial ventures related to Texas State technologies in applied research. This building will house “spin-offs” from research conducted and intellectual property generated by university faculty, and “spin-ins” from companies outside the state that want to come in and strategically work with the university. Our motto is “education with relevance.” The overall goal of the incubator program is to provide space and infrastructure to expedite research and commercial development of promising technologies in the context of viable, well managed, start-up companies.

By bringing together a critical mass of university and private sector specialists, the Incubator Program becomes a magnet for scientific expertise, novel problem solving, and successful commercial ventures. The incubator program is particularly interested in supporting companies that have established research relationships with Texas State, or that have an interest in, and potential for, initiating such relationships.
Steve Frayser

Executive Director of Texas State University’s Science Technology Advanced Research (STAR) Park

Steve Frayser brings over three decades of experience in economic development, research park management and successful efforts to spur the innovation economy. He served as one of the principal staff directing efforts to create the original University of Nebraska Technology Park in 1996 and became its President in 2003. Over the next nine years the Park added over 2,400 jobs, 300,000 square feet of laboratory, engineering and office space and over $68 million in private sector investment.

In November, 2012, Frayser became the first Executive Director of Texas State University’s Science Technology Advanced Research (STAR) Park and a new technology incubator/collaborative facility (STAR One). STAR One has been expanded twice from its original 14,000 square feet to 36,000. STAR Park has been expanded from 38 acres to 58 with an additional 20 acres under option. Since 2014, companies located in STAR One have created 60 jobs, funded over $1.2 million in university research, hired 9 Texas State graduates, and raised more than $32 million through equity and strategic alliance investments.

In addition to his research park experience, Steve has served as Deputy Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Interim Director of Technology Commercialization for the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and Economic Development Director for the City of Lincoln, Nebraska.

He is active in the Association of University Research Parks serving on its Executive Committee as Secretary of the Board of Directors, chairs its’ Awards Committee and is an instructor for the Building Communities of Innovation training program. Frayser is also involved with the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Greater San Marcos Partnership and the Central Texas Chapter of SEMI (Semiconductor Equipment Materials International).

Stephen Frayser
3055 Hunter Road
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 245-7827
s_f75@txstate.edu
Dr. Jennifer A. Irvin

Director, Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization Program and Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Texas State University

Dr. Jennifer Irvin is the Director of the Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization Program as well as an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry at Texas State University. Her research focuses on electroactive polymers, that is, polymers that change their properties in the presence of an electric field. Projects include synthesis of novel n-doping polymers with enhanced stability, using electroactive polymers to develop energy storage devices as alternatives to traditional batteries and capacitors, using electroactive polymers to detect and treat cancer, using templating approaches to enhance electroactivity, and preparing, modifying, and characterizing metal nanoparticles.

Dr. Irvin received a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Florida under the guidance of Dr. John R. Reynolds prior to spending two years as a post-doctoral fellow at Sandia National Laboratories. Dr. Irvin then spent eight years as a Research Chemist and Head of Analytical Chemistry in the Chemistry and Materials Division of the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division in China Lake, CA. In 2008 Dr. Irvin joined the faculty at Texas State University as an Assistant Professor; she was promoted to Associate Professor in 2014. Dr. Irvin has more than 40 publications, 19 patents issued, and over 100 technical presentations. She is a member of the American Chemical Society. You can find out more about Dr. Irvin’s research at: http://irvinresearch.wp.txstate.edu/.
Ed Sadjadi has over 20 years of material science business experience in Western Europe, Japan, China, and North America. Prior to starting Blueshift in 2013 Mr. Burbey spent 12 years in a GM or VP role at Inabata, a $6 Billion multinational firm.

Mr. Burbey earned an MBA from Columbia University in NYC and bachelors in finance degree from the University of Texas at Austin.
Dr. Thomas H. Myers

Director of the Office of Industry Engagement and Innovation
Texas State University

Dr. Thomas Myers is the Director of the Office of Industry Engagement and Innovation at Texas State University. Dr. Myers is charged to: engage industry with researchers, primarily as technology liaison – that is to represent all technologies and help industry identify most relevant touch-points; to engage faculty with industry, serving as “matchmaker” between industry needs and faculty capabilities; to develop and drive a strategy to promote interdisciplinary innovation both on campus between researchers as well as with industry interactions; and to explore opportunities for non-technical disciplines to form collaborations with industry.

Thomas. H. Myers joined Texas State University as Director of the Materials Science, Engineering and Commercialization Program in 2008, a new PhD program that incorporates entrepreneurship and business skills into the curriculum. In Spring 2009, he accepted the position of Associate Dean in the College of Science and Engineering, and became Faculty Liaison for Funded Research and Commercialization, Office of the AVPR. Prior to coming to Texas State, he was the Robert C. Byrd Professor of Physics for Technology Transfer at West Virginia University and Co-Director of the WVNano Initiative, the State of WV’s nanoscale science, engineering and education initiative. Prior to moving to WVU in 1993, Prof. Myers was Manager of General Electric Electronics Laboratory’s Infrared Materials and Devices.
THE MARC

The Marc is an award-winning live-music venue boasting state-of-the-art stage production. Featuring a wide array of music, artists like San Marcos natives Blue October, country legend The Randy Rodgers Bad, and many more frequently play concerts on The Marc’s stage.

The historical building is located in the heart of downtown San Marcos, TX, home of the Texas State Bobcats. The historic San Marcos Square is one of the oldest recognized Main Streets in Texas and has been nationally ranked for its beauty and charm.

Patrick M. Rose

President
Corridor Title

Patrick founded Corridor Title in October 2010, and serves as its President. He is responsible for managing the company, directing client services and development, and implementing Corridor Title’s growth strategy. He is a graduate of the University of Texas Law School and Princeton University, and was first licensed to practice law in May 2006.

Patrick was born and raised in Dripping Springs, graduated from its public schools, and is active in the Dripping Springs, San Marcos, Austin and New Braunfels communities. Prior to founding Corridor Title, he served Hays, Caldwell, and Blanco Counties for eight years in the Texas House of Representatives. Patrick strongly believes that his responsibility, and that of Corridor Title and its employees, is to deliver a high quality of customer service, understand these markets and their participants better than Corridor Title’s friendly competitors, and to purposefully serve the communities of our region.

In furtherance of the final goal, Patrick’s civic involvement includes the following: Greater San Marcos Partnership, Secretary; City of Dripping Springs Economic Development Committee, Chair; Real Estate Council of Austin, Executive Committee Member and Events & Communications Vice Chair; Texas State University Development Foundation, Board Member, Treasurer and Co-Chair of the 2016 Strategic Planning Effort; New Braunfels Economic Development Foundation, Executive Committee Member; Texas Land Title Association PAC, Fundraising Co-Chair. Patrick lives in San Marcos with his wife, Anna, and sons, Henry and Charlie, where they are members of Our Lady of Wisdom University Parish.
**College Station** is a city in East-Central Texas at the center of the Texas Triangle region – 90 miles (140 km) north of Houston, 87 miles (140 km) east of Austin, and 180 miles (290 km) from Dallas. College Station has a population of 109,000 and, together with its neighboring city of Bryan and the surrounding areas, makes up the 15th-largest metropolitan area in Texas with 255,519 people as of the 2010 census.

College Station is home to Texas A&M University, a 64,000-student campus, with more than 436,000 former students worldwide, and the flagship institution of the Texas A&M University System. Texas A&M is recognized in many different ways for its combination of excellence, affordability, and ability to develop leaders of character who have an impact on the state, nation, and world. It combines the principles of practical education and outreach that are legacies of its land, sea, and space grant designations with the advanced research mission characteristic of membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU).

Due largely to the presence of Texas A&M University, College Station was named the best small place in Texas for education, business and careers by Forbes magazine in 2015.

**Natalie Ruiz**
1101 Texas Avenue South, College Station, TX 77840
nruiiz@cstx.gov
979.764.3510 phone
grow.cstx.gov
Karl Mooney

Mayor
College Station

Karl Mooney became College Station’s 15th mayor in November 2016. He was twice elected to the city council, serving from 2011 until his election as mayor. Mooney is Region X president of the Texas Municipal League.

In addition to his service on various community and governmental boards and committees, Mooney was a member of the College Station Planning & Zoning Commission from 1997-01.

Mooney has had a long association with Texas A&M University and has served as director of advising since 2010. He was an associate athletic director from 1989-99 and as a clinical professor in the College of Education and Human Development from 1999-01.

Mooney served as an associate athletic director at the University of Central Florida from 2001-2006, and worked as a sales associate at Parkland International Realty in Winter Park, Fla., from 2007-10.

A native of Point Pleasant Boro, N.J., Mooney earned a bachelor’s degree in English education from the Trenton State College in 1972, a master’s in urban studies in education from Jersey City State College in 1975 and a doctorate in reading education from Lehigh University in 1982.
The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) is an internationally recognized leader in the delivery of emergency response, homeland security, workforce training and exercises, technical assistance, and economic development. Last year, TEEX served more than 173,000 people from every U.S. state and territory and 81 countries worldwide.

TEEX operates a comprehensive emergency preparedness campus, which includes some of the world’s top training facilities in the Brayton Fire Training Field, Disaster City® and the Emergency Operations Training Center, as well as state-of-the-art facilities for public utilities, law enforcement, and unexploded ordnance training. As part of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium and home to the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center, TEEX has been a leader in homeland security training since 1998. The agency also sponsors the state’s elite urban search and rescue team, Texas Task Force 1, standing ready to respond at a moment’s notice in times of disaster.

Natalie Ruiz
City of College Station, Texas
1101 Texas Avenue South
College Station, TX 77840
nruiz@cstx.gov
979.764.3510 phone
www.cstx.gov
Al Davis

Deputy Director
Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

Al Davis was appointed Deputy Director of TEEX on May 1, 2014 by the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System. He previously served as the Director of the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center (NERRTC). Mr. Davis brings significant professional experience to this position having served as a program coordinator, director of training, and director for NERRTC where he provided fiscal oversight of a multi-million dollar training program that reaches across the United States. He works closely with the Texas A&M University System legislative staff in Washington, D.C. to ensure continued funding and for opportunities for additional funding to support homeland security initiatives.

He serves as a Principal Member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), the National Cyber Security Preparedness Consortium (NCPC), and as an advisory board member of the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4). His position requires that he works cross functionally with the operational divisions and administrative entities of the agency.

Prior to his employment with TEEX in 2005, he worked as a consultant with United Water and, chief executive of the Public School District in New Orleans. He served in the United States Marine Corps and retired at the rank of colonel.

Mr. Davis has earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing from Southern University; a Master’s Degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University; and an MBA from Averett University. He is the author of Pride, Progress and Prospects: The Marine Corps’ Efforts to Increase the Presence of African American Officers (1970-1995) and; he is featured in the Marine Corps’ publication, Path Breakers, In Their Own Words.
THE AGRILIFE CENTER AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a unique education agency with a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices. It reaches into every Texas county to address local priority needs. Some of our major efforts are in mitigating drought impacts; conserving water use in homes, landscapes, and production agriculture; improving emergency management; enhancing food security; and protecting human health through education about diet, exercise, and disease prevention and management.

AgriLife Extension demonstrates the latest technology and best practices to improve the state’s food and fiber system, which serves all Texas consumers and contributes nine percent of the gross domestic product. Texas 4-H, our primary youth program, engages some 600,000 youth every year in learning projects, leadership development, and community service.

Collaborative programs enable extension educators and their partners to extend resources and prevent duplication of services. In total, extension personnel and extension-trained volunteers achieved nearly 23 million direct teaching contacts, including distance education via the Web, in fiscal year 2015.

The AgriLife Center
556 John Kimbrough Boulevard
College Station, TX 77843-2140
Phone: 979.458.4910
TEXAS A&M INSTITUTE FOR
PRECLINICAL STUDIES (TIPS)

The Texas A&M Institute for Preclinical Studies (TIPS) provides large animal Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and translational research studies with unique access to expertise in all major medical and scientific disciplines including surgery, biomedical engineering, advanced imaging, pathology, radiography, interventional cardiology, neurology, animal behavior, chemistry, and engineering. With unique resources and collaboration with the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, TIPS facilitates the inclusion of animals with naturally occurring disease as viable research models. TIPS provides unique opportunities to develop new therapeutics in the fields of oncology, cardiology, immunology, endocrinology, and an array of genetic disorders common to humans and companion animals.

The Texas A&M Institute for Preclinical Studies fosters multi-disciplinary service, research, and education. The primary focus of TIPS is to develop research activities and provide core services in the areas of device development, preclinical studies under Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), and biomedical imaging. In addition, the educational mission of TIPS centers around the advanced training of graduate and professional students within relevant scientific and engineering disciplines, as well as support the needs of degree programs that train students and industry personnel on regulatory issues within biotechnology.

Natalie Ruiz
City of College Station, Texas
1101 Texas Avenue South
College Station, TX 77840
nruiz@cstx.gov
979.764.3510 phone
www.cstx.gov
John Sharp, Chancellor

The Texas A&M University System

As Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, John Sharp leads one of the nation’s largest university systems, including 11 universities and seven state agencies. He has served in this position since September 6, 2011.

Chancellor Sharp has spent more than three decades in public service.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Texas A&M University in 1972, where he was student body president and a member of the Corps staff of the Corps of Cadets. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Reserves. In 1976, while working full-time with the Legislative Budget Board in Austin, Sharp received a master’s degree in public administration from Southwest Texas State University.

In 1978, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and was named “Outstanding Freshman” by Texas Monthly. He won a seat in the Texas Senate in 1982, where he served on the powerful Senate Finance Committee, and was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission in 1986. He was elected state comptroller in 1990 and re-elected in 1994.

Chancellor Sharp has been married to Charlotte Han of Austin since 1978. They have a son, Spencer; a daughter-in-law, Brigitte; and a daughter, Victoria.
Dr. Jorge A. Vanegas

Dean of the College of Architecture
Texas A&M University

Dr. Jorge A. Vanegas, Dean of the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University, and Research Professor of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station of the Texas A&M University System, has focused his scholarly and professional activities on: (1) creativity, innovation, design, and entrepreneurship; (2) built environment sustainability – urban, infrastructure, and facilities; and (3) advanced strategies, tools, and methods for integrated capital asset delivery and management in the Architecture/Engineering/Construction industry.

He began serving as interim Dean of the College July 9, 2008 and was appointed Dean by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents on July 17, 2009.

He has served as a technical advisor and a regular contributor, in various capacities, to activities of different academic institutions, organizations, and companies in the U.S. and internationally, and serves on multiple boards for several research and education centers.

In recognition of his research, teaching, and service scholarly accomplishments, Dr. Vanegas has received throughout his academic and professional career national and international awards for education, research, and professional, including being inducted in the Pan American Academy of Engineering in 2010.

A registered architect in Colombia, Dr. Vanegas holds a degree in architecture from Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, as well as Master of Science and doctorate degrees in construction engineering and management from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University in California.
Blake Petty

Director for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship
Texas A&M University

Blake Petty is the director of the Center for New Ventures and Entrepreneurship. Petty received his bachelor’s from Texas A&M in ’98 and his master’s in 2000. After graduating from A&M, he worked in administrative positions at the university and Texas A&M System, including a 10-year stint in the Office of Technology Commercialization.

Most recently, Petty served as assistant vice president of Research and coordinated all Innovation, Industry Relations and Business Development initiatives at Texas A&M. He also facilitated commercialization and entrepreneurship opportunities for the campus and its faculty researchers. In addition, he served as a founding partner in the launch of Startup Aggieland.

Jon Mogford

Vice Chancellor for Research
Texas A&M University

As Vice Chancellor for Research for The Texas A&M University System, Jon Mogford works in close collaboration with the A&M System’s 11 universities, seven state agencies, two service units and health science center to facilitate the growth of research of all system members.

As the leader of the A&M System Office of Research, Dr. Mogford develops strategic partnerships with external agencies, foundations, academic institutions and commercial corporations to enhance the system’s mission of research, teaching, service and economic development for the state of Texas. Prior to joining the Texas A&M University System in 2011, Dr. Mogford served as a Program Manager and then Deputy Director of the Defense Sciences Office (DSO) of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in the U.S. Department of Defense. He provided strategic planning and
implementation of $400M/year in R&D in the physical, biomedical and material sciences. He provided leadership to 20 Program Managers in the development and management of office investments ranging from the fundamental sciences to commercial transition efforts for both defense and non-defense applications. Dr. Mogford led expansion of formal working relationship between DARPA and the FDA to improve the ability of each organization to meet mission goals, which was highlighted as a DARPA-FDA-NIH partnership by the White House.

Dr. Mogford is the recipient of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. His DARPA programs included scar-free regeneration of wounds, metabolic control strategies for survival of severe blood loss, biomarker-responsive biomaterials for drug delivery, stem cell-based bioreactor production of universal donor red blood cells, computational design of novel proteins and active hemostatic biomaterials for treatment internal and external wounds.

He has authored or co-authored 29 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Mogford obtained his bachelor’s degree in Zoology from Texas A&M University and doctorate in Medical Physiology from the Texas A&M University Health Science Center, College Station, Texas.
William Jay Treat
Ph.D., Director
National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing

Dr. Treat is a well-recognized technical and bioprocessing leader with 28+ years of broad industrial experience and demonstrated accomplishments in biologics (recombinant proteins, monoclonal antibodies, viral vaccines and algae), diagnostics and vaccine manufacturing process development, scale-up, characterization, technology transfer, manufacturing, quality assurance and regulatory support.

He has been providing scientific excellence and strategic leadership within multifunctional CMC teams on over 250+ large molecules, peptides, MSCs, small molecules and vaccines plus >1,500 diagnostics including IVF. His experience in quality systems and regulatory include 65+ INDs, 2 IDEs, +1,500 510Ks and numerous FDA, EMA, and ISO inspections. Manufacturing experience extends from bench scale bioreactors to 30,000L biologics to +120,000L for algae.

Prior to joining Texas A&M University as Director of the National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing working closely with BARDA and the CIADM teams, he served as President and Chief Technology Officer at Bone Biologics Corporation, Chief Operating Officer at Avid Bioservices CDMO where he oversaw biologic manufacturing from conception to commercial licensing of the facility, VP of R&D at Irvine Scientific for cell culture media and IVG to various leadership positions including process development, manufacturing and Quality Systems at BioWhittaker and later Cambrex involving cell culture media, LAL, instrumentation, small molecule chemical synthesis, and marketing.

Dr. Treat received his Bachelor of Science of Microbiology in 1979, his Master of Science of Microbiology in 1982, and his Doctor of Philosophy of Agricultural and Biochemical Engineering in 1988 from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. Dr. Treat is also a graduate of the Center for Creative Leadership in partnership with Cambrex in 1998 and the Executive Development MBA Program through Columbia University at Ardan Hill in 1998. Dr. Treat was a member of the Texas A&M University Chemical Engineering Scientific Advisory Board from 2000-2014. He was also a previous member of Emergent BioSolutions and XOMA, LLC External Advisory Boards.
Amy Smith
Senior Vice President & Chief Marketing and Communications Officer
Texas A&M University

Amy Smith, a global communications executive with experience managing teams across all spectrum of communications, was named Senior Vice President & Chief Marketing and Communications Officer in 2017. She has consulted and worked directly for some of the world’s largest organizations and has served in senior leadership roles at Raytheon, a Fortune 500 company, Raytheon and Invensys plc, FTSE 100 company, as well as Burson-Marsteller, one of the world’s largest public relations firms.

Organizations with which she has consulted include: The Coca-Cola Company; Intel; SAP; American Express; the U.S. Treasury; the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Reserve, NASA, and the National Science Foundation. Amy served a one-year term as Director of Communications for the U.S. Army’s Program Management Office in Iraq after which she was awarded the Joint Civilian Meritorious Award for outstanding service in support of humanitarian projects. She is an executive communications consultant in Washington, D.C. working with large-scale organizations in industry and government. Amy is also co-founder of The Legacy Mission, a U.S. nonprofit corporation that helps people with life threatening illnesses create hopeful videos as a gift for loved ones.

Amy earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Clemson University and a Master of International Management degree from Thunderbird, the Global Graduate School of International Management.
Magda Lagoudas

Executive Director of Industry and Nonprofit Partnerships
Texas A&M University

Magda Lagoudas is Executive Director for Industry and Nonprofit Partnerships and Instructional Associate Professor in the Engineering Academic and Student Affairs office of the College of Engineering. She received a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece and a MS in Mechanical Engineering from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.

She joined the College of Engineering at Texas A&M University in 1992 and served in different roles including Associate Director for the Space Engineering Research Center and Director of the Space Engineering Institute.

Since 2014 she has been actively involved on engineering entrepreneurship. She led college efforts in developing and launching two new courses on engineering entrepreneurship, launched initiatives such as Pop Up Classes, U-Ignite and Inventeer, and led efforts for a successful i-SITES award ($500K) by the National Science Foundation to promote entrepreneurial mindsets among engineering students. Magda is active with national networks on entrepreneurship such as Pathways to Innovation, University Innovation Fellows, and has been invited to present by VentureWell.
Dr. Rice-Ficht received her B.S. from Auburn University and her Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 1980 investigating mechanisms of viral infection. In postdoctoral work at the University of Iowa she developed a keen interest in tropical diseases and uncovered the molecular basis of infection by the African sleeping sickness parasite.

Since 1984 Dr. Rice-Ficht has been a member of the faculty of Texas A&M College of Medicine continuing her interest in tropical disease and vaccine development. Her laboratory currently employs micro and nanoparticles for timed release of vaccines with the ultimate goal of creating a needle-free ‘pocket vaccine’. This technology has been applied to the development of vaccines against brucellosis, tuberculosis and Q fever as well as Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis Virus and Hanta virus.

During her tenure at A&M Dr. Rice-Ficht has received national and international recognition, receiving extramural funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, NASA, the Gates Foundation, USDA, National Park Service and NSF for research in human and animal disease. She has published more than 80 manuscripts and served on Editorial Boards for the Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine, Nanomedicine, and as Special Editor for the International Journal for Parasitology. She has additionally served on scientific review panels for NIH and USDA, as panel manager for USDA and on numerous scientific advisory boards.

Dr. Rice-Ficht served for five years as Associate Vice President for Research of the Texas A&M Health Science Center, and for a year and a half as Interim Vice President for Research of the HSC supporting the Research Compliance Office, providing oversight for Centers and Institutes and developing new programs and research initiatives.

In the area of program development, she has worked to expand the research expertise in the Center for Microencapsulation and Drug Delivery through the development of joint research programs with the TAMHSC College of Pharmacy. Since 2009 Dr. Rice-Ficht has worked with the College of Pharmacy, facilitating the expansion of research and educational programs in the College Station area and establishment of a secondary Pharmacy campus, serving as Interim Vice Dean.
for the College. Dr. Rice-Ficht currently serves as Senior Associate Vice President for Research, Texas A&M University, and supports health related research, including the Office of Technology Translation and the Office of Industry Engagement. Dr. Rice-Ficht serves as acting director for the Global Health Research Complex that, when completed, will support large animal research at BSL3Ag and research into vector borne diseases.

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Glen A. Laine
Vice President for Research
Texas A&M University

Glen A. Laine, Regents Professor and holder of the Wiseman-Lewie-Worth Chair in Cardiology, served as head of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at Texas A&M University for 20 years and director of the Michael E. DeBakey Institute for Cardiovascular Science and Biomedical Devices for 17 years. In addition to his role as department head, he was associate dean for graduate studies for five years.

While continuing to teach, he has maintained extramural grant support for 35 years, generating approximately 150 publications in peer-reviewed basic science, medical, engineering, and education journals. Dr. Laine has been an established investigator of the American Heart Association. Dr. Laine served as convener of the academic department heads for five years and served as the designated department head for the Interdisciplinary Faculty of Toxicology. He served on the Vision 2020 and Academic Master Plan Committees and was a member of the Faculty Senate.

As Vice President for Research Dr. Laine serves as the University’s Institutional Official. He was selected by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to serve as a resident university administrative fellow in Austin and is principal investigator on a 2013-18 Texas Emerging Technology Fund grant to link Texas A&M and the Texas Heart Institute in Houston through a cardiac research collaboration.

Dr. Laine received his doctorate in physiology and biophysics with a minor in biomedical engineering from Texas A&M’s College of Medicine. His emphasis on teaching has elevated the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at Texas A&M to Top 10 status nationally. He has received the Association of Former Students’ Distinguished Achievement Award in Research and serves as a reviewer for 17 national journals.
Courtney Beale is a career Public Diplomacy-coned Foreign Service Officer serving as a Public Diplomacy Advisor in the Western Hemisphere Affairs Bureau at the Department of State. Previously, she was the Senior Director for Global Engagement and Special Assistant to the President at the National Security Council, where she oversaw the U.S. government’s interagency efforts to engage and influence citizens and non-state actors in support of national security goals.

Before her detail to the National Security Council, she served as the Director of the Office of Strategic Planning in the Public Affairs Bureau at the Department of State. Courtney has served in overseas diplomatic assignments in India, Colombia, Pakistan, and Mexico. Courtney worked as one of two Special Assistants to Secretary Clinton and advanced foreign travel to over 15 countries for Secretaries Clinton and Rice.
AUSTIN

Since 2011, Austin has received more than 50 local and national rankings. The Austin metropolitan area is consistently recognized among the most inventive, creative, wired, educated, fit, and loved cities in which to live and work. The Milken Institute ranked the Austin metropolitan area number 4 in its “2015 Best-Performing Cities report”, which ranks U.S. metropolitan areas by how well they are creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. While in Austin, the visit will highlight the diverse economy of the city that has made it incredible place to live, work, and play.
The Honorable Steve Adler

Mayor of Austin

Mayor Adler was sworn into office in January 2015 and has focused primarily on Austin’s growing affordability crisis and worsening traffic.

On affordability, Mayor Adler and the Council created a 6% homestead exemption in 2015 to provide a property tax break to homeowners, raising it to 8% in 2016. Under Adler, the Council also increased the senior and disabled property tax exemption to $82,500 and approved a settlement with Austin Energy in August 2016 that lowered electric rates for everyone in town. Also in August 2016, HUD Secretary Julián Castro recognized Mayor Adler for completing the Mayors’ Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness.

On mobility, Mayor Adler convened a broad community coalition to win support of the Smart Corridor mobility bond before the Council in August 2016. In September 2016, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx named Austin one of the winners of the Mayors’ Challenge for Safer People, Safer Streets. Austin, which won for its Smart Trips Austin program in the Rundberg neighborhood, is the Mayors’ Challenge Ladders of Opportunity (Large City) Award Winner.

Mayor Adler has received recognition for his innovative ideas and leadership. In Jun. 2016, the United States Conference of Mayors elected Mayor Adler to the Advisory Board. In August 2016, Mayor Adler was voted by mayors surveyed by POLITICO Magazine as the co-winner of the Rookie of the Year award. In September 2016, Living Cities included Mayor Adler on the list of 25 Disruptive Leaders (along with Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg, author Ta-Nehihi Coates, and actor Jesse Williams to mark that organization’s 25th anniversary. Also that month, his office’s application for a crowdsourced minibond campaign to save Austin’s iconic music venues was picked as one of five winners of the Neighborly Bonds Challenge.

He also delivered perhaps the most stirring defense of taco trucks in this country or any other in September 2016 some six months after ending the Great Breakfast Taco War with San Antonio without firing a shot.

He was born in Washington, D.C., to parents who worked hard so that he and his brother and sister could be the first in his family to go to college. His parents wanted them to have more opportunities than they had. His dad died when he was 21; his mother followed him six years later. But they are with Mayor Adler today, every day, and they have always served as motivation to make sure others have the opportunities they gave him.
He later attended Princeton and then UT Law School on scholarships and part-time jobs. Within 45 minutes of first arriving in Austin, he was swimming in Barton Springs, and he was hooked.

After law school, he devoted much of his practice to civil rights law. He defended workers and women facing discrimination and sexual harassment – hard workers who were being denied equal pay for equal work. When he won in court for Hispanic construction workers, they won the chance to operate the heavy equipment. That meant they could earn the higher pay and promotions they deserved.

Later, Mayor Adler became chief of staff and general counsel for State Senator Eliot Shapleigh doing public policy and learning governance, fighting for increased public school funding, higher teacher salaries and greater environmental protections.

For over 20 years, he worked with and chaired many of Austin’s large civic and non-profit boards. He has fought discrimination and promoted the benefits of diversity as chair of the Anti-Defamation League. As board chair of the Texas Tribune, he helped build a business model for the thoughtful, factual and independent media Texas needs. He has worked to expand opportunity for girls, women and first-generation college students as a board member of GEN-Austin and Breakthrough. At the Long Center and as chair of Ballet Austin, he helped ensure that all our communities have access to the arts.

Throughout his career, he defended renters and landowners when the government or big corporations were unfairly taking their property. He spent a lifetime fighting for equity, access, fairness and opportunity. He protected working families, small businesses and women from discrimination and abuse. He defended families in the Blacklands neighborhood on the east side of I-35 when the University of Texas was expanding. He defended small and large businesses of all kinds across the state, over a dozen churches, and environmental organizations — and he has seen that the government does not always work for everyone. That is why he works hard every day to ensure that our city government works for all of us in Austin.
The Texas Capitol anchors the four blocks that surveyors designated as Capitol Square in 1839. The first Capitol structure on this site was completed in 1853. The three story, limestone building measured 140 feet by 90 feet and cost approximately $150,000 to construct. In early 1881, officials held a nationwide competition for the design of a grand new Capitol and declared Detroit architect Elijah E. Myers the winner. The 1853 Capitol went up in flames in November of 1881, and a temporary Capitol was built across the street from Capitol Square to house state government during construction of the new building. The ground-breaking ceremony was held on February 1, 1882. Three years later, builders had finished the foundation and basement walls, and the 12,000-pound cornerstone was laid on March 2, 1885, Texas Independence Day. Workers completed the second floor walls by the end of 1886, installed a copper roof in 1887 and placed the zinc Goddess of Liberty statue on top of the dome in February of 1888. Dedicated in May and formally accepted by the end of the year, the Capitol measured over 566 feet by 288 feet and cost more than $3.7 million to build.

For over a century, the Sunset Red Granite Capitol has stood as a symbol of the legendary spirit of Texas. It is the seat of government...the place where Texans meet to enact laws for the state. To ensure its survival for future generations, the 1990-95 Texas Capitol Preservation and Extension Project returned the building to its 1888-1915 appearance and updated vital life safety and mechanical systems. The building houses the offices and chambers of the Texas Legislature and the Office of the Governor.
Kevin Johns

Director of the City of Austin Economic Growth and Redevelopment Office

Mr. Johns is Director of the City of Austin Economic Growth and Redevelopment Office. In this capacity he is responsible for a nationally recognized team of 45 specializing in the areas of urban and downtown regeneration, water front revitalization, trade and global commerce, expansion of the music and digital industries, the cultural arts network, and includes the nation’s top small business solutions team.

Kevin has a Masters Degree in City Planning from Georgia Tech, College of Architecture in Atlanta and a BA from Case Western Reserve University in Ohio. He is nationally recognized in the fields of Economic Development, Strategic Planning and Visioning. His accomplishments include over 230 successful public/private partnerships in communities across America. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recognized his work with its 2009 Award of Excellence for addressing globalization and trade. Mr. Johns is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, the International Economic Development Council, and the Regional Leadership Institute of Atlanta.

Kevin previously was Director of Economic Development for Palm Beach County (population 1.3 million) in the Miami South Florida SMSA. In this capacity he was responsible for implementing 36 public/private partnerships and the 21st Century Strategic Economic Plan. This Plan included development of an Inland Port to connect the seaports of South Florida in advance of the opening of the Panama Canal, an International Finance District, an Intracoastal Waterway Master Plan modeled on the Thames Gateway Project through London, trade agreements with World Trade Centers in the life science centers of Europe, and revitalization of the downtowns of canal front poverty cities. Mr. Johns was also Director of Planning for the multinational, Parsons Corporation’s Atlanta Office.

Kevin has been Director of two of the nation’s fastest growing suburbs, both in metro Atlanta. His successes were documented in the National League of Cities book “Economic Successes in Small Cities,” NBC -Atlanta’s, “In Depth TV Show,” the Urban Land Institute’s Land Development Magazine, Southern Living, Los Angeles Times and the Christian Science Monitor.
Lesley M. Varghese is of counsel to Jung Ko, PLLC. She is the immediate past Executive Director & General Counsel of the Asian American Resource Center Nonprofit, a community-based nonprofit formed in 2006 to support the construction of the City of Austin's Asian American Resource Center facility, a municipal bond project. Lesley has 12 years of broad legal experience that includes public finance, business reorganization and financial restructuring (both in and out of court), government relations, and community development. She has represented a wide range of stakeholders in complex credit facilities and related litigation, including government agencies, healthcare institutions, lenders, bondholders, trustees and investors. Lesley’s pro bono matters have included civil rights cases (in collaboration with GLAAD, NAACP and MALDEF) and counseling community development corporations on finance, real estate and governance issues. Lesley attended the University of Texas on a National Merit Scholarship and completed her law degree at American University, where she was a Dean’s Fellow in Law & Government. She began her legal career in at McGinnis Lochridge in Austin. Lesley most recently practiced at the international law firm of Nixon Peabody, LLP, where she co-founded the South Asia practice and co-chaired the Law & Policy Committee for the Boston Bar Association Bankruptcy Section. Under her tenure, the Law & Policy committee, in partnership with others, successfully lobbied the Massachusetts legislature to amend the state’s homestead and personal property exemptions during the mortgage crisis. Lesley was a 2013 YWCA Women of the Year Nominee and is past president of the North American South Asian Bar Association Foundation. She is a recipient of numerous leadership and professional awards, including the Capital Area Progressive Democrats “Kick Ass Award”, the Asian Image Award, the Capitol Area Asian American Democrats Activist of the Year Award, the IACT Trailblazer Award, a University of Texas DDCE Community Leadership Award, and a UT teaching award. Lesley currently chairs the UT Center for Asian American Studies Advisory Committee and serves on the Boston Higashi School Board, the Board of the Austin Symphony Orchestra, and the City of Austin Planning Commission. Lesley speaks English, Malayalam, and limited Spanish, Hindi and Urdu.
Christine Maguire

**Redevelopment Division Manager for the Economic Development Department, City of Austin**

Christine Maguire is Redevelopment Division Manager for the Economic Development Department, City of Austin. She brings over 20 years of economic development, real estate finance, urban planning and community development experience garnered from both the nonprofit, public and private sectors. Aside from general real estate experience, Christine has special emphasis in structuring public-private partnerships to support transit-oriented development through the lens of both the private and public sectors. Her passion lies in assisting both public and private sector clients in financing public infrastructure in order to bring about urban revitalization, enhancing physical and economic mobility and new market opportunities.

Greg Kiloh

**Project Manager at City of Austin**

Greg Kiloh provides project management and implementation services to project owners and stakeholders in order to successfully complete projects on time. He manages various aspects of Public-Private Partnerships, including planning and implementing CIP projects, negotiating and monitoring agreements between the City and developers, processing payments, and coordinating with and assisting development partners with City processes.

Greg has been with the City of Austin since November 2000; he currently serves as the City’s Project Manager for the Seaholm and Green Water Redevelopments, and has been working on various aspects of the Seaholm District for over 15 years. Greg’s previous work experience includes urban design, landscape architecture and architecture, in both the public and private sector in the US and Canada. Greg received a Master’s of Landscape Architecture from the University of Manitoba, Canada. He is an accredited member of the Congress for the New Urbanism and is a registered landscape architect in Saskatchewan, Canada.
John C. Rosato applies his 30 years of commercial real estate experience to all of Southwest Strategies’ four service areas of planning and development, investments, brokerage, and public agency consulting. He has been a general partner in over 30 real estate partnerships responsible for the management of all activities of the partnerships including acquisition, development, financing and investor relations.

He was a general partner and planning consultant for the 230,000-square-foot Penn Field, named the Best Mixed-Use Development of 2004 by the Austin Business Journal. He manages real estate acquisitions and leasing for Austin Travis County MHMR, a public agency with more than 60 commercial and residential buildings. Mr. Rosato recently coordinated project management for a $9 million joint public works project for the City of Austin and Travis County, and has provided relocation consulting for those displaced by construction of State Highway 130. He is currently the Managing Partner for Seaholm, a $150M mixed use development in downtown Austin.

Mr. Rosato earned a Master of Science in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas School of Architecture. A licensed real estate broker, he has furthered his education with courses in the psychology of marketing, real estate contracts and appraisal.

He serves as President of the Heritage Society of Austin and was the Chair of the Downtown Austin Alliance board of directors. Previously he served on the Citizens Planning Committee, the Robert Mueller Redevelopment Task Force, and the Capital Metro develop enhancement guidelines for South Congress Avenue, and he has provided consulting services to Victoria Bank and the University Catholic Center at UT.

His memberships include ULI, International Right of Way Association, Commercial-Investment Division of the Austin Board of Realtors and the Commercial Leasing Brokers Association.
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Like the state it calls home, The University of Texas at Austin is a bold, ambitious leader. Ranked among the biggest and best research universities in the country, UT Austin is home to more than 51,000 students and 3,000 teaching faculty. Together we are working to change the world through groundbreaking research and cutting-edge teaching and learning techniques. Here, tradition and innovation blend seamlessly to provide students with a robust collegiate experience. Amid the backdrop of Austin, Texas, a city recognized for its creative and entrepreneurial spirit, the university provides a place to explore countless opportunities for tomorrow’s artists, scientists, athletes, doctors, entrepreneurs and engineers.

Whether you’re a scholar of the sciences, humanities or arts, we offer dozens of top-ranked programs with a proven record of success. But you don’t have to take our word for it: The university is one of the top 20 public universities according to U.S. News & World Report, with the No. 1 accounting, Latin American history and petroleum engineering graduate programs in the country — plus more than 15 undergraduate programs and more than 40 graduate programs ranked in the top 10 nationally. No matter where you look, it’s clear that academic excellence is an essential part of the UT Austin experience.

UT Austin is the flagship school of the University of Texas System, which includes nine academic universities and six health institutions statewide. As a public university, we
take seriously our charge to serve the great state of Texas that supports us — and with billions of dollars in added state income every year, not to mention countless other benefits to local and statewide communities. The University of Texas at Austin provides an exceptional return on investment. An enduring symbol of the spirit of Texas, we drive economic and social progress, all while serving our city, state and nation as a leading center of knowledge and creativity.

Our large student body, storied history, strong community and richness of tradition have given rise to a proud alumni base of more than 482,000, which includes industry leaders like Michael Dell and Rex Tillerson, entertainers like Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey, Academy Award-winning actress Marcia Gay Harden and film director Robert Rodriguez, journalists like Bill Moyers and Walter Cronkite, and politicians like Sam Rayburn, James Baker and Kay Bailey Hutchison. In addition to providing great networking opportunities, our alumni connectedness ensures that you can find fellow Longhorns no matter where you go after graduation.
Dr. Gregory Fenves

University of Texas President
29th President of UT Austin

Greg Fenves began his appointment as president of The University of Texas at Austin on June 3, 2015. Previously, he served the university as executive vice president and provost.

He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the highest national honor awarded to engineers in the United States, and holds the Cockrell Family Chair in Engineering #15 at UT Austin.

Bringing a career of teaching, research and administrative experience to his new position, Fenves’ accomplishments included defining strategic academic goals and priorities to advance excellence, streamlining operations for more cost effectiveness, focusing on continuing UT Austin’s leadership in transforming undergraduate education, and the launch of the Dell Medical School.

Service at UT Austin

Prior to his role as executive vice president and provost, Fenves was appointed the eighth dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering at UT Austin in 2008. With more than 7,500 students and research expenditures exceeding $160 million a year, the Cockrell School is a top-10 ranked engineering school. During his five-year leadership of the school, Fenves recruited 57 engineering faculty, bringing the total number of tenure/tenure-track faculty to 280. He helped increase the entrepreneurial and technology commercialization programs for students and faculty throughout UT Austin.

Fenves led a capital campaign for the Cockrell School, in which the Cockrell School raised the largest amount, $356 million, of any unit on campus in the $3 billion Campaign for Texas. During his tenure, the book value of the endowment for the Cockrell School increased more than 30 percent. One of his major goals was to build the Engineering Education and Research Center (EERC), a $310 million, 430,000-square-foot building dedicated to interdisciplinary research and hands-on student projects, which began construction in 2013 and is scheduled for completion in 2017.

Fenves began his career as an assistant professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at the Cockrell School from 1984-87.
Academic Leadership and Research at University of California, Berkeley

Before taking the deanship at UT Austin, Fenves served as chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley from 2002 to 2007. He was on the faculty of UC Berkeley for more than 20 years, and he was a key contributor for the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center, a multidisciplinary center funded by the National Science Foundation for a decade. In addition, he led a major industry-sponsored program to improve the seismic safety of utility and transportation systems.

An internationally recognized structural engineer, Fenves’ research focus is on computational simulation of structures subjected to earthquakes and technology for performance-based earthquake engineering. He led the development of one of the most widely used open-source software platforms in the civil engineering profession. He was one of the early civil engineering researchers to develop wireless sensor networks for assessing the structural health of buildings, bridges and infrastructure.

Education and Awards

Fenves earned a bachelor’s degree with distinction from Cornell University and a master’s degree and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

He has received numerous national awards, including the Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation, and from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Walter L. Huber Research Prize, the Moisseiff Award and the J. James R. Croes Medal.

Personal Information

Fenves is married to Carmel Martinez Fenves, a textile artist and small business owner. They have two adult daughters, Hannah, a graphic designer and Emily, a social worker, both of whom reside in Austin. In his spare time, Fenves enjoys reading both fiction and nonfiction and traveling with his family. Art galleries and museums are always at the top of the list of destinations.
AUSTIN CITY HALL

Reflecting Austin’s natural beauty, Austin City Hall is a unique landmark gateway to Austin City government. The building and plaza serve as a gathering place for public discourse and community collaboration with informality, friendliness, environmental sensitivity and innovative technology. Built of Texas limestone and sitting on the site of a once-raucous 19th Century bordello district, Austin’s copper-clad City Hall is as unique as the community it serves.

Mark L. Madrid, President/CEO- the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
(512) 476-7502
mmadrid@gahcc.org
Mark L. Madrid

**President and CEO**

**Mark L. Madrid** is President and CEO of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the voice of over 33,000 Hispanic-owned businesses. Madrid was recently named one of Texas’s Modern Hispanic Gentleman by Texas Monthly and Ketel One®. This celebratory campaign singles out men who embody an ideal: Hispanic leaders who pursue excellence in their professional lives and are empowering social change in their community. Through this distinct Texas initiative, Madrid has created the Mark L. Madrid Scholarships, which will be awarded to deserving college students majoring in business from the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Notre Dame. In 2011 the Houston Business Journal recognized Madrid as one of Houston’s 40 Under 40. Madrid is part of the prestigious few, selected as one of Houston’s most respected and innovative young leaders who show dynamic leadership in Houston. In 2013 Latino Leaders Magazine named Madrid one of the nation’s top Latinos in the areas of finance, media, non-profits, law, education and entertainment and the arts. In December 2012 the U.S. Army Reserve 75th Training Command bestowed Madrid the title of Honorary Colonel. Madrid holds a BBA from the University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated in 1995 with Honors and earned the designation as an Endowed Presidential Scholar. In April 2012 the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business announced Madrid as the inaugural recipient of a national fellowship for Notre Dame’s Master of Nonprofit. The Mendoza College is the only nationally-ranked business school to offer a graduate business degree designed to advance business leadership and executive skills while keeping nonprofit leaders in their jobs.

Julia Campbell

**Director, Economic Business Development, Austin Chamber of Commerce**

**Julia Campbell** is Director, Economic Business Development at the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. Julia focuses on industry sector strategy development, local business retention and expansion efforts and international project management. Julia has a business background with experience in commercial real estate, higher education, and has Central Texas market expertise focusing on the Greater Austin region.
Marina Bhargava

President and CEO at the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce (GAACC)

Marina Bhargava is the President and CEO of the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce (GAACC). She oversees the overall management of the Chamber with specific responsibilities over the Chamber’s grants, program and partnership development, events and execution of the Chamber’s goals and objectives.

Since her hiring in February 2013, GAACC has more than doubled in members and staff. She streamlined both GAACC’s operations and programs ensuring efficiency and relevance to the business community, embarked on a strategic plan for financial sustainability as well as growth, was awarded its first grant for minority business certification, and initiated a robust program for international collaborations culminating in Mayor Steve Adler’s delegation to Asia in July 2016.

Marina earned her B.A. and M.A. in economics from Northwestern University. Her career has been in a variety of industries, ranging from benefits consulting at Hewitt Associates to family owned plastics manufacturing. Prior to joining the Chamber, she was the Language Access and Outreach Coordinator for Asian Family Support Services of Austin, a domestic violence agency where she created trainings for and built relationships with the various Asian communities in Austin, and recruited and managed 20 contract interpreter advocates.

She was also the Business Development Director at the Multiethnic Education & Economic Development Center in Dallas. This was a non-profit business assistance center to support underserved micro-enterprises by offering workshops, coaching retreats and technical assistance. During her tenure there, Marina was named 2009 Minority Business Champion by the Dallas Fort Worth district office of the Small Business Administration.

Marina currently serves on the board of Community Advancement Network as well as the Economic Prosperity Commission for the City of Austin. She is a member of the Austin Area Research Organization’s McBee Fellows Class of 2015.

Marina is mother to two young women engineers; one with a masters in electrical engineering and another who is in her senior year at Northwestern University. In her spare time, she reads, volunteers at various arts events, and does yoga, interval training and meditation to stay healthy.
Edgar Gierbolini  
**President and CEO**  
**Austin Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce**  
Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Edgar has called Austin home for twenty-five years. With over 15 years of sales, event planning, and marketing experience, he is a Certified Meeting Professional through the Convention Industry Council, and a former board member for the local chapter of the International Association of Exhibition and Events. He has spent a large part of his career in the hospitality industry in Austin as well as traveling as a task force representative in the Fort Worth, San Antonio, Dayton, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago and Phoenix markets. He served on the Board of Directors of the AGLCC for many years and lastly as Board Chair before transitioning to his current staff role. Most recently he worked in Fund Development for a local nonprofit supporting those facing cancer and HIV.

Tam Hawkins  
**President & CEO**  
**Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce**  
Tam Hawkins is currently the President and CEO of the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce. Prior to this role, she served as the Vice President of Corporate Engagement & Membership. Her background includes a primary concentration in Corporate Sales & Marketing management roles for some of the nation’s most admired companies. Tam’s volunteer commitments have been directly in line with her passion for the following local, national, and international organizations: Sickle Cell Disease Association Dallas Chapter, Special Events Chair; Literacy Instructions for Texans – Volunteer Teacher; Airline Ambassadors – United Nations Liaison; Susan G. Komen: Dallas Affiliates Chapter – Fundraising committee and a Mocha Moms Austin former board President. Tam serves as a board member of the East Austin Conservancy and Austin Partners in Education.
DELL MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

The University of Texas at Austin was founded in 1883 by the Texas State Constitution and was the result of a mandate to establish “a university of the first class.” UT Austin is now one of the largest and most respected research universities in the world. It is a diverse learning community with more than 51,000 students hailing from every state and more than 100 countries. The Dell Medical School is the newest of 18 colleges and schools on The University of Texas at Austin campus.

Since the inception of The University of Texas in 1883, medical education was part of the plan to build a “university of the first class.” However, owing to political maneuvering, the medical branch of The University of Texas was located in Galveston, Texas, a booming port city prior to 1900, in order to garner the votes needed to locate the main university in Austin.

For 125 years, the idea for medical education in Austin continued to germinate. In 2008, UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas approved preliminary plans to locate a regional campus there, developing projections to test the financial feasibility of starting a modest-size, high-quality, research-oriented medical school in Austin. By fall of 2009, UT-Southwestern had signed an affiliation agreement with the Seton Healthcare Family in Austin to
partner in providing graduate medical education (GME) and pursue a vision of developing a medical school in Austin that would provide undergraduate medical education, GME, and clinical research.

In late 2011, Texas Senator Kirk Watson created a list of ten health-care centered goals he hoped to achieve within ten years for his Central Texas district. Number one on that list was to build a medical school. Senator Watson quickly created alignment with these goals from multiple constituencies, beginning with the UT System Board of Regents. In May 2012, the Board of Regents allocated $25 million of annual funding to a UT Austin medical school, plus another $40 million spread over eight years for faculty recruiting. In November 2012, Travis County voters approved a proposition to raise property tax revenue in support of health care initiatives for Central Texas, including $35 million annually for a medical school. And in 2013, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation pledged $50 million over ten years to the school, which was named the Dell Medical School.

With significant funding sources secured, the UT System Board of Regents approved a plan in May 2013 to construct research, educational and administrative facilities, as well as a medical office building and parking garage on UT Austin property. Seton Healthcare Family and Central Health also confirmed plans to build a new teaching hospital on leased university land in the heart of the burgeoning health district. Construction of the UT facilities began in April 2014 and was completed in time to welcome the medical school’s first class in June 2016.

The Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas, the new teaching hospital, is scheduled to open in early 2017. In January, 2014, UT Austin named S. Claiborne “Clay” Johnston, MD, PhD, inaugural dean of the Dell Medical School.

Creating the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin is, essentially, the equivalent of starting a new campus. A comprehensive plan has been developed for a health district to be created on existing University property at the southeastern corner of the campus as part of the University of Texas at Austin Campus Master Plan.
Scott Collins

Board Member of BioAustin

14 years life science experience.

Scott is an accomplished leader with 23 years expertise spanning engineering, the life sciences, biodevices, and corporate strategy including 14 years of proven leadership experience covering all aspects of forming, growing and selling a technology company. PhD, Biomedical Engineering, UT Austin; post-doctoral fellow, UT-Austin, Serial Entrepreneur
Founder/CEO, Collins Biomedical
Founder/CEO, RxDonate
Chief Technology Officer, VP R&D, TeVido Biodevices

Executive VP of Technology Development, Innovate Wireless Health
Engineer, Arrhythmia Research Technology
Served on several boards of directors and scientific advisory boards
Jeanette Hill is Founder and CEO of Spot On Sciences, which develops medical devices to allow a blood sample to be taken at home with a finger stick. She has more than 20 years experience in research and management positions in small and large biotech companies, developing products for preclinical drug testing.

She received a Ph.D. in Bio-organic Chemistry at Washington University in St. Louis with research in protein engineering and completed post-doctoral research on liver disease and diabetes at Case Western Reserve University and Washington University Medical School.


For more information, please see www.SpotOnSciences.com.
Spot On Sciences, Inc.
8204 N. Lamar Blvd.
Suite C-17
Austin, TX 78753
512-827-9627
info@SpotOnSciences.com
Ruben Rathnasingham PhD, Assistant Dean for Health Product Innovation, Director of the Texas Health Catalyst

Ruben Rathnasingham. PhD has more than 15 years of biomedical leadership experience in several companies founded on technologies invented and developed in academic institutions. In his current role, as the Assistant Dean for Health Product Innovation at the Dell Medical School, he is responsible for creating and growing initiatives to support health-related translational research at UT Austin. This includes leading the newly formed Texas Health Catalyst Program which brings product development and commercialization expertise from industry into the academic setting to maximize the health impact of academic research. Most recently, he was Associate Director of Early Translational Research at the University of California, San Francisco, where he helped develop and led the UCSF Catalyst Program which successfully leveraged industry partners to help identify, support and translate technologies through and out of the university.

Prior to his tenure in academia, Ruben co-founded and grew a number of healthcare companies, including most recently, StrataGent Life Sciences, where he helped developed a needle free, wearable infusion pump that was honored with a 2010 Edison Award for Best New Product. Ruben has a Masters in Engineering from Imperial College, London University, and a MS and Ph.D. from MIT.
AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BIOSCIENCE INCUBATOR

The bioscience incubator offers students hands on learning opportunities with state-of-the-art facilities. It also provides a pipeline of qualified bio technicians for area business. The students have the opportunity to intern with participating companies, learn state of art techniques, and assist researchers in growing the central Texas talent pool. The project included the interior build-out of 10,871 SF into clean rooms, wet labs, and a special laboratory, along with the installation of additional generators and air handling units to support the laboratories.
Dr. Tyler Drake

**Director ACC Bioscience Incubator**

**BioTech Wetlab**

Dr. Drake is working to establish a permanent biotechnology commercialization accelerator at ACC through Texas’s Emerging Technology Fund Grant. The mission of the Advanced Commercialization ACCelerator Collaborative (ACA) is to develop public-private partnerships to accelerate growth of companies while providing a trained workforce in Central Texas.

Dr. Drake received his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, M.S. in medical physics, and competed his postdoctoral training at Duke University. He received his undergraduate degree in physics from McDaniel College. Dr. Drake has authored and reviewed scientific publications, spoken at international conferences, and worked with startup companies as an engineer and consultant. His interests include developing new technologies, entrepreneurship, and technology transfer.
SEAHOLM POWER PLANT

The Austin’s Eco District, built between 1950 and 1958, stopped generating power in 1989. The remaining 3 generators were shut down in 1996. The building’s rock solid structure and historical attributes, along with the site’s location along Town Lake, made it ideal for redevelopment. Seaholm’s walls, for example, measure three feet thick. And they were poured when concrete really was concrete.

The name Seaholm pays homage to Walter Seaholm, Austin’s fourth city manager and a former utility director. A book documenting Austin Energy’s history called Silver in the Mine credits the gruff-spoken Walter Seaholm with saving the utility after a flood by operating it more efficiently than the competition.

The property features gas/oil generation units (100 megawatts total when it functioned), a towering turbine room that measures 110 by 235 feet and a 65-foot-high ceiling. Clerestory windows flank the upper aisles and let the sunlight stream through all three floors of the structure. In all, the building has more than 110,000 square feet of usable floor area.

One cannot mention the plant’s history without mentioning a gentleman named Harold Reynolds, who has kept a faithful, watchful eye over the plant for the past 20 years. Reynolds, Austin Energy’s Health and Safety Coordinator, knows all kinds of Seaholm secrets – like the fact that the
coal bins were sealed off before ever being used, since by the time the plant was up and running, fuel oil took the place of coal as fuel for the boilers.

In more recent years, a number of planning efforts have recognized Seaholm’s significance and potential for adaptive reuse.

This momentous undertaking was helped substantially by Austin Energy’s 9-year, $13 million remediation to clean up hazardous materials. After that major effort, it was deemed Ready for Reuse, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality making Seaholm the first facility in the nation to receive such a designation under the federal Toxic Substance Control Act.

The Seaholm Redevelopment Team was selected in April, 2005, by the City of Austin to handle the redevelopment.

Seaholm is a future urban oasis on the Southwestern edge of downtown Austin. An architectural gem built in the 1950s, the long-dormant power plant offers a unique opportunity to preserve a key piece of Austin’s past and unite it with the region’s vibrant future. Thanks to a unique partnership with the City of Austin, Seaholm will combine cultural and community needs in an exceptional setting for residents and visitors to enjoy for generations to come. This $130 million re-development includes a mix of 143,151 sf of office space, 280 high-rise condos, 48,363 sf of retail shops and restaurants, and meeting space; all surrounding a dramatic and accessible plaza.
CAPITAL FACTORY

https://capitalfactory.com/

Capital Factory is a technology incubator and co-working space located in downtown Austin, Texas. It has more than 140 partners and mentors who invest in companies that participate in the incubator. Prominent companies that have participated in the Capital Factory incubator include WP Engine and SpareFoot. Capital Factory frequently collaborates with companies, nonprofits, and government agencies to offer programs that promote startup formation and support services. For example, in June 2016, it announced a one-year pilot program in partnership with the City of Austin named the Austin Reciprocal Soft Landing Pads program. This program, which is part of Capital Factory’s international group is initially a $45,000 fund, which is expected to help support six to eight companies for a period of three to six months each. In 2015, Capital Factory hosted 900 events and 48,000 visitors. It reported 805 members, as of April 2016.

Joe Harper

Executive Director at Texas State University Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Joe joined the Texas State SBDC team as its Director in 2011 with over twenty years experience as an entrepreneur. He has directed other SBDC programs at Southeastern Louisiana University, Sam Houston State University, Galveston Community College, Houston Community College, and the University of Houston-Victoria.

Joe’s education and experience includes a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management, an MBA and extensive business consulting experience in a broad spectrum of business issues addressing entrepreneurship, business planning, marketing strategies, market research, and financial management.
Fred Schmidt

Global Leader in Tech & Creative

Fred Schmidt is an Austin, Texas based entrepreneur and consultant in the technology and creative industries through his firm Bullseye Business Development and other ventures. He also serves as a Mentor and Director of International at Capital Factory (CF), the largest incubator-accelerator-investment facility in the State of Texas and one of the largest in the USA with over 300 SaaS-based companies in various stages of growth and development. At CF he leads the international initiative, Touchdown Austin, which functions as a full-service soft-landing facility for global tech companies seeking to expand into the U.S. market through Austin, Texas as home base. The program also better prepares CF companies for success abroad as they launch and grow their ventures.

He also serves as Austin-side Co-Chair of the Sister Cities partnership between Austin and the London (U.K.) Borough of Hackney, home of “Tech City,” and has co-founded and co-leads the Austin Chapter of Tech London Advocates. Fred has nurtured the Austin-London relationship from founding five years ago into one of the most active in the world with over 400 companies, organizations, universities and professionals engaged between the two cities and with the assistance of the City Of Austin’s Economic Development Department, The London Borough of Hackney’s Regeneration Services, and UK Trade & Investment. In 2016 he was recognized for this work by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who has awarded him the honor of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

Fred’s recent and prior work in the technology field has been largely concentrated in the field of computer games where he has served as a C-level partner with MicroProse Software (ipo), ORIGIN Systems / Electronic Arts (m&a) and NCsoft North America & Europe (Seoul-based global expansion into North America and Europe). He is now a Co-Founder/Investor/Advisor (and was the founding CEO) at Portalarium, the venture backed ($7M Series A) and Kickstarter/crowdfunded ($10+M raise) games start up of Fred’s three-time business partner, Hall-of-Fame game designer and British-American cosmonaut-astronaut, Richard Garriott. He has overseen EU set up and expansions for all of these companies. Earlier in his career, Fred was a part of a consulting company that helped define and launch top cable satellite programming channels like HBO, MTV and CNN. He also worked as a marketing and operations executive with the cable television systems of Time Inc and others.

Fred is also very involved in the creative industries. Concurrently with his work in tech, he is Co-Founder/CEO of Austin Iconic Brands, a carefully curated collection of unique brick-and-mortar retail stores in the heart of Downtown Austin for over 20 years. The group includes: Wild About Music, a music-themed lifestyle store. Austin Rocks Texas, a fashion
boutique. And Toy Joy, a nostalgic and niche toy store for all ages named one of the 10 Best Toy Stores In The World by USA Today in 2014.

He has served as a Board member of the Downtown Austin Alliance and the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, as vice chair of 6ith Street Austin which oversees activities in the city’s National Register 6th Street Historic & Entertainment District, and on the advisory board of the School of Management & Business at St. Edward’s University in Austin.

Fred emigrated to the U.S. as a Cold War political refugee from Poland as a child. He grew up in Detroit where he worked his way out of factories and into a career in music, radio, television and market research. He graduated with high distinction from Wayne State University.

**Matthew Pollard**

**Rapid Growth Speaker & Coach, Executive Director of Small Business Festival and Host of Better Business Coach**

Matthew Pollard is “The Rapid Growth Guy,” responsible for five multi-million dollar businesses before the age of 30. He is dedicated to helping small business owners succeed, and his methods have transformed more than 3500 struggling businesses into profitable success stories. He is the Founder and Executive Director of Small Business Festival, ranked among the Top 5 conferences in the nation by Inc. Magazine, and is a sought after judge at many of America’s most prominent startup events, including Google Startup Weekend, AngelHack, and Microsoft’s 60 Seconds to Startup. Matthew is in the International Sales Blogger Awards Hall of Fame, and has been featured or published in Entrepreneur, CEO Magazine, Inc., Top Sales World, Fortune, and Forbes.
**Joseph Kopser**

**Keynote Speaker, Entrepreneur, Army Veteran**

Joseph Kopser is the President of Grayline. At Grayline, Joseph works to bring together experts, data, and solutions to help companies and public institutions manage disruptive change. Before joining Grayline, he was the Global President of moovel Group GmbH, a subsidiary of Daimler AG, the maker of Mercedes-Benz.

Prior to his role at moovel, Kopser co-founded and served as CEO of RideScout, a Texas-based technology company that enabled seamless multimodal experiences and connected transit commerce to app users worldwide. In 2015, RideScout acquired GlobeSherpa, a market leader in mobile ticketing for public transit.

Prior to leading RideScout, Joseph served in the U.S. Army for 20 years earning the Combat Action Badge, Army Ranger Tab and Bronze Star. Joseph is a graduate of West Point with a BS in Aerospace Engineering and also received a Masters from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2002. In 2013, Joseph was recognized as a White House Champion of Change for his efforts in Energy and Transportation. In his free time, he works closely with The Bunker Austin, an organization dedicated to supporting veteran entrepreneurs. In addition, he volunteers as Chairman of NSTXL working to improve U.S. Energy Security policy. He lives in Austin with his wife and three daughters.
BELO CENTER FOR NEW MEDIA

The Belo Center for New Media is a Gold LEED certified building completed in 2013. Serves as a national center for work on media convergence and houses the School of Journalism, the Stan Richards School of Advertising and Public Relations and the college’s Dean’s Office as well as KUT Public Media Studios. The Belo Center for New Media (BMC), dedicated in November 2012, is a landmark gateway at the northwest edge of The University of Texas at Austin campus. The five-story, 120,000-square-foot building provides interactive classrooms and meeting space and houses the adjacent KUT Public Media Studios.

Mitch Jacobson

Mitch Jacobson has been a leader in bringing together government, industry, academia, utility and community interests to organize and shape the Clean Technology and Clean Energy Cluster in Central Texas and across the US. He is the Co-Director of the Clean Energy Incubator at the University of Texas at Austin. Since 2009 he has served as the lead advisor to Austin Technology Incubator (ATI)’s clean energy companies. Mitch serves as a Board member for CleanTX, The Clean Tech Open and the Texas Foundation of Innovation & Commercialization; Advisory Board member for IncubatEnergy, SXSW Eco, the Environmental Sciences Institute at UT Austin, The Nature Conservatory, The Austin Young Chamber. Prior to diving into the Clean Energy World, Mitch was in the Computer / IT industry for 25 years. He founded of Eyes of Texas Partners angel investment group, was the VP of Sales for Tech Data Corporation and Director of Sales, European expansion and ROW expansion for Dell for many years. He lives in Austin, TX with his wife Janna, daughters Sheila and Hailey and son Jarrod.
Heidi Ross

Strategic Planning Manager for the Network Modeling Center at the Center for Transportation Research

Heidi Ross is the Assistant Director for the Network Modeling Center at the Center for Transportation Research. Before joining CTR in March of 2013, Ms. Ross spent the majority of her career as a consultant in transportation engineering, focusing on network modeling, traffic engineering, and communication of technical information to non-technical audiences. She is a licensed Professional Engineer, and Professional Traffic Operations Engineer.

Ms. Ross received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin (UT) in 1991, and an M.S. from UT in Transportation Engineering in 1993. She has held many positions working on consulting projects including Engineering Associate, Project Engineer, Project Manager, Project Advisor, Managing Principal, and Vice President.

Ms. Ross has spent her career solving traffic engineering problems. She has experience in completing traffic impact studies, microsimulation modeling, traffic signal timing and optimization, and preparation of engineering plans for construction of traffic signals, signing, and striping. Ms. Ross led public outreach related to projects, and often conducted public meetings, as well as made presentations at Boards and Commissions meetings around Texas.

Her role at the Network Modeling Center is to assist with strategic planning, community outreach, and long term growth of the group. Technical areas of expertise at the Network Modeling Center include Dynamic Traffic Assignment Modeling and the Data Rodeo – an effort to bring together data to support traffic management and transportation planning in the Central Texas region.
Aiden Cohen
Manager, Strategic Initiatives and Supply Chain

Aiden Cohen currently serves as the Program Manager for Austin Resource Recovery’s Business Outreach Team at the City of Austin. Aiden leads a team of nine professionals focused on supporting process improvements and progress towards zero waste in Austin’s business community. His current job responsibilities include budgeting, HR, media relations, public presentations, policy recommendations and long-term planning. Aiden is responsible for fulfilling the City’s Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) and helping companies save money by implementing zero waste programs and other sustainable activities.

Aiden earned a bachelor’s degree in Supply Chain Management from Michigan State University and an M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. In the past 20 years, Aiden’s professional experience includes aerospace, commercial real estate, and government service sectors. Aiden is certified as a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, LEED-Green Associate, CNU-A.

In the community, Aiden supports several non-profits including the Austin Children’s Museum ‘Thinkery’, several Alzheimer’s research organizations, and others community groups that provide development opportunities for children.

Rebecca Campbell
CEO, Austin Film Society

Rebecca Campbell has been CEO of the Austin Film Society since 1998, having served in the nonprofit sector throughout her career. During her tenure, the Film Society has expanded its nationally recognized film exhibition and artist services programs by establishing Austin Studios, founding the Texas Film Hall of Fame, and creating the AFS Cinema (which will re-open as a full-time, twin-screen art house cinema in the spring of 2017). Rebecca has also led AFS through the establishment of an educational and community media arm, Austin Public. Rebecca holds an MFA in Film Production from UT Austin, has made an award-winning documentary, THE TOWN THAT JACK BUILT, and produced award-winning interactive media for educators. She served on the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture and has been a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, Texas Commission on the Arts, SXSW and more.
Frank Coppersmith

CEO and founder of Possum Interactive

Frank Coppersmith is the CEO and founder of Possum Interactive, a software consultancy focused on product discovery and development most recently building artificial intelligence products for the medical device industry. Frank also serves as the Chair, Austin Game Developers Association which represents over 135 studios and nearly 5,000 game developers in Austin with a mission to help great game developers make great game companies.

Before starting his own company, he was President of Capson Technology, a digital health startup backed by BlueCross BlueShield Venture Partners.

Prior to Capson, Frank served as Chief Operating Officer and Studio General Manager for GameSalad, the maker of ‘GameSalad Creator’ - a leading tool for mobile application and video game development. Used by over 500,000 independent game developers, GameSalad powered tens of thousands of games worldwide and represented over 20% of all new game launches on the iOS (Apple) App Store in 2011.

Frank got his start in the video game industry as Vice President, Finance and Administration for Challenge Online Games, a venture-backed (Sequoia Capital) startup in the web and social (Facebook) gaming space which was sold to Zynga. Prior to Challenge and Zynga, Frank served in a variety of roles with Toppan (formerly DuPont) Photomasks a worldwide manufacturer of semiconductor materials, ending his career there as the company’s general counsel.

Frank holds a MBA in Finance and Operations Management from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, a law degree from Samford University and a degree in electrical engineering from The Citadel.

Frank was named Austin’s “CFO of the Year” (small company category) by the Austin Business Journal in 2010.

Frank is also active in the USAF Reserves, holding the rank of colonel, where he serves as a senior judge advocate with US Cyber Command. Frank has previously deployed to Iraq, Turkey, Germany and Qatar.
Stephanie Bergara  

Music Industry Professional

Stephanie Bergara is a native of Austin, Texas. She attended the University of Texas at San Antonio where she studied Political Science.

Over 10 years Stephanie has amassed a unique level of experience in various sectors of the music industry. This includes two years at San Francisco-based booking agency High Road Touring, where she managed North American tour coordination for a diverse array of international talent. Bergara’s experience also includes two years at Giant Noise, an entertainment public relations firm based in Austin, where she assisted on campaigns for national clientele including Texas Monthly Magazine, ACL Live at The Moody Theater, The Soul Train Awards, Fun Fun Fun Fest, Austin Film Festival, and Austin Music Foundation.

Bergara has been a member of the Artist Relations team at Austin’s Pachanga Latino Music Festival since its inception in 2008. In addition, she has worked on artist relations teams for Lollapalooza and Austin City Limits music festivals. As a project coordinator at the Austin Latino Music Association, she co-produced two compilation albums and oversaw a number of fundraising events. Her event marketing experience includes activations for MySpace, Spin Magazine, Hyundai, Whataburger, Heineken and Southern Comfort.

Currently, she is a member of the team in the City of Austin Music & Entertainment Division, a division the city’s Economic Development Department. Bergara manages the day-to-day relationships for a number of programs, specifically, she oversees the Music office efforts in the areas of Music Tourism and Audience Development. Bergara is also the frontwoman of Bidi Bidi Banda, an all-star Selena Tribute band comprised of musicians from across the state of Texas.
David A. Colligan

City of Austin, Economic Development Department
Manager of Global Business Recruitment and Expansion

Providing professional, knowledgeable, and friendly assistance is how David Colligan has been able to create successful relationships between business and government over the past 12 years for cities across the Southern region of the United States. In order to provide his clients with a comprehensive and seamless approach to starting, expanding or relocating their business, David has connected his unique customerservice training from the Walt Disney Company to the business knowledge he has gained through working experience with professionals from across all industry sectors. As the Manager of Global Business Recruitment and Expansion for the City of Austin’s Economic Development Department, David leads a division that is responsible for creating jobs and implementing strategies for an economically competitive Austin, while strengthening an international reputation and brand for business and cultural exchange. The division evaluates an annual average of 70 competitive business expansion projects for local incentives and has successful located seven expansion projects in the last year that will create 2,169 new fulltime jobs that average $107,042, retain 830 full time jobs, and bring $275 million of investment to the City of Austin. David’s division is also responsible for implementing the department’s International Business Strategy, awarded as the best strategic plan for international business development by the International Economic Development Council in 2013. Elements of this strategic plan include promotion and development of an international brand for Austin, a Cultural Ambassador Program, as well as creative and arts exchange.

Focusing on proactive development, David has also led his colleagues in the development of several new programs for the City of Austin that provide seamless industry interaction and feedback from the business community that promotes ImagineAustin, the City’s Comprehensive Plan, and the organization’s mission to make Austin the best managed City in the country. With a strong background in economic development for entrepreneurial and technology driven economies, David’s team has developed a strategy focused on connecting international cities for science and technology collaboration. David also serves as the liaison for the city’s Digital Inclusion initiative, while also developing a strategic plan for industry and STEM interaction, and oversees $1.2 million in contract for Career and Occupational Development. David is a member of the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC), the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC), the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA), the Austin Technology Council (ATC), the Austin Regional Manufacturing Association (ARMA), and a Board Member of GlobalAustin.
Richard Huber

Chief, Sustainable Communities, Hazard Risk, and Climate Change Section
Department of Sustainable Development
Organization of American States
rhuber@oas.org

Richard Huber is the Chief, Sustainable Communities, Hazard Risk, and Climate Change Section of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States. Richard Huber is coordinating the Sustainable Cities Program that has the following pillars: Community-based Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency; Resilience to Natural Disasters; Waste Management; Recycling and Improved Water Resource Management; and Sustainable Transport Solutions. He also manages the “Building the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN)” and ReefFix: An Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Ecosystem Services Valuation and Capacity Building Project for the Caribbean. He has 10 years with the World Bank where he worked in the environmental and social impact of loans and task managed several Environmental Management and Protected Areas projects and 23 years with the OAS where he has worked in sustainable development of the Americas Hemisphere. He has published on several OAS initiatives highlighting win-win institutional, legislative, policy, and participatory frameworks for sustainable development. Best practice case studies are presented on biodiversity informatics and payments for environmental services programs throughout the Americas.

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) supports OAS member States in the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects oriented to integrate environmental priorities with poverty alleviation, and socio-economic development goals. Translating sustainable development and environmental protection goals into concrete actions, DSD supports the execution of multiple-country projects in such diverse areas as integrated water management, renewable energy and energy efficiency, natural hazards-climate change adaptation and land use planning, biological diversity and environmental law and policy. Serves on both the Sustainable Infrastructure Research Committee and the Fiscal Policy Research Committee of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform. www.greengrowthknowledge.org
The Austin Film Society (AFS) is a non-profit film society based in Austin, Texas. Founded in 1985 to exhibit independent, experimental, foreign and various other non-mainstream art films, the film society has grown from just film exhibition to fostering independent filmmaking in Texas and has served as a cornerstone in building the film industry in Austin. The film society also owns and maintains Austin Studios, hosts the annual Texas Film Awards gala, and oversees the Austin Film Society grant program. The film society was founded by film director Richard Linklater, who currently serves on the board as artistic director. Other notable members on the board and advisory board include Tim McCanlies, Robert Rodriguez, Charles Burnett, Guillermo del Toro, Jonathan Demme, Mike Judge, John Sayles, Steven Soderbergh, Paul Stekler and Quentin Tarantino.
Thinkery (formerly the Austin Children’s Museum) is a children’s museum in Austin, Texas.

The museum was founded in 1983 without a permanent location, providing traveling exhibits in public places such as malls, parks and libraries. In 1987, a storefront on Fifth Street became the Austin Children’s Museum’s first established location. In 1997, a fundraising campaign, including a million-dollar donation by Michael and Susan Dell, helped the museum move to a larger space at Colorado and Second Street.

The downtown location closed on September 7, 2013, with the new Thinkery location opening December 7 at the Meredith Learning Lab — a 40,000-square-foot facility in the Mueller Community.

In 2015, nearly 500,000 visitors came to Thinkery.

The Thinkery is an integral part of the City of Austin’s Mueller Masterplan Re-development that brings creativity, science education, and hands-on interaction with the local community.
THE ACE 7 PARTICIPANTS
FROM THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND ACADEMIC SECTOR

51 PARTICIPANTS
LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS AND BEYOND

Nearly half of the group are women leaders

27 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
Guillermo Acosta is the Undersecretary of the Federal and Sectorial Articulation at the National Ministry of Production in Argentina. Previously, he was Minister of Industry, Trade, Mining and Science for the Province of Córdoba and the Director of the Institute for Economic Investigations at the Córdoba Stock Exchange. Mr. Acosta serves as faculty professor at the Catholic University of Córdoba and the National University of Córdoba. He has experience and academic background in economics.

Mariano Ortega serves as the Regional Manager for Regional Assistance at the National Institute of Industry Technology. As such, he leads more than 700 people in every Argentinian province and advances public development policies from different Ministries towards the industry. He has worked with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for 25 years and has participated in programs of the Inter-American Development Bank and CANE Foundation. He has also served as Leader Auditor in the Argentine Normalization and Certification Institute for Industrial Sector, as well as Leader ISO Auditor certified at Georgia Institute of Technology.
Juan Nascimbene is Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary of Foreign Trade of Argentina. He works in the area of international negotiations, focusing on investments, economic development, and competitiveness. He coordinates the commercial dialogue between Argentina and the U.S., a platform for cooperation between the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the Argentine Ministry of Production. Mr. Nascimbene has studied law and economics at the University of Buenos Aires and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Economics in the University Torcuato Di Tella in Argentina. He focused his practice on international trade and economics and international economic law.

Romina Gayá is the Director of the Knowledge Economy Observatory of the Ministry of Production in Argentina. Ms. Gayá has over fourteen years of experience as a researcher, professor, and consultant for international organizations and research centers from the governments and the private sector. She has specialized her career on international trade, technology, innovation, and knowledge-based services. She is an economist and holds a Master’s degree in International Economic Relations.
Sonja S. Trotman is the first female appointed to the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) – the government agency that facilitates the development and growth of Barbadian based businesses and the promotion of the local and international trade. Before this appointment, she served in the main managerial positions in Barbados’ national investment and trade promotion organizations. She is a skilled Researcher with training and experience at the local and international levels, including planning and executing trade missions and trade fairs, drafting documents to advise national policy, and leading in corporate strategic planning. With over twenty-five years of experience in providing business facilitation services, Ms. Trotman has succeeded to develop, maintain, and leverage strategic private and public sector stakeholder relationships. She is an Economist of the University of the West Indies and holds a master’s in Business Law from De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

Lejia Melanie Gideon is the General Manager (GM) of the Enterprise and Innovation Division at Belize Trade & Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) since October 2014. In her current role, she is responsible for developing policy recommendations to national government for the enhancement of Belize’s business climate, along with supporting the core organizational functions for investment, trade promotion, and export development, as well as small enterprise and entrepreneurial development. Ms. Gideon earned a Master of Science in International Development: Industry, Trade, and Development from the University of Manchester with a concentration on Small Enterprise Development in the Small States. She obtained a BA in International Relations with concentrations in Caribbean Development and Asian Studies.
Joy Elizabeth Godfrey is the owner and Managing Director of many entities including a law firm, where she is the non-practicing managing partner, and a financial services firm (relating to banking and investments) in Belize. She currently owns and manages a company that offers services on Intellectual Property law, management strategies, monitoring of brands, among others, with a particular focus on programs for indigenous people. Ms. Godfrey has served in several roles in the banking field, such as shareholder, Director of the Board, and Chairperson of the Board of a bank in Belize. She also served as the Director of Tourism for Belize’s government. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Business and a Master of Arts in International Taxation from Regent University Virginia.

Luis Guillermo Pou Munt Serrano is, since 1993, the majority shareholder and General Manager of the Business Group Pou Munt, a private venture dedicated to developing solutions to address complex problems in the export industry. Starting as a small business, the business is now 21 years old. Two of the group’s companies, EOCE and CEAS, are well known and recognized by their extensive experience in advising the largest Bolivian companies in sectors such as mining, agriculture, agro-industry, textiles, leather, wood, plastics, pharmaceutical, logistics, free zones and other sectors. Mr. Pou Munt is also the Chairman of the National Chamber of Exporters of Bolivia, a Chamber established in 1969 and which is the major representative of companies focused on exporting, with over 1200 members from all over the country. Its main objectives are to promote exports, defend SME’s interests and facilitate their participation in the economic and social development processes. This responsibility has allowed Mr. Pou Munt to build an important networking and maintain interactions with businesses and government authorities in order to propose and adopt key policies for increasing and improving Bolivian exports. Mr. Pou Munt holds a degree in Business Administration and a graduate degree in Marketing and in Transparency Policies and Public Ethics.
Kelly Gillis was appointed **Associate Deputy Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** in January 2015. Previously, Kelly served as Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Spectrum, Information Technologies and Telecommunications (SITT) Sector. In her role as Senior ADM of SITT, Kelly supported the development and use of world-class information and communications technologies, including management and oversight of Canada’s radio spectrum frequencies, research at the Communications Research Centre, cyber security and Connecting Canadians. Kelly has also held the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, SITT, where she focused on policies that supported Canada’s ICT industry and advanced the digital economy. From September 2009 to March 2012, Kelly was Industry Canada’s Chief Financial Officer. In this role, she was responsible for providing financial oversight, advice and corporate services. Prior to joining Industry Canada, Kelly was the Assistant Secretary and CEO, Corporate Services Sector, at the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, where she led the creation of the new Corporate Services Sector. Kelly holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Graduate Diploma in Public Accounting from McGill University.

Marcondes Moreira De Araujo serves as **Office Coordinator at Superintendence for the Development of Brazil’s Central-West (SUDECO)**. As such, he is in charge of advising SUDECO’s Superintendent on the development of public policies that promote technology and innovation in regional development programs and projects for Brazil’s central-west region, as well as fostering international outreach and collaboration. His main areas of interest include technological development for businesses and public policies, innovation and entrepreneurial education, corporate diplomacy to build industry alliances, new markets and investment development, socio-economic and environmental sustainability, as well as competitiveness factors and economic productivity. Mr. De Araujo has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Science in Environmental Technology.
Marco A. Llinas is the Vice President for Competitiveness and Shared Value at the Bogota Chamber of Commerce, where he leads a cluster-based development agenda for Bogota-region that currently includes 15 cluster initiatives, articulated with a Research & Innovation Smart Specialization Strategy (RIS3) for Bogota-Cundinamarca. He is currently a Board Member of the TCI Network Board of Directors, the most important international network for clusters and competitiveness practitioners and policymakers, with over 400 members around the world. Formerly, as Vice President for the Colombian Private Council on Competitiveness, he was one of the leading voices behind the definition and implementation of Colombia’s National Competitiveness Agenda, which included modern industrial policy; science, technology, innovation policy; and cluster-based development agendas, among others. He started and led the Colombian Cluster Network, which aims at articulating the more than 80 cluster initiatives around the country, to exchange best practices as well as create synergies between them. He was Risk Management Director at the National Federation of Coffee Growers and a negotiator for the Colombia-US Free Trade Agreement. He holds a Master on Public Administration in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School, as well as a Master in Economics and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from Los Andes University.

Sofía Del Sante is the Director of Community & Networks at Start-Up Chile, one of the largest public business accelerator program created by the Chilean Government for high-potential entrepreneurs to bootstrap their startups using Chile as a platform to go global. At Start-Up Chile, she manages the community and builds partnerships with different actors of the Chilean and international entrepreneurship ecosystem to attract talented entrepreneurs to Chile and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the country. She also leads the initiatives “Founders Lab” and “Go Regional,” in which Start-Up Chile teaches about entrepreneurship, promotes innovation in the country and invites world-class entrepreneurs to participate in activities and to live in different cities of the country with the mission to foster innovation and boost the local startup community. With a background in communications, public relations and journalism, Ms. Del Sante has worked as a reporter in the media industry and as a writer in the editorial business.
Marcela Rueda is the **Deputy Director at Connect Bogota Region**, a non-profit organization that has built Bogota’s innovation network and aims to make Bogota one of the three most innovative cities in Latin America by 2025. Connect Bogota is a central actor in science and technology related projects, including: the Design of Regional Technology Transfer Offices with the University of Texas in Austin; and technology and startup acceleration projects with the University of California at San Diego. As Deputy Director, Ms. Rueda is responsible for developing and managing strategic and operational strategies, as well as managing the stakeholder network that includes Government Ministers, media, academic leaders, among others. Previously, she had leadership roles in several public and private organizations, such as Resource Manager for Ericsson in Australia and New Zealand, Senior Resource Manager at Deloitte in Australia, and Advisor to the Mayor of Bogota in international and communication affairs. Ms. Rueda holds a Master’s Degree in Management from Macquarie University in Australia, a bachelor degree in Finance and International Relations from Externado University in Bogotá, and she is certified in innovation management.

Isabela Echeverry is the **Entrepreneurship & Innovation Director at the Cali Chamber of Commerce**, a private non-profit that aims to incorporate new local businesses and maintaining the registry for active businesses. As such, Isabela leads the strategy to strengthen the regional High Growth Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ecosystem. She spearheads the design and implementation of business accelerator programs, innovation workshops, and tools for larger companies, as well as develops programs to foster entrepreneurs and innovations. She also participates in the Regional Entrepreneurship Committee and in policy groups with the Mayor’s and Governor’s offices. Previously, Ms. Echeverry developed the matchmaking process for the National Angel Investor Network for Bavaria Foundation in Colombia, she ran industrial productivity and innovation programs at Bancoldex, and she worked at Innovations for Poverty Action from Yale University and the World Bank. Ms. Echeverry holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Saint Anselm College and a Master’s degree in International Affairs from the School of Public and International Affairs at Columbia University.
Fernando Sierra-Maya is Co-founder and General Partner of Invictum Capital, an early-stage venture capital firm based in Colombia. He is also Regional Director of Kairos Society, a global organization that unites the next generation of entrepreneurs with today’s leading innovators to address high-impact market opportunities and solve real problems. Kairos has more than 800 fellows and 1200 alumni coming from more than 50 countries. Mr. Sierra represented Colombia during the 70th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, where he was named ambassador of Our Future World, an organization empowering kids to find their passion and develop their full potential following their dreams. Before Invictum he was the founder of INVX, a private vehicle with seven investments. He studied economics and management at the University of the Andes and Venture Capital at Stanford University.

Luis Alonso Jiménez Silva is a full professor at the University of Costa Rica and Director of the University Agency for the Management of Entrepreneurship (Auge-UCR). He also teaches technology transfer, entrepreneurship management and innovation, at the University of Costa Rica (UCR) and Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED). Previously, he was the Director of Unit of Management and Transfer of Knowledge for Innovation, Proinnova-UCR for twelve years. Moreover, Mr. Jiménez was the Coordinator of the National Commission for Innovation in 2007. He designed and coordinated the First National Meeting NEXO University-Enterprise in 2006 and the First National Congress of Innovation and the First National Directory of Innovation in 2010. Mr. Jiménez has been a lecturer for international organizations, universities, government agencies, and companies in Latin America and Europe. He is a food engineer from UCR and holds a Masters in Business Administration from the Technology Institute of Costa Rica. Mr. Jiménez is an lead auditor for ISO 9000: 2000 accredited by Lloyd’s Register Quality Assurance Limited of the United Kingdom.
Roselyn Victoria Paul currently serves as Minister for Commerce, Enterprise and Small Business Development in the Commonwealth of Dominica and Member of Parliament for the Paix-Bouche Constituency. As the Minister of Commerce, she has been providing leadership and undertaking new initiatives to advance and expand private sector development and provide significant support to CSME’s in Dominica. Throughout her career she has drawn on experiences as an educator, consultant, community and social worker, cultural leader, researcher, gender advocate, program development strategist and manager of the first long distance heritage trail established in Dominica. She has served on national and regional bodies and various interest groups to address areas of gender and women issues, cultural integration and enterprise and CSME related issues. She holds a Master’s Degree in Rural Development and has taken several training courses through the University of the West Indies.

Tomás Guzmán Hernández is a specialist consultant on economic issues and innovation. He currently serves as the Director of Innovation at the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development of the Dominican Republic. He has published widely in a well-known Dominican journal -Listin Diario- on technology and economic development issues. With over 20 years experience in public administration, he has worked in 11 institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Economy. Mr. Guzmán is a computer system engineer and holds a Masters in Public Administration and Accounting Tax.
Welington Omar Sánchez currently serves as Director of the Central SBDC in the Dominican Republic, which manages the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center of Universidad Católica Tecnológica de Barahona UCATEBA. He also teaches Business Management. Mr. Sánchez earned a Master’s Degree in Leadership and Management and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration.

Santiago León is the Minister of Industries and Productivity of the Government of Ecuador since June 2016. Previously, served as Vice Minister and Minister of Production, Employment, and Competitiveness. He has been a professor in several universities in Ecuador and has published several papers, mainly on customs. Mr. León was the General Manager of “El Telégrafo Public Company,” as well as General Director and President of the Directory of the National Customs Service of Ecuador. He is an economist and earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration and Business Administration (MBA) from the University of New Orleans.
Acisco Valladares is the **High-Commissioner of Competitiveness of the Government of Guatemala.** His professional background is focused on Institutional Relations, Corporate Law, Contractual Law and Civil Litigation, Funding of Infrastructure projects and International Business. He is also President of Valladares & Associates and Consul of the Republic of Malta in Guatemala. He has served as Delegate for Migratory Affairs of the Progressive Liberating Party in Washington D.C., head of the Central American Legal Department for Procter & Gamble, and Director Legal and Corporate Affairs of Comcel-Tigo. He earned an MBA from Universidad Francisco Marroquin and a Master’s of Laws from Georgetown University Law School.

Juan Carlos Paiz is the **President of Pani-Fresh**, an industrial bakery with 450 employees that exports to 20 Latin American Countries. Pani-Fresh won the Award for Best Exporter as well as for Best Manufacturing Business in Guatemala. He is also **Member of the Board of the Private Competitiveness Council** in Guatemala.

Juan Carlos Paiz is the former Guatemalan ad-honorem Presidential Commissioner for Competitiveness, Investment. He developed the Plan for Prosperity, which is a comprehensive development strategy for Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras jointly with the US Government. Former President of the Guatemalan Exports Association (AGEXPORT), the “Central American Federation of Exporters (FECAEXCA) and the “Coordinating Committee of Guatemalan Chambers” (CACIF). He holds a bachelor´s degree in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M, a MBA from INCAE Business School and a Master’s degree in Productivity from the University of Francisco Marroquin.
Claudia Liseth Vasquez currently serves as the National Representative for the SBDC centers at the Viceminesstry for the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises of the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala. As such, she manages SBDC Centers nationwide, to harmonize the activities of SBDC centers to the public policies on SMEs, as well as be the official liaison with Central America Center for Promotion of SME, the government, and other institutions. She also is in charge of fostering strategic partnerships and international cooperation with the SBDC Centers. Ms. Vasquez also spearheads the Business Development Department of the Ministry of Economy where she develops programs and manages the international cooperation, connecting SBDC Centers with the government’s programs.

Fabiola Antoine is the public policy advisor serves at the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy and Finances, where she monitors and evaluates international cooperation projects, particularly on entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as financial disbursements from donors, such as the Inter-American Bank of Development and the World Bank. As part of the International Cooperation Department, she identifies innovative projects in the public sector and helps raise funds from international donors to develop them. As a member of the Finance Minister’s cabinet, she has participated in policy debates and has had the chance to shape and implement strategies to foster technological change in Haiti. She is also part of the team that is implementing Haiti’s tech incubator. Moreover, Ms. Antoine is currently developing the strategy to shape Haiti’s first innovation policy, meeting with the different actors and stakeholders. She is an Economist-Statistician and a former cabinet member of the Minister of Economy and Finance of Haiti.
Ricardo Irias is the co-founder and CEO of Sube.la, a company that supports entrepreneurs and startups in Honduras and Central America, providing them with affordable software solutions, entrepreneurship and networking events, and business mentoring. He is currently an active TechStars Community Leader and an international Startup Weekend Facilitator. Moreover, Mr. Irias is an advisor to Tigo in the organization of Honduras Digital Challenge (HDC), a World Bank initiative led by five large Honduran companies that aim to develop the technology-driven startup ecosystem in the country. Previously, in 2014, he organized the first Startup Weekend in Honduras, and, in 2015, the first Startup Weekend Mega in Central America (the largest Startup Weekend in the region with over 270 participants). Furthermore, in 2014 he reached a $1M+ partnership agreement to develop an online marketplace with one of Central America’s largest investors. He holds an MBA degree in Corporate Strategy and Economic Policy from the Maastricht School of Business in the Netherlands.

Ana Margarita Maier is the Dean of Business and Social Sciences at UNITEC, the leading private university in Honduras and member of Laureate International Universities. As the Dean, she is in charge of the academic administration and management of twelve bachelor degree programs (including business, marketing, international relations, law, and economics) on a national level. She is also in charge of the academic administration and management of three academic areas on a national level: Entrepreneurship, Humanities, and English as a Foreign Language. Previously, she worked at TAPLAX, a certified manufacturer of plastic caps and bottles for purified water, dairy products, and juice in Central America, where she was promoted from accountant’s assistant to the sub-general Manager. Ms. Maier has a Ph.D. in Curriculum Studies from Purdue University (United States), an MBA from INCAE Business School (Nicaragua) and a B.S. in Business and Industrial Administration from UNITEC (Honduras).
Althea Janice West-Myers is an SME Business Development Strategist at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, with special interest in business, economic, organizational, and personal development. She has spent the last decade researching and adapting successful global business strategies to the Jamaican environment and culture. As manager of the Jamaica Business Development Corporation’s (JBDC’s) Business Advisory Services Department, she has designed and implemented several MSME diagnostic instruments and implemented programs to effectively capture the impact of JBDC’s work with the sector. She is adept at business modeling, benchmarking and strategy adaptation. She also currently manages the company’s transition to the ISO 9000:2008 Quality Management system. Moreover, she is an adjunct lecturer in Entrepreneurship, Organizational Behavior and Business Principles and Management at the Vector Technology Institute and the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts. She is also a member of the implementing team for the American Small Business Development Center (SBDC) business development model being implemented by the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries be rolled out across Jamaica soon. Previously, she lectured in entrepreneurship at the University of the West Indies and Shortwood Teachers’ College.

Enrique Perret has worked in the public sector for the last ten years. He is currently Director Regional for North America in ProMexico, based in Washington, D.C. In 2007, he joined ProMéxico as Executive Director for State and Local Governments Relations, and later he served as Private Secretary to the General Director, Head of the International Affairs Unit, and as Trade Commissioner in Chicago. Currently, Mr. Perret also serves as Technical Secretary of Competitiveness at the Ministry of Economy and Spokesman and Chief of Staff at the National Banking and Exchange Commission (CNBV). Enrique holds a Bachelor Degree in International Commerce from Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey and a Master Degree in Economics and Government from Universidad Anáhuac.
Liliana Reyes has been Venture Capital Director at the National Entrepreneurship Institute (INADEM) since October 2013, an institution within the Mexican Ministry of Economy that aims to implement, execute, and coordinate the national policy to support entrepreneurs and SMEs, fostering innovation and competitiveness in national and international markets. As such, she has fostered the Venture Capital Mexican industry, she is in charge of coordinating the Mexican-United States Entrepreneurship and Innovation Council (MUSEIC), and is part of the Pacific Alliance Innovation Working Group. She has over 15 years of experience in development banks in areas such as projects evaluation, technical assistance, and project management with multilateral and bilateral funding. She has worked as an independent consultant and project manager for local economic development projects financed with international cooperation funds. Ms. Reyes holds a Bachelors degree in international affairs from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, a Master’s degree in Local Economic Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and a Master’s degree in International Cooperation and Project Management from the Instituto Universitario Ortega y Gasset.

Adriana Eguia is the Executive Director for Calibaja Bi-national Mega-region, Inc. Previously, she was the head coordinator for a business incubator in Mexicali, Baja. Moreover, she was the head of Endeavor during nine years, a business accelerator project in developing countries. She also directed the Economic Development Institute at CETYS University and has been an academic on International Trade, Business Strategy, Business Plan development and Advanced English. Furthermore, she was the President and Governor for Rotaract from 2001 to 2009 and Toastmaster President in 2005. Ms. Eguia has 12 years of experience working with entrepreneurs. She holds a Major in International business, and an MBA and a Masters in Economic Development from CETYS University.
Eugenio José Reyes Guzmán has been the Director of World Trade Center (TWC) Monterrey since 2007, based at the Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon. At WTC Monterrey he conducts inbound and outbound trade missions, does trade training and helps SMEs grow. He is also the Mexican Association of SBDCs Director (AMCDPE) where he represents the collective interest of more than 150 SBDCs. He currently works with Bob McKinley at the University of San Antonio (UTSA) and is interested in developing similar relationships with UT Austin and Texas A&M. He has worked for CEMEX, Vitro, Monsanto, Fiat and Coca-Cola in Mexico, USA, Japan, and Italy mainly in international trade and logistics. He is constantly looking for alliances and sponsors to help Mexican SBDCs produce a larger economic impact. He earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, holds an MIM from Thunderbird (AZ), an MBA from NTU (Singapore) and a Ph.D. from UANL (2016).

Lilia Marcela Arechavala is the Chief Operating Officer of the Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC) since June 2015. She oversees the operation of the main programs of this organization related to Innovation-Based Economic Development. She started with FUMEC in 2002 as a strategic planning consultant. From 2004 to 2009 she was responsible for launching the first six international accelerators of the TechBA Program, along with the Mexican Ministry of Economy. In 2010, she became responsible for the integration of the TechPYME program, which focused on accelerating companies and regional ecosystems in Mexico to foster their integration into new niches of opportunity. In 2014, she coordinated a program supported by CONACYT, to develop 32 state innovation agendas and three regional plans, which identified almost 600 strategic projects, linked directly to the states’ priorities and with the participation of industry, academia, and government. Furthermore, she worked at Electrical Research Institute and CEMIT, one of the first technology-based incubators in the country. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Pedagogy from UNAM and a Master’s degree in Educational Administration from McGill University.
Ian Paul Otero is Founder & CEO of Red Bean, a venture capital & consulting firm that works for government agencies and companies to implement innovation strategies. Through the consulting firm, he develops the operational methodology and execution of the first open innovation platform in the country, a project that is funded and led by the Federal Government and the Secretariat of Economy. Moreover, Mr. Otero is the President of the Finance Committee at National Confederation of Chambers of Industries in Mexico (CONCAMIN) and mentors high-impact entrepreneurs in the Endeavour Network. From 2012 to 2015, he was CEO of the Center for Economic Development & Tourism in the Municipality of Zapopan, where Reto Zapopan (one of the top entrepreneur’s acceleration programs in Mexico) was launched. Previously, Mr. Otero worked for Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX), as Chief of Planning and Market Intelligence into the Corporate Administrative Division. He has a Bachelor degree in Law and an MBA degree from IPADE (Instituto Panamericano de Alta Dirección de Empresas).

René González-Mejía is currently the Executive Director of Instituto Nicaragüense de Desarrollo (INDE), the first organization responsible for the promotion and defense of the economic and social importance of private enterprises as the driving forces. For over fifteen years, he has supported the Young Entrepreneurs of Nicaragua, a project that offers adolescents and young people from rural areas in the country the opportunity to learn how to create and run a company. Mr. González-Mejía graduated from the University of California at Davis in June 1986. He also holds graduate degrees in marketing and business administration from the American University in Managua and the Microfinance Higher Management Program at the Central American (INCAE) Business School.
Hilario Espinosa serves as Special Project Coordinator for the Secretariat of Competitiveness of the Presidency of Panama. He is in charge of the coordination of projects in the fields of agriculture and education. He holds a bachelor degree in Plant Biology from the University of Panama, a MSc. Crop Protection from University of Göttingen Germany, and a graduate certificate in Food Safety from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Karen Coronel is the Founder of GROW, established in July 2014, an integral consultancy firm for NGOs and companies led by women that aims to inclusive businesses and enhance opportunities for women in business. Ms. Coronel is the founder and the current President of the State Alumni Paraguay Association (SAP), which congregates all the US State Department Program Alumni of the country. She is a founding member of WEAmericas Association, a regional organization for strengthening female entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean. Moreover, she was the Executive Director for Paraguay Operation Smile Foundation and has provided consultancy and advice to other NGOs. She has also served Executive Director for The Paraguayan-American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM Paraguay). Her academic background is on Business Administration, Board and Management Skills, Executive Coaching, Leadership, and Communication. In 2014, she attended the Woman Entrepreneurship of the Americas Initiative as an IVLP Scholar.
Maria Paola Ferrario is Vice President of the Global Entrepreneurship Network in Paraguay. She participates on the team in charge of the organization’s overall vision, mission, values, corporate culture, and strategic goals. Paola is also the CEO of Challenger Paraguay, a startup that develops innovation competition to promote entrepreneurship in Paraguay nationwide. On her last competition, the Future Agro Challenge, Challenger Paraguay was able to raise funds to send the winner to the Global Entrepreneurship Congress to compete for the Agribusiness of the Year award in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ms. Ferrario has studied Science Communications at the National University of Asuncion.

Jacqueline Caroline Emmanuel Flood is the Chief Executive Officer of the Trade Export Promotion Agency (TEPA), in charge of implementing Saint Lucia’s National Export Strategy. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Caribbean Export Development Agency, East Caribbean Financial Holdings Company, St Lucia Bureau of Standards Council, the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council and the Caribbean Regional Communication Infrastructure Program. She was the former Director of the Office of Private Sector Relations, the main implementation agency for the Government of Saint Lucia’s Private Sector Development Programme. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics (University of the West Indies), and a Master’s Degree in Project Analysis, Finance and Investment (University of York, UK).
Karen Eleanor St. Cyr is the **Senior Lead Policy Advisor for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)** and the Coordinator of Regional and International Projects of the Ministry of Education of The Bahamas. Her responsibilities include building strategic public private partnerships between local and international stakeholders inclusive of academia, industry, civil society and government, and developing projects and enterprise that advance STI, ICT and STEM as catalysts for national development and diversification of the economy. She also works on improving scientific literacy and developing STI/ICT opportunities for students. Furthermore, Dr. St. Cyr is Project Coordinator for the Caribbean Development Bank projects in the education sector, and is a member of several OAS Regional Working Groups pertaining to Human Resources Training and Innovation. Previously, she served as Project Manager for the Inter-American Development Bank INSPIRE Project. Dr. Karen St. Cyr received her Bachelor Degree from the University of Miami, her Master Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota and her Doctorate Degree in Teacher Education and School Improvement from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Carla Saltra Mc Knight is an **Incubator Manager at the National Integrated Business Incubator System (IBIS)**, the first Incubator established in Trinidad and Tobago supported by the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited. She is responsible for two programs under IBIS: pre-incubation and incubation management. She manages two Business Incubators, with a combined forty one entrepreneurs/businesses of varying industries such as ICT, food processing, manufacturing, creative arts and agribusiness. Ms. Mc Knight provides business development support, opportunities for networking, funding and expansion as well as mentoring support to incubates. Ms. Mc Knight was previously employed by the Enterprise Development Division of the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development. During her tenure she was instrumental in research, development and implementation of programs for the advancement of the SME sector. She holds a BA in Business Management and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration.
Manuel A. Laboy Rivera is the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce (DEDC) and Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company (PRIDCO) with the mission to attract new investment, promote the creation of new jobs and strengthening of small and medium enterprises. Mr. Laboy Rivera oversees over seven government instrumentalities that include agencies and public corporations. He is an active member of different Boards of Directors such as: PRIDCO; Economic Development Bank; Science and Technology Trust; Port of Las Americas; The Bioprocess Development and Training Complex (BDTC); and Local Redevelopment Authority of Roosevelt Roads. Previously, Mr. Laboy Rivera served in the administration of former Governor of Puerto Rico Luis Fortuño as an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Economic and Commerce. He is a licensed professional engineer with 19 years of experience in various industries and sectors, including manufacturing, chemical production, life sciences, public utilities, export services, renewable energy, infrastructure, technology and project management. Mr. Laboy Rivera has a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez Campus, a Master’s in Business Administration from the University of Turabo in Puerto Rico.

Michael Paul Gay, CecD is the Senior Vice President for Madison Region Economic Partnership (MadREP), Wisconsin. He manages the economic development programming for the regional economic development agency serving the southern region of Wisconsin, including export/import promotion, foreign direct investment, technology transfer, innovation and entrepreneurship, research collaboration, centers of excellence formation, industry cluster research, site selection, and BRE. He has a Masters of Science from UW Madison and a Bachelors of Science from UW Green Bay.
**Patricia (Trish) Kelly** is **Managing Director at Valley Vision**, a regional civic leadership organization serving Northern California. She has 40 years experience leading regional and statewide initiatives in collaborative, cluster-based workforce and economic development strategies; rural development; sustainability; and innovation and competitiveness for federal, state and local agencies; etc. She leads Valley Vision’s portfolios for workforce development and entrepreneurship initiatives; food and agriculture system strategies; and broadband. Workforce development initiatives: development and implementation of the Sacramento Capital Region Workforce Action Plan, for six industry clusters that serve as the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Clusters are: advanced manufacturing, food and ag, ICT, health and life sciences, education and knowledge creation, and clean economy. She is also the regional lead for implementation of the Central Valley Ag Plus Food and Beverage Manufacturing Consortium strategy, the 28-county Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP); serves on the board of the AgStart accelerator, and is on regional advisory committees for food and ag/innovation. She graduated cum laude with a BSL in Spanish from Georgetown University, and holds a Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Cristina Long Paredes** is the **Deputy Director of the Tallahassee, Leon County Office of Economic Vitality**, with over eleven years of local government experience, with the past five years focusing on growing the economic vitality in Tallahassee – Leon County, Florida’s State Capital. In her position as **Deputy Director for Engagement and Operations**, Ms. Paredes brings a strong fiscal and operational background. Ms. Paredes oversees the implementation of the community’s first ever long-range economic development strategic plan and partnerships across the private, public, and educational sectors to convey Tallahassee – Leon County’s economic vitality to businesses. She is committed to building strong alliances and networks across all sectors of the community while working continuously to leverage ideas, innovations and intellectual capital in coordination with economic development partners. She has been leading North – Central Florida’s efforts to serve as a host community for a near future ACE tour. Ms. Paredes earned both her Bachelor degree and Masters in Public Administration from Florida State University.
Maria Magdalena Giuria, for over six years, has been a Project Manager at the National Research and Innovation Agency of Uruguay, a government agency that allocates grants in four areas: research to create new knowledge, talent training in Uruguay and abroad, launching startups or validating business ideas, and innovation within companies. Her responsibilities go from providing assistance to applicant companies assess their project to decide whether they deserve a grant or when they should get one, and advising them during the process. She also assesses the performance of the programs and creates new ones that suit startups and business needs. During the past presidential election in Uruguay, she collaborated in the economics advising team for one of the candidates running for president. She is a certified public accountant with an MBA, both from ORT Uruguay University, where she also teaches a class on “Entrepreneurship and Society” and coaches students during the process of making their business plan.

Ole Johann Janssen, is the Deputy Director General for Innovation and Technology Policy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany. As Deputy Director General “Innovation and Technology Policy”, Mr. Janssen oversees the following units in the subdivision: General issues of national and international innovation and technology policy; Accreditation and conformity assessment, metrology, supervision of Federal Institute for Material Research and Testing (BAM) and German National Metrology Institute (PTB); Central Innovation Programme for SME; Industrial research for companies and innovation guidance for SME. Previously, he had been an Academic assistant at the chair for “general economics focusing on financial and monetary matters” at Greifswald University. Furthermore, he served at the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport of Lower Saxony and as Director at the State Chancellery of Lower Saxony. In 1996 he graduated in economics at Hannover University and in 2002, he earned a Ph.D. with the thesis on Currency Board Systems.
Nikolai Ziegler is a Policy Officer in the “Innovation and Technology Policy” Department at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany. Previously, he served as an academic assistant at Helmut Schmidt University/University of Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg, working as the chair for “Macroeconomics and international economic relations”. He also worked in the innovation and patent advice section at the Hamburg chamber of commerce. In 2010 he was appointed by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs where he worked in the departments of industrial policy and European economic policy before joining the innovation and technology policy department in 2017. He performed a doctoral thesis on “the political economy of international trade negotiations”.

Since 2012, Israel Shamay has been the Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives and Head of the Americas Operations of the Israel Innovation Authority. As such, he is in charge of develop and implement international cooperation platforms for industrial R&D and innovation partnerships in the Americas region, advising the US-Israel BIRD foundation, Canada-Israel industrial R&D foundation and US-Israel Science and Technology Foundation. Previously, he was Head of the Israeli EUREKA Chairmanship Program, focused on developing new financial instruments for innovative companies and on expanding EUREKA’s international dimension with global innovation stakeholders including South Korea and Canada. Moreover, as Executive Director of OCS European Operations, he evaluated industrial innovation cooperation frameworks at bilateral and European level, making them a prominent R&D cooperation instrument for Israeli industry. He also served as Israel’s National Representative in international R&D and innovation programs and an Expert Evaluator for the EU Framework Programs for research. He is a MBA graduate of the Recanati School of Business at the Tel-Aviv University and a B.Sc. graduate of the Technion in Haifa, faculty of Information Systems Engineering.
Dennis Alvord

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs, US Economic Development Administration
US Department of Commerce

Dennis Alvord serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs, directing and supervising the activities of the Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) Office of Regional Affairs (ORA), which includes all six EDA Regional Offices, the Performance and National Programs Division, EDA’s Loan Guarantee Program, the Integrated Economic Development team, and EDA’s Organizational Development. He is the Grants Officer for the agency’s Regional Innovation Strategies program, which awards grants to state, local, non-profit and tribal organizations to create and sustain regional systems of innovation, entrepreneurship and venture capital development. Earlier in his career, Mr. Alvord served in EDA in various positions, including Acting Deputy Assistant Secretaries for ORA and External Affairs. He also led the bureau’s work with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development where he served as Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas.

Previously, Mr. Alvord served as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In this role, he worked on a broad portfolio of department-wide management, operations, program and policy issues. As Senior Advisor, he served as Co-Chair of the Department of Commerce’s 2016-17 Presidential Transition, coordinating efforts across the Department and with the White House and President Elect’s Transition Team. He has also served as Executive Director of BusinessUSA, a multiagency customer service initiative that promotes and improves access to business assistance resources, and as Executive Director of the Department of Commerce’s CommerceConnect initiative, which simplified access to the department’s business solutions.

Before joining the federal government, Mr. Alvord was a Project Manager in the Infrastructure Finance Group of the Bethesda, Maryland-based environmental and transportation consulting firm Apogee Research, Inc.

Mr. Alvord has a Master of Public Administration degree from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the State University of New York College at Cortland. He is a recipient of the 2015 President’s Award for Customer Service.
Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration

US Department of Commerce

Judy Rising Reinke assumed the position of Deputy Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (US&FCS) on June 3, 2013. In this role, Judy serves as the chief operating officer of the U.S. Government’s premier export promotion agency managing its domestic and overseas trade offices.

From August 2010 to June 2013, Judy served as the Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs in New Delhi, India. In this capacity, she was the senior representative of the U.S. Department of Commerce responsible for the operations of the US&FCS in India, supervising the strategic program of seven trade promotion offices and four related agencies.

Prior to this position, Judy served as the Regional Director for Western Europe overseeing the operations of the US&FCS at U.S. Embassies and Consulates in 14 countries in Europe, as well as the US&FCS liaison office at the European Union. Previously, Judy served as the Senior Commercial Officer in Manila, Philippines (2005 to 2008) and in Bangkok, Thailand (2002-2005). She also served as Deputy Senior Commercial Officer in Jakarta, Indonesia from 1999-2002, responsible for overseeing the operations of the U.S. Commercial Center; Commercial Attaché in Bonn, Germany (1993-1998); and Commercial Officer with responsibility for export control matters in Bern, Switzerland (1990-1992). Judy began her career at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. in the Bureau of Export Administration (1986-1990) and in the Import Administration (1983-1986).

Judy holds a Masters in Public Administration from the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University and a Bachelor of Arts from Smith College. Raised in Provo, Utah as the daughter of a U.S. Army Officer, Judy now lives in Falls Church, Virginia with her husband and daughter.
Thomas Debass

**Acting Special Representative for Global Partnerships**

**US Department of State**

**Thomas Debass** serves as the Acting Special Representative for Global Partnerships. Previously, Debass served as the Deputy Special Representative. While serving as the acting special representative, Thomas will continue to be responsible for managing the office and providing thought leadership on partnerships related to economic growth, global finance, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

His recent partnership accomplishments include: Women In Science (WiSci) Camp, Veterans Innovation Partnership (VIP), Liberalizing Innovation Opportunity Nations (LIONS@FRICA), and Unreasonable@State. Thomas has played a leading role in promoting and institutionalizing the role of public private partnerships as a tool for advancing foreign policy and development objectives. He regularly gives lectures and talks about the intersection of foreign policy, business, and society.

Prior to joining the State Department, he was Lead Economist/Deputy Director in the Office of Investment Policy with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) in Washington, DC. Thomas also served as a senior technical advisor in USAID’s Global Development Alliance (currently named Development Lab) and Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (currently named E3) teams.

Prior to his development finance career, Thomas worked on agricultural research projects in Bangladesh and East Africa. Thomas is a graduate of Virginia Tech with a master’s degree in Agricultural and Applied Economics and a bachelor’s in Economics. He also has an Executive Certificate in International Business Management from the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University.
Jorge D. Ayala

Regional Director
US Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
Austin Regional Office

Jorge Ayala was selected as Regional Director of the EDA Austin Regional Office in November 2015. The EDA Austin Regional Office covers a five state area including Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. He and his staff develop and manage the agency’s investments to support jobs, private investment, innovation, entrepreneurship and global competitiveness in the region with a current portfolio of over $300 million in active grants.

For over 20 years he has worked with EDA in several capacities, including Area Director, Director of Operations Management and Project Engineer. In 2016, he received the U.S Department of Commerce Gold Medal Award for his work leading a national EDA team which improved the application process for all grant programs in EDA.

Jorge holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A & M University – Kingsville and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the University of South Florida. He and his wife Caryl live in Austin, TX and they are the proud parents of two sons, Isaac and Steven.

John Atwood

Acting Director of Public Affairs, Economic Development Administration
US Department of Commerce

John Atwood is the Acting Director of Public Affairs for the U.S. Commerce Department’s Economic Development Administration (EDA). John manages the priorities of the office and serves as the primary contact for the media and as a liaison for media relations with the Office of the Secretary. Prior to joining EDA, John served as Special Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs for the Secretary of Commerce where he helped to coordinate inter-office and inter-agency activities and served as a media advance contact on several Secretarial trade missions.
Craig Buerstatte

Acting Director, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Economic Development Administration
US Department of Commerce

Craig is a former Army Officer turned entrepreneur, having first tested his innovation skills in remote areas of Iraq, developing new supply chain solutions when resources were strained. Craig received the Bronze Star Medal for his creative combat leadership and leveraged this experience to found a technology firm in Austin, Texas, and later transitioned into venture capital before returning back to public service in 2014 to help build the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship (OIE) at the US Department of Commerce.

Today, Craig serves as Acting Director for OIE; working to foster a more innovative economy through policy initiatives and grant programs that focus on turning new ideas and inventions into businesses that create jobs, increase competitiveness, and economic growth. This capacity-building mindset is the focus of the Regional Innovation Strategies Program, OIE’s flagship grant program that has deployed over $40 million to support business incubators, accelerators and the creation of early-stage venture funds.

Craig earned a B.S. in Economics from The United States Military Academy at West Point, and an MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University, but learned much more from founding businesses and working with startups.

Henry Childs II

Special Advisor, Economic Development Administration
US Department of Commerce

Henry Childs II serves as a principal advisor to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) senior leadership on economic development responsibilities and activities. Supports effective partnerships with other federal agencies, national organizations and international organizations concerned with economic development. Guides and coordinates the strategic planning process and directs the implementation of the activities necessary to achieve EDA goals and objectives. Provides direction and coordination to the Offices of Chief Counsel, Regional Affairs, Finance and Management Services, External Affairs, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
Matthew Giannini

**Area Director, Economic Development Administration**
**US Department of Commerce**

Matthew Giannini is the Area Director for the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). He is one of four voting members on the Investment Review Committee which determines the amount of economic development capital deployed throughout the Austin Regional Office region – New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.

Over the course of the last three years, Matthew has actively developed, processed and administered approximately $150 million in Economic Development investments. These investments projected a job creation amount exceeding 20,000 jobs and a private investment of nearly $3 billion.

Committed to the field of economic development, Matthew continuously strives to further educate himself in an effort to better assist his stakeholders. He is the regional expert within the Austin Regional office of EDA related to project development, constructability of projects, federal and state environmental laws, discounted cash flow valuations, and contract negotiations. His ability to see the “whole” economic development picture is the primary reason he is the youngest Area Director in the history of EDA.

Matthew has received numerous accolades while working for EDA including the Department of Commerce Gold Medal Honor Award - the highest form of honorary recognition of the Department of Commerce - for an automation program that has the potential to saves tax payers approximately $2 million over the course of five years. He was also a 2015 finalist for the Austin Under 40 Award for leadership within his industry and commitment to the Austin community.

Before joining EDA in 2010, Matthew worked as an Engineering Associate for three years at a large national civil engineering firm in the real estate development sector. Mathew is a veteran of the United States Army where he proudly severed in the 1st Calvary Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He holds both a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin as well as a Masters of Business Administration from The University of Texas at San Antonio. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level II candidate.

He considers his greatest accomplishment to be convincing his beautiful wife, Amy, to marry him. Matthew resides in Round Rock, Texas with his wife, Amy, daughter, Avery, sons, Joseph and Nicolas. He is an avid golfer and a huge Horns fan! Hook’em!
Dr. Barrett Haga

**Acting Senior Advisor, Economic Development Administration**  
**US Department of Commerce**

**Barrett Haga**, Ph.D. - Dr. Haga joined the Economic Development Administration (EDA) - U.S. Department of Commerce in April 2010 as the Senior Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist. He assists in coordinating two divisions (The Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Office of the Executive Secretariat). As a member of EDA’s senior leadership, he is also serving as the Executive Secretary for Skills for the Skills for Business Coordinating Council and the Acting Senior Advisor to the entire agency.

Prior to joining EDA, he worked at the U.S. Department of Labor advising senior leadership on economic development, workforce, competency modeling, and outreach projects relating to healthcare, alternative energy, and manufacturing. His other employment experience includes working for the Florida Community College System, the Florida Office of the Attorney General, the Florida Department of Education, the United States Senate, and the United States House of Representatives.

Dr. Haga holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development; a M.P.A. in Public Administration and Policy from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University; and a double B.A. in Political Science and Greek and Roman Studies from Rhodes College.

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Malinda Matson

**Economic Development Representative, Economic Development Administration**  
**US Department of Commerce**

**Malinda Matson** has served, since 2014, as the Economic Development Representative for Northern and Coastal California for the Seattle Regional Office. As an EDA field representative, she works with local governments, non-profits, and institutions of higher education to develop Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies and identify projects to development into grant applications for EDA funding. She has been with Economic Development Administration since early 2010. Serving first in External Affairs as a Congressional Affairs Specialist in Washington, DC.

Prior to coming to EDA Malinda served 8 years as the Chief of Staff for the Resident Representative for the Northern Marianas in Washington DC and twelve years as Director of Planning for Northern Marianas College on Saipan.

Malinda holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Austin College in Sherman Texas and 2 Masters Degrees from the University of Oklahoma in Norman. She lives in Vacaville, California.
Daniel Villanueva

**Foreign Service Officer**
**US State Department**

Daniel Villanueva is a fourth tour Political officer with the Department of State. He took up his responsibilities as a Development Officer with the U.S. Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States in October 2015. He negotiates issues related to economic growth and sustainable development for the USG and manages a portfolio of regional initiatives in energy, MSME development, urban sustainability, and tourism. Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Villanueva served as the Deputy Political Chief at U.S. Consulate General, Basrah, Iraq in September 2015, completed a consular-economic rotation at U.S. Embassy Bogota and served as the Assistant Public Affairs Officer at U.S. Embassy Luanda. Mr. Villanueva joined the Foreign Service in 2009 as a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow. The recipient of a State Department Meritorious Honor award and multiple Franklin awards, Mr. Villanueva speaks Portuguese and Spanish.

Before joining the Foreign Service, Mr. Villanueva earned a Master of Arts degree in international relations from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Florida. Mr. Villanueva served as a Department of State intern at U.S. Embassy Doha and with the Near Eastern Affairs Bureau’s Press and Public Diplomacy Office. Additionally, he interned with Ireland’s Labor Party and studied abroad in Chile, his father’s birthplace. Mr. Villanueva was born in Michigan and raised in Florida.

Sally Waley

**Senior Economic Development Specialist, Economic Development Administration**
**US Department of Commerce**

Sally Waley is the Senior Economic Development Specialist covering regional and non-state specific initiatives for EDA’s Southwest Region. A native Austinite and proud University of Texas Longhorn, she has also spent time in Washington D.C. and overseas developing a career focused on building prosperity through collaborative partnerships and integrative planning.

Sally first got her toes wet with government service through an International Trade Administration internship while completing her M.A. at George Mason University. She enjoyed working in the D.C. non-profit and think-tank sector, but after three years in policy work, Sally was extremely pleased to have the opportunity to balance out her international development experience with a boots-on-the-ground service position in Peace Corps Cambodia. All of these experiences have helped shape her sustainable worldview and her commitment to service.

Locally, Sally serves on the board of the Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association and the steering committee for Austin’s International Business Coalition.
Leslie Wilson

International Trade Specialist, International Trade Administration
US Department of Commerce

Leslie Wilson is an International Trade Specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce, specializing in trade and investment policy issues with Mexico and Canada. In this capacity, Wilson assists U.S. companies facing trade and market access barriers in Mexico and Canada. She also supports a number of binational and multilateral policy engagements, focusing on innovation, asset mapping, women’s entrepreneurship, and energy initiatives in North America. In her role, Wilson also provides analysis related to trade agreement negotiations, specifically with the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the North American Free Trade Agreement. She is also active in developing robust stakeholder outreach to support these efforts.

Wilson holds her Bachelor’s degree in International Business from the University of San Diego and her Master of Arts in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Her interests include the effects of trade on developing economies, economic development strategies, the role that public-private partnerships play in enhancing economic integration and competitiveness, and economic drivers of migration.
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Inter-American Competitiveness Network
Kim Osborne

Executive Secretary for Integral Development
Organization of American States (OAS)

For almost two decades Kim Osborne has dedicated herself to the socio-economic development of the Latin American and Caribbean region. As a pioneer of the OAS Small Tourism Enterprise Program, an internationally recognized best practice, she focused on assisting small and medium enterprises achieve competitiveness and profitability by combining internationally recognized standards with high-value products, targeted marketing and branding. She is co-author of the Business Management and Operations Manual for Small Hotels and led the tourism training and capacity building program in the region.

From 2008 to 2011, she was appointed as the OAS Country Representative to Belize and in that role managed the OAS’ programs and relations with that country; navigating the political spectrum, while implementing numerous initiatives on sustainable livelihoods, institutional capacity building, tourism training and certification, women’s empowerment, among others. Osborne is a founding member of the Center for Community Resource Development, an NGO set up to assist the most disadvantaged communities, by combating poverty through the application of an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) methodology.

More recently, Osborne has served as the head of the Technical Cooperation Section at the OAS Secretariat for Integral Development where she oversaw the Organization’s Development Cooperation and partnerships program. In that capacity she led the re-structuring of the OAS Development Cooperation Fund and spearheaded the application of an alliance model to maximize multi-stakeholder partnerships for development and south-south cooperation.

Ms. Osborne has successfully negotiated and secured several partnership agreements with international and regional organizations to foster the work of the OAS in the hemisphere. She is a three-time winner of the organization’s outstanding performance award and in 2016 was elected as President of the Staff Association, where she led the effort towards the establishment of the OAS’ alternative work schedule scheme.

Before joining the OAS, Ms. Osborne was employed at the National Development Corporation of Dominica and has also held private sector positions in both Dominica and the Netherlands Antilles. She holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Management and Bachelor’s degree on Hospitality Management-Travel and Tourism Studies.
Dr. Maryse Robert

**Director of the Department of Economic Development**

**Organization of American States (OAS)**

**Maryse Robert** is director of the Department of Economic Development (DED) in the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) at the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS). DED promotes inclusive economic growth, competitiveness and innovation in OAS member states through policy dialogue, institutional capacity building and the strengthening of existing networks to facilitate the exchange of experiences and successful practices particularly through horizontal and triangular cooperation. Dr. Robert, a Canadian national, has authored numerous studies on development-related issues. She is the coeditor with José M. Salazar-Xirinachs of Toward Free Trade in the Americas/Hacia el librecomercio en las Américas (Brookings Institution Press/OAS, 2001) and the author of Negotiating NAFTA: Explaining the Outcome in Culture, Textiles, Autos, and Pharmaceuticals (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000). She is an economist with training in international trade law. She holds a Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) and a Master’s degree in applied economics from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) (Montreal, Canada). Before joining the OAS, she worked at the World Bank and the United Nations, and in the private sector on telecom issues.
Cesar Parga

Chief of the Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology of the Department of Economic Development

Organization of American States (OAS)

Cesar Parga is Chief of the Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology of the Department of Economic Development of the Organization of American States (OAS). Mr. Parga is in charge of the OAS Competitiveness Program which serves as Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network, a forum that promotes public policy dialogue and exchange of experiences between high-level authorities and public-private Competitiveness Councils of the region. He also coordinates the support to the Meeting of Ministers and High level Authorities on Science and Technology and the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT).

Mr. Parga is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown Law Center in Washington DC. He graduated from the Law School of the University of Guadalajara, México and was awarded a Master of Laws Degree (LL.M.) in Patent and Intellectual Property Rights (IP) at the Law School of the George Washington University. He also received a Post-Graduate Certificate on International Trade from the University Institute of European Studies and the ILO International Training Center in Torino, Italy.

He serves as faculty guide of the Executive MBA Program of the McDonough School of Business of Georgetown University and guest lecturer at the American University Law School in Washington D.C., the IP Licensing Academy of U.C. Davis, California and the Tech Transfer Academy of the Americas in La Paz, B.C.S., Mexico. He was a visiting researcher at the National University of Singapore, guest lecturer of the University of Baylor Law School and of the IP Graduate Program at the University of the Americas in Ecuador. He has collaborated as a volunteer international evaluator of technology transfer projects for INNPULSA, Colombia, and as peer reviewer of the ICC’s innovation and intellectual property paper series in 2014-15.
Adriana Bonilla

Program Coordinator, Inter-American Competitiveness Network Technical Secretariat
Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology
Organization of American States (OAS)

Adriana Bonilla is Program Coordinator of the RIAC Technical Secretariat at the Organization of American States with over 15 years of experience in innovation, entrepreneurship, marketing, and communication strategies. In her role, Adriana is in charge to oversee, supervise and execute several projects, in particular, the Americas Competitiveness Exchange program, the Americas Competitiveness Forum that takes place every 18 months in a different country of the Americas, the preparation and publication of the Signs of Competitiveness Report. In her daily work, Adriana interacts with over 400 regional contacts in the Americas in the fields of science and technology, competitiveness, innovation, education, and SMEs development.

Prior to her work in the OAS (2007 - present), Adriana worked at ProColombia (former ProExport), as Marketing Strategist at Orbitel Company, and in the International Cooperation Section at the Embassy of Colombia in Spain. She has also been an entrepreneur with a candy company (FAD) and co-founder of a Colombian initiative called “A Smile for Colombia.” She currently serves as Board Member at Quantica Company where social entrepreneurship expansion is the core mission.

The OAS specialist is Colombian, a fierce defender of gender equality, and passionate for initiatives that improve the well-being of the countries and citizens of the Americas.
Aryanne Quintal

Coordinator in the Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology Section
Organization of American States (OAS)

Aryanne Quintal is a Project Coordinator in the Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology Section of the Organization of American States (OAS). In her current position, she is responsible for a number of multilateral initiatives related to engineering education; gender equity and equality in STEM; inclusive innovation; technology transfer and commercialization; national quality infrastructure and technological development in the Americas. Since 2011, Aryanne has participated in the formulation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of over 40 economic development initiatives aiming to foster political dialogue and enhance collaboration among OAS member states. Ms. Quintal also provides support to hemispheric high-level dialogues, including the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology; the Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology; and the Americas Competitiveness Forum, the largest regional forum of its kind on innovation, entrepreneurship and economic development.

Previous to her current position, Ms. Quintal worked for the Embassy of Canada in Uruguay and participated in various development projects throughout Latin America, first in Peru, and later in Ecuador and Bolivia. Ms. Quintal holds a Master’s degree in International Relations, Foreign Policy, Cooperation and Development from the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM).
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