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Leveraging Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce



Gilberto Atayde

Gilberto Atayde's illustrious career is distinguished by a wealth of experience acquired during his tenure at the fifth largest organization in the nation. In this capacity, he assumed a pivotal role in supporting global call center operations and successfully overseeing multimillion-dollar projects around the world. With expertise in project management, organizational design, communication, Six Sigma methodology, employee development, and data analytics, he has a proven track record of delivering results. As the executive director for the Greater North Texas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, he is dedicated to

amplifying the voices of small business owners and making a positive impact in the community. Through his advocacy, collaborative efforts, and program development, he has successfully fostered growth and supported the success of businesses within his organizations.



Ben Coogan

Ben Coogan was named chief executive officer at Medical City Plano and Medical City Frisco in 2023. Together, both hospitals comprise over 700 acute care beds and 3,000 employees. Coogan's healthcare career spans nearly two decades, with leadership roles in several Medical City Healthcare facilities. Coogan previously served as CEO of Medical City Fort Worth since 2021, where his leadership contributed to the successful launch of new services including the expansion of solid organ transplant services. He also led more than \$30 million facility expansion and capital projects. Prior to joining Medical City Fort Worth,

Coogan served as chief operating officer at Medical City Dallas, Medical City Children's Hospital and Medical City Arlington. Coogan holds a Bachelor of Psychology from Texas A&M University and a Master of Business Administration in Health Services Management from the University of North Texas. He is a board member of the American Heart Association and an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.



Robert Flores

Robert Flores is an associate director for the Integrated Talent Development team at Raytheon. Flores is an Operations and Supply Chain professional with 20+ years of experience in a large variety of challenging roles and assignments. He earned a BBS in Information & Operations Management from Texas A&M – College Station before serving in the U.S. Army as an Air Defense

Artillery Officer. After the army, Flores worked as a commercial automotive manufacturing supervisor for Peterbilt Motors Company while he earned an MBA in Strategic Management from the University of North Texas. Flores has worked with the Raytheon team since 2008, and he's held the following titles (among others): factory supervisor, manufacturing engineer, development program operations manager, material analyst, proposal manager, supplier diversity business lead, small business liaison officer, strategic products lead, and product line leader. Now, he is responsible for attracting, onboarding, developing, empowering, and retaining an agile and confident workforce through programs like internships, rotation programs, and apprenticeships.



Moderated by Phedra Redifer

As the executive director of Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas (WSNCT), Redifer oversees the WSNCT region of 14 counties, 12 workforce centers and 50 staff, with an annual workforce development budget in excess of \$130 million. Redifer is an effective workforce development advocate who harnesses the combined power of workforce, industry and education to transform lives, businesses, and the economy in North Central

Texas. Joining WSNCT in September 2021 and quickly establishing herself as a workforce innovator, Redifer thrives on fostering collaborative partnerships that redefine what's possible for workforce systems. She has convened education, economic development, business, county, and community leaders to develop new processes, programs, and strategic priorities to ensure the workforce system adapts and responds quickly to our ever-changing world of work. Under Redifer's leadership, WSNCT recently received two awards from the Texas Workforce Commission totaling \$125,000 for overall Service to Employers and in recognition of its efforts to increase awareness about and expand Registered Apprenticeship Programs in the region.

Redifer is an accomplished executive with more than 20 years of local government, special purpose district and public/private-sector expertise. Prior to joining WSNCT, Redifer served with the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, for 15 years, where she most recently held the position of regional parks and attractions deputy director. Prior to that, she was event manager for the Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook from 2002 to 2004 and special events manager for the City of Dallas, Texas, from 1999 to 2002. Redifer serves as a Trustee of the Workforce Development Council of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. She has also been selected to participate in the 2023-2024 Leadership North Texas Class 15 through the North Texas Commission.

The Changing Media Landscape in Collin County



Chris Cobler

Chris Cobler is the founding publisher and CEO of the Fort Worth Report, a nonprofit and nonpartisan news organization that launched in April 2021. A longtime news leader, he started his career as a reporter in his hometown at the Topeka, Kansas, Capital-Journal and then worked at newspapers in Colorado, South Dakota, and Texas, where he was editor and publisher of the Victoria Advocate. As editor, he led two newspapers to recognition as the best in the country for their size and to national honors for diversity. He also received the first Donald J. Reynolds

Nieman Fellowship for community journalism at Harvard University; the Texas Daily Newspaper Association Editorial Achievement Award for courage and commitment to open government; and the Texas Press Association Frank W. Mayborn Award for Community Leadership. He is a current board member and past president of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.



Chad Engbrock

Chad Engbrock, publisher of C&S Media, has spent his decades-long professional career in the publishing industry. His career began with a major daily in Dallas before taking the leap to entrepreneurship, forming C&S Media and purchasing his first newspaper, The Wylie News, 30 years ago. Today, Engbrock manages the overall print and digital operations of C&S Media publications which includes The Wylie News (est. 1948), The Farmersville Times (est. 1885), The Murphy Monitor (est. 2005), The Princeton Herald (est. 1970), The Sachse News

(est. 2005), and In & Around Magazine (est. 1994). He currently serves on the Legislative Action Committee for the Texas Press Association, and he is a board member and past president of the Farmersville Rotary Club. In addition, Engbrock has served on the boards of Texas Press Association, North & East Texas Press Association, Sachse Chamber of Commerce, Wylie Downtown Merchants Association, Wylie Chamber of Commerce, and the Collin College Foundation.



June Jenkins

June Jenkins is founder, chairman, and CEO of Collin County Noir LLC, publisher of *Noir Lifestyles of Collin County*. Noir Lifestyles, launched in March 2022, is a quarterly digital magazine and weekly e-newsletter focusing on the culture and lifestyles of Black and other minorities in and around the Collin County area. June is a 36-year resident of Collin County, living primarily in Plano, where, in 1997, she started ECP Legacy Group Inc., a promotional marketing agency. At ECP, June enjoys working with clients to identify the best solutions for their branding strategies. June is passionate about serving underrepresented communities. Her husband, the late Charles Jenkins, was the manager of the City of Plano jail, and their shared commitment to helping others in the

community was instrumental in June's commitment to lead efforts to re-activate the Collin County Branch of the NAACP, where she is currently serving her third term as branch president. June recently founded The Equity Factor, a nonprofit organization that identifies factors in a community that creates inequity and builds programs that provide access to resources for people of color through awareness, education, communication, events, and training. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Math and Computer Science from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. June has over 37 years of experience in marketing and information technology (IT) consulting, including 16 years with Electronic Data Systems Corp. (EDS). In addition to the Collin County NAACP, June is a member of the Junior League of Collin County and the Plano Metro Rotary Club.



Rebecca Rodriguez

Rebecca Rodriguez is a communications strategist with expertise in media relations, crisis communications, and government affairs in the nonprofit, public, and private sectors. She is a recognized innovator with experience in content development, video production, web design, and multi-platform marketing strategies to maximize social media and public engagement. Rodriguez formerly served the City of Arlington as marketing and communications manager, where she launched several innovative communication initiatives and platforms, and the Dallas Independent School District, where she served as chief of communications. Rodriguez joined the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History as VP of Marketing and Community Relations in 2015 and most recently served the

U.S. House of Representatives in the office of Congresswoman Kay Granger (TX-12) as district

director. Rodriguez served as a member of Fort Worth's Cultural District Alliance board and the Visit Fort Worth Advisory Committee and has served in Arlington on various boards and committees. She currently volunteers with Casa Mañana, the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts, and First United Methodist Church of Arlington.



Moderated by Steve Matthews

Steve Matthews serves as senior vice president at Collin College and is responsible for advancement, communications, governmental affairs, strategic partnerships, and Corporate College. He has served as chairman of the chambers of commerce in Allen, Frisco, and Plano, and as chairman of the Allen Economic Development Corporation, among other organizations. Matthews is a sixth-generation Texan, and previously spent three decades in the utility industry with responsibility for governmental and public affairs. A former Rotarian and Paul Harris Fellow, he is a graduate of Leadership Allen, Leadership Plano, Leadership Richardson, and Leadership North Texas.

Behavioral Health in Collin County



Jennifer Akins

Jennifer Akins is a certified school counselor (CSC) and a licensed professional counselor (LPC). Akins holds a M.Ed. in School Counseling from Dallas Baptist University, as well as a B.S. in Neuroscience and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Texas at Dallas. Akins currently serves as the senior director of Guidance and Counseling in McKinney ISD, a district of approximately 24,000 students in Texas. Akins also has a

small private practice where she has specialized in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for individuals, couples, and families. Akins believes strongly in the impact of mental and emotional wellness on learning. She has a professional interest in the areas of intrapersonal neurobiology and emotional regulation. She serves on the Collin County Systems of Care team, the board of the Coalition for Behavioral Health in Collin County and is currently serving as the past-president for the Texas School Counselor Association in 2023. She received the Texas Counseling Association Award for Outstanding Research in 2015 for her work on best practices in postsecondary advising. In 2020, Akins represented the Texas School Counselor Association on the Texas Education Agency's committee for the development of the Effective Advising Framework.



Tammy Mahan, MA, LPC-S

Tammy Mahan is the chief executive officer for LifePath Systems, Collin County's designated Community Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities Center. She has a master's degree in counseling from Midwestern State University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She began her career at LifePath Systems in 1995 working in mental health outpatient services. Over the years, she has held multiple programmatic and management positions at LifePath including director of Behavioral Health and chief operating officer. She stepped into the CEO role in February of 2020, just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mahan is a member of the Rotary Club of McKinney, the secretary of the Rotary Foundation, a board member of the Homeless Collaborative for Dallas and Collin Counties, and an executive

board member of the Coalition for Behavioral Healthcare in Collin County.



The Hon. Cheryl Williams
Collin County Commissioner, Precinct 2

Cheryl Williams’s civic service began on the Plano City Council, where she was elected three times at-large. In 2010, Williams was elected to the Collin County Commissioners Court, Precinct 2, where she represents portions of southeastern Collin County. Williams serves on the Regional Transportation Council, Coalition for Behavioral Healthcare in Collin County, Collin County Criminal Justice Committee, and is chairman of the NETEX Board. With a business background, she founded Williams Consulting group, specializing in management, accounting, and land use consulting. Williams also serves

on the Chairman’s Council for Texas Health Resources Plano, the Catholic Foundation Advisory Board, Blue Candlelight Music Series, Plano Community Relations Commission, Plano East Senior High School-Based Improvement Committee, and a variety of other community organizations. Williams graduated from Southern Methodist University, B.B.A. Major in Finance, Minor in Economics. She and her husband, Don, live in the Sherrill Park neighborhood in the City of Richardson. They have two adult sons, both of whom are fourth-generation Texans.



Kelly Rentzel

Kelly Rentzel serves as general counsel of First Foundation Bank. Prior to her current role, Rentzel was General Counsel of Texas Capital Bank, where she worked for nine years. Before joining the banking sector, Rentzel worked as a litigator at Baker Botts LLP and as a federal court staff attorney. Rentzel is an honors graduate of both the Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University and Rice University. While at Rice, she learned she had bipolar I disorder. Since first speaking publicly about her mental illness in August 2017, Rentzel has spoken to audiences across the country about successfully living with bipolar disorder. Her TEDx talk on the subject has

been viewed more than 60,000 times. Rentzel has received several awards for her advocacy, most notably a Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU. Her story has been featured in several publications, including *The Dallas Morning News* and *The Houston Chronicle*. Rentzel’s greatest inspiration is her 13-year-old daughter, Catie, who still thinks Mom is pretty boring.



Moderated by Dana Bickford

Dana Bickford currently serves as president and board chair of the Coalition for Behavioral Healthcare in Collin County. His behavioral health education started when one of his adult sons, Aaron, graduated from The University of Texas at Dallas in 2003 and – rather than pursuing law school as he had planned – immediately began self-medicating for a deep, undiagnosed mental health condition, which resulted in a multi-year active alcohol and severe heroin addiction, followed by a 2009 diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder II. In 2012 Aaron graduated from the Texas A&M Graduate Social Work program, worked for LifePath Systems for nine years counseling addicts and alcoholics, and recently joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs staff in Bonham in a substance use and mental health role treating military veterans. In July, the entire family celebrated 11 years of his sobriety. Dana’s career spanned 20+ years in banking, primarily with JPMorgan Chase and its Texas predecessors, as VP-Finance of a distressed Fortune 200 distribution company, and as president and board chair of a small optics technology firm based in North Hollywood, California. Since 2010 he has served in program and project management roles inside financial institutions to resolve high profile regulatory matters.

The Impact of Practicing Civil Discourse



The Hon. Sam Abiog
Trustee, Allen ISD

Sam Abiog was elected to serve on the Allen ISD Board of Trustees in May 2022. She graduated from Karachi University with a bachelor of arts and has an associate degree in Business Administration, Marketing from the Canadian College of Business. Sam and her husband, Rolly, and family moved to Allen in 2007. Three of her daughters graduated from Texas A&M University, and the youngest is a senior at Allen High School. Professionally, she has experience in project and proposal management with Hewlett-Packard in Canada and Ericsson Telecom in Pakistan, Kuwait, and Canada for over 10 years. Sam has been an active AISD parent serving with PTA in various capacities and participated in district committees for the past 14 years. Her leadership experience includes PTA President of Ereckson Middle School and at the Lowery Freshman Center and Allen High School. Sam also is the recipient of PTA's Extended Lifetime Service Award. Her additional volunteer service to Allen ISD included serving as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee (2015) and Corporate Sponsorship Coordinator for the AHS Tournament of Roses Parade Committee (2016). She has also served as a parent booster club volunteer with AHS Band, AHS Golf, AHS Softball and is currently Membership Chair for AHS Choir Booster Club. Lastly, Sam is a recent graduate of Allen ISD's Leadership Academy class of 2022.



The Hon. David Bristol
Mayor, Town of Prosper

David Bristol and his family have lived in Prosper since 2001. Bristol's first career was in the military. He is a 1987 graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy and former active-duty fighter pilot. He flew F-111Fs and F-15Es while he and his family lived in Europe and was deployed to numerous contingency operations throughout the world. He is a decorated combat veteran and has been awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross as well as many other citations and awards. In 1997, Bristol co-founded Employee Solutions, a regional staffing firm. Prior to its sale, this company created over 3,000 jobs, and generated over \$1 billion in revenue. Bristol is also the co-founder of Trinity Captive Group and a partner in several other local businesses. In

addition to his professional accomplishments, Bristol has been dedicated to the Town of Prosper. He served on the Prosper Town Council from 2004-2008 and was twice elected mayor pro tem before being elected mayor in 2022. Since 2016, he has served on the Prosper Economic Development Corporation, most recently as president. Bristol's service also extends regionally, as the current chairman of the North Central Texas Workforce Development Board and as Governor Greg Abbott's appointee to the Red River Boundary Commission.



Jason Galui

Jason J. Galui is the director for Veterans and Military Families at the George W. Bush Institute, the founder and CEO of *4 Liberty Consulting LLC* creatively collaborating at the nexus of business, government, and academia, and a professor of practice in executive education at the Edwin L. Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University (SMU), where he leads the [The Commercial Diplomacy Initiative](#). Throughout a unique military career, Galui led soldiers in combat, taught economics to West Point cadets, and advised the most senior U.S. leaders in the Pentagon and in two very different White Houses. As deputy executive secretary of the National Security Council and chief of staff to the National Security Advisor, Galui served as a key point of national security continuity between the Obama and Trump administrations during the 2017 Presidential Transition. During his second White House experience (2019-2020), Galui was Senior Advisor for National Security at the Council of Economic Advisers. Prior to his White House contributions, Galui personally advised General Martin E. Dempsey, the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Indo-Pacific issues, Afghanistan, and on keeping faith with the military family. A two-time assistant professor of economics in the Department of Social Sciences at the United States Military Academy, Galui taught and mentored two generations of West Point cadets. He deployed to Kabul in 2011-2012 serving as strategic advisor to the Commanding General of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, and in 2003 Galui led soldiers into combat during the U.S. invasion of Iraq.



Mary Ann Moon, CEcD, FM, HLM

Mary Ann Moon is the executive director of the Prosper Economic Development Corporation. Moon represents Prosper, Texas and Collin County on the North Central Texas Economic Development District Board of Directors. Prior to joining the PEDC, Moon served as The Southeast Economic Development, Business and Transportation, and Coastal Restoration Director for AECOM, the world's largest engineering firm. Moon also served as the vice president of economic development and marketing for Tice Engineering, Inc., Ridgeland and Wiggins, and the State of Mississippi. She was the 2018 and 2019 Dean of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute. She previously served as assistant dean, director of mentoring, and curriculum chairman. Moon facilitates strategic planning, visioning, and community development initiatives for communities throughout the country. In addition to economic development-led programs, Moon also developed and leads *Employer Engagement* instruction for those individuals and organizations providing Workforce programs and assistance. Moon's motto is "Never presume to know what an individual or community needs. Rather, ask."



Moderated by Dr. Roger Widmer

Dr. Roger Widmer has a career in higher education that spans 30+ years. He currently serves as the chief operating officer of Collin Corporate College. He has held administrative positions with private institutions in California, Texas, Arizona, Tennessee, Illinois, and West Virginia, including the presidency of Ellis University in Chicago, and Argosy University's Phoenix, Nashville, and suburban Chicago campuses. Dr. Widmer holds a doctoral degree from the University of Sarasota in higher education administration and a master's in counseling from Liberty University.

How Technology is Changing Transportation



Natalie Flores

With a seven-year career in the automotive industry, Natalie Flores has served as service operations manager for Rivian for over two years. Flores received a degree in Automotive Technology from Rio Hondo College and completed a manufacturer-based technical program, paving her way into the industry as an electric vehicle technician. After a year of utilizing her mechanical skill set in automotive service, she obtained an instructor role teaching up-and-coming EV technicians for a manufacturer-based program. Flores enjoys providing foundational automotive knowledge to students and highlighting successful journeys and career development that come with graduating as a skilled technician. During her time as an instructor, she worked closely with service leadership to implement curriculum development and ensure students were well-versed with Service Center processes to set them up for success upon graduation. After providing instruction and graduating several successful classes, Flores' career journey brought her back to service in a manager role. She is passionate about her career, owing many of her accomplishments to receiving an education in technical trades.



Harry Hartfield

Harry Hartfield leads government affairs for Uber and Uber Eats in more than 10 states across the south including Texas. Prior to Uber, he helped lead communications and government affairs for Amazon's in house delivery services, including drone deliveries. He worked for several years in public policy, working for the Bloomberg administration in New York City.



Ian Kinne

Ian Kinne serves as director of logistics innovation at Hillwood, the developer of AllianceTexas and leader of the Mobility Innovation Zone. Kinne leads the planning and implementation of the surface freight innovation program and affiliated real estate and investment opportunities. He works with established global corporate leaders as well as mid to late-stage, logistics-focused companies to encourage technology commercialization within the Mobility Innovation Zone. Ultimately, these efforts drive the future of mobility and supply chain efficiencies for Hillwood's partners and the region.



Moderated by Drew Campbell

Drew Campbell has 42 years of consulting experience that included working for the Associated Motor Carriers of Oklahoma and culminated in a 25-year stint with the New Car Dealers Association of Metropolitan Dallas, Inc as its CEO. During his tenure with the associations, he forged countless relationships with business leaders and elected leaders at the local, state, and federal levels. Since opening Capitol Insights in 2009, Campbell has brought his many skills to represent a variety of clients and business interests, including major financial, transportation, manufacturing, and telecommunications interests. Campbell is also the executive director of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition, a transportation advocacy group made up of cities, counties, and transportation agencies with a primary mission to advance critical mobility projects through advocacy efforts with state and federal elected officials and regional transportation agencies.

Criminal Justice Reform and the Workplace



Jason Clark

Jason Clark is the chief of staff for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). Clark began his career with the criminal justice system at the age of 18. During his senior year of college, Clark joined Dan Rather at the CBS Evening News for an internship. He would go on to hold a variety of positions in the media industry including producer, reporter, anchor, and bureau chief. Jason transitioned from television news back into state government in 2006, joining TDCJ as a Public Information Officer. In 2013, Clark was promoted to Director of Public Information where he served as the chief spokesman, a senior advisor, and was responsible for the overall communication strategy of the agency. Clark was named Deputy Chief of Staff for the department in 2017, and in May 2018, he was appointed Chief of Staff. In his current role, he helps lead one of the largest criminal justice systems in the country which is responsible for the confinement and care of over 130,000 felony inmates, the supervision of roughly 283,000 more inmates on probation or parole, and the management of approximately 32,000 employees statewide. He is married to his high school sweetheart, and they have two wonderful children.



Christina Melton Crain, Esq.

Christina Melton Crain, Esq. has dedicated her career to improving all aspects of the criminal justice system. Today, she continues that mission as founder and president/CEO of Unlocking Doors®, an innovative Dallas-based reentry organization providing a road to success for countless men and women wanting to start over after incarceration – through a unique model called “Reentry Brokerage®,” which treats criminal justice reentry as a business, using digital innovation to track deliverables and outcomes. In Unlocking Doors’® short 14-year history, Crain has sparked an atmosphere of aggressive growth that has quickly pushed forward the organization’s mission to improve and advance public safety by reducing repeat crime. By keeping people from returning to prison, Unlocking Doors® provides considerable relief to the state’s economy. Crain is the former chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice – the oversight board for the incarceration, parole, and probation of Texas adult felons – and she is the first and only woman ever to lead the nine-member board. She has a Texas state prison named in her honor: The Christina Melton Crain Unit in Gatesville. While at the Texas

Department of Criminal Justice, Crain implemented many successful programs, such as GO KIDS (Giving Offenders' Kids Incentive and Direction to Succeed) and the widely recognized AMACHI Texas mentoring initiative, which provides hope to the children of incarcerated offenders. In her law practice, Crain specializes in child/juvenile representation, mediation, and legislative issues. In March 2019, Crain was appointed to a six-year term on The University of Texas System Board of Regents by Governor Greg Abbott.



Nan Gibson

Nan Gibson is the executive director for Second Chance, Economic Security Net, and Careers & Skills at the JPMorgan Chase PolicyCenter. In this role, she works to develop and advance evidence-based policy solutions to drive inclusive economic growth by bringing together global expertise, data, research, and philanthropic investments. Gibson works with policy, community, and business leaders to drive effective public policy solutions at all levels of government. She provides policy expertise across a broad range of economic issues and conducts outreach to key stakeholders to build unique partnerships for initiatives related to economic security and workforce development. She works closely with criminal justice reform leaders to advance policies that lower barriers to employment and create greater economic opportunity for individuals involved in the justice system. Gibson developed the strategic framework and co-leads the corporate recruitment and programmatic work of the Second Chance Business Coalition, a group of more than 40 large companies committed to implementing second chance employment practices and advancement strategies. She also develops best practices for serving the financial services needs of older consumers and combating elder financial exploitation.



The Hon. Angela Tucker District Judge, 199th District Court

Judge Angela Tucker received her undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin and attended law school at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. She currently is the presiding Judge of the 199th District Court in Collin County which is a general jurisdiction court hearing civil, criminal, family, and Child Protective Services cases. She also created and manages a Family Preservation CPS Drug Court. Judge Tucker was elected to the position of State District Judge on May 29, 2012, in an historic election. She is the first African American Judge to serve in the 170-year

history of Collin County. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Tucker worked as an assistant district attorney and in private practice for 16 years. Her vast legal knowledge and experience in the areas of civil, criminal, family, juvenile, and CPS cases prepared her for the bench and has earned her notable awards and positions. In 2014, Judge Tucker was appointed to the Judicial Advisory Council (JAC) by the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court. In 2015, she was selected to be a member of the Children’s Justice Act Task Force for the State of Texas. In 2016, Judge Tucker became the first woman to hold the position of Local Administrative Judge for the Districts Courts in Collin County. In 2018, she was appointed to the Specialty Courts Advisory Committee (SCAC) through the Governor’s Office. In November 2021, Judge Tucker was elected to the Board of Directors for the Texas Center for the Judiciary. She also serves as chair of the TCJ Curriculum Committee and is a member of the faculty. Additionally, she has earned the “Masters” level in the Curt B. Henderson Inns of Court and is involved in numerous civic organizations in the community. Judge Tucker believes in faith and family first. Most of Judge Tucker’s free time is spent being a devoted wife to James and mother to their two children, Erica and Marshall.



Moderated by Luis Soberon

Luis Soberon is responsible for justice policy at Texas 2036. He covers issues across the justice system from law enforcement to the efficacy of state courts, through various reforms in prisons and beyond. Since joining Texas 2036 in September of 2021, he has spearheaded research and advocacy projects related to reform at the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, the backlogs in state courts’ criminal dockets, and exploring opportunities to help improve successful reentry after involvement with the justice system. Before joining Texas 2036, Soberon spent six years working in key roles within the Texas Legislature. His legislative work centered on diverse policy areas, including defense and veterans’ issues, higher education, and the state budget. He has been awarded for his legislative work on behalf of first responders and has been recognized for his knowledge of the legislative process and parliamentary procedures.

Lunch Program



Baine Brooks
Mayor of Allen

Mayor Baine Brooks has a long history of community service in Allen and North Texas. Before being elected Allen Mayor in 2023, Brooks served as an Allen City Councilmember from 2012-2022 and as Allen Mayor Pro Tem from 2021-2022.

Along with his experience in municipal government, Brooks is a former director of the North Texas Food Bank, past president of the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association and previously served as regional director of the Texas Restaurant Association. He is also the recipient of several community awards including the National Autism Association's 2021 Community Angel Award, the 2019 Collin County MLK Jr. Day Drum Major Award, and the 2015 Kiwanis Club of Allen Spirit of Community Award.

Brooks serves on the North Central Texas Council of Governments as a voting representative, a board representative for the North Texas Commission, and an executive committee member for the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition.

Brooks and his wife own and manage a local Allen restaurant they founded in 1995. He played baseball at Connors State College before transferring to the University of Oklahoma. He holds a BA in Communications from the University of Oklahoma. In 2013, he was inducted into the Connors State College Baseball Hall of Fame.



Jim Skinner **Collin County Sheriff**

Jim Skinner has served as the Sheriff of Collin County, Texas, since January 1, 2017, and voters reelected him in 2020. With over 560 personnel, the Sheriff's Office operates 1,298-bed county jail and provides patrol and investigative services in the county's 500 square miles of unincorporated area. The Sheriff's Office has a special unit that fights the online exploitation of children, and it participates with sheriffs from seven other counties to combat drug trafficking on area highways. To date, the unit has seized approximately \$159 million in narcotics, over \$23 million in U.S. currency, loads of weapons and ammunition headed to Mexico, rescued child victims of human trafficking and arrested over 220 drug traffickers since 2018.

Currently, the county government and Sheriff's Office are responding to the area's astounding growth. The county is planning and building a new intake area and infirmary for the county jail, including 300 new orientation beds and 400 mental-healthcare beds. The county also supports the plan of LifePath Systems to build a new crisis-services center near the county jail to assist persons with mental illness or an intellectual or developmental disability and to improve efforts to divert eligible persons away from jail. Additionally, Sheriff Skinner has recently started the IGNITE Program in the county jail, an education and life skills training curriculum designed to reduce recidivism and return better mothers, fathers, siblings, and neighbors to their communities.

In late 2020, Sheriff Skinner joined the board of directors of the National Sheriffs' Association. He currently serves on their Executive Committee and chairs the Government Affairs Committee and is in the line of succession to be the association's president.

Sheriff Skinner is a 30-year law-enforcement veteran, trial attorney, former prosecutor, and U.S. Air Force veteran.



Dr. H. Neil Matkin
District President, Collin College

In collaboration with the district's Board of Trustees, Dr. Neil Matkin has executed a comprehensive vision to take Collin College to the next level of achievement through a strategic plan focused on student engagement and success, fundraising and fiscal management, and dramatically expanding the accessibility of higher education consistent with the vision, mission, and Core Values of the college. During his tenure, he championed a spirit of innovation now embedded throughout the district, significantly increased the diversity of the college's employees, executed the implementation of the college's first baccalaureate degrees, and strengthened the college's connections to the community. In addition, under his leadership, the college created the iCollin Virtual Campus, opened an IT Center at the Frisco Campus, built the Public Safety Training Center, and opened campuses in Allen, Celina, Farmersville, and Wylie.

Dr. Matkin has previously served as executive vice president of the Louisiana Community & Technical College System where he was an executive vice president over 16 colleges. Before that, Dr. Matkin was president of the Central Campus of San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas; vice-chancellor and chief information officer for the Virginia Community College System; and chief administrative officer for the Illinois Century Network.

Dr. Matkin holds associate of arts, bachelor of arts, master of science, and master of business administration degrees. He earned his Doctor of Education degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce.