



Connecting Conservative Women

A conference to empower the next generation



April 22, 2017

Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol

Austin, Texas



Engaging conservative women in local, state and national leadership through collaboration and mentorship.

MENTOR. COLLABORATE. LEAD.



Political ad paid for by the Christi Craddick Campaign



WELCOME

April 22, 2017

Thank you for attending today's conference. I am often asked why more conservative women are not serving in elected positions or accepting leadership roles across Texas. I know it is not for lack of enthusiasm or motivation to fight for the conservative principles we all so deeply value. A common thread in those discussions revolves around women desiring access to mentors for guidance in navigating the process. We all know the value mentors provide, helping us stay the course and drive our dreams to reality.

We are putting that idea into action today - Connecting Conservative Women - and we are very glad you joined us.

I am extremely grateful to all of the speakers, panelists and mentors with whom we have worked to make this day a reality.

Enjoy today's program, and I hope that the information you receive and the contacts you make here today will continue to inspire and encourage you as you work to achieve your personal success in the months and years ahead.



Sincerely,

Christi

Christi Craddick
Chairman

Railroad Commission of Texas



AGENDA

8:00 am – 9:00 am
Registration and Breakfast
Capitol View Terrace

WELCOME

Lesley Guthrie

OPENING REMARKS

The Honorable Christi Craddick

MORNING SPEAKERS

Tracye McDaniel
The Honorable Linda Koop
Cynthia Leon
Hope Andrade
Nandita Berry

Question and Answer Period with Speakers

LUNCH

AFTERNOON SPEAKERS

Merrie Spaeth
The Honorable Dawn Buckingham

PANEL DISCUSSIONS WITH PANELISTS

Capitol Ballroom A-C

Katharine Armstrong
Allison Castle
Toni Anne Dashiell
Gaby Fuentes

Kathleen Jackson
The Honorable Kara Sands
Kate Tankersley
The Honorable Connie Wade

CLOSING REMARKS

The Honorable Christi Craddick

RECEPTION WITH SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Capitol View Terrace



SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Lesley Guthrie

Community Relations

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Lesley Guthrie oversees community relations for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a state agency that protects children, elderly, and people with disabilities from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. At 16, she began a career in politics working as a legislative aide for a state representative. After graduating from the University of

Texas, Lesley worked on Capitol Hill for U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson. In 1999, she returned to Austin to work for the University of Texas System, the State Comptroller, and built an award-winning community relations program for Vignette Corporation. In 2001, she was appointed as the Executive Director of the Governor's Commission for Women by Governor Perry.

Lesley is passionate about inspiring confidence in girls and promoting STEM education. She has counseled hundreds of women seeking employment or starting a business. Lesley mentors a foster youth through The Open Table and has been a Girl Scout troop leader for the last 10 years. Previously, Lesley served on the boards of Girl Start and the National Association of Commissions for Women. She was an advisory member for the We Are Girls Conference, Dress for Success and the Texas Conference for Women.



The Honorable Christi Craddick

Chairman

Railroad Commission of Texas

Christi Craddick is in the forefront of the newest wave of pragmatic conservatives in leadership roles across Texas. Raised in a strong conservative household, retained as legal counsel by prominent Texas firms, and shaped by more than a decade as a trusted political adviser, Christi has set a clear standard of integrity, self-reliance and innovation in her role as Chairman at the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Since her tenure on the Commission began in November 2012, Craddick has pushed to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of an energy industry that is driving the state's unparalleled economic success. In the process, she has repeatedly proven that sensible regulations, careful listening and plain talk can foster innovation that has solidified Texas leadership in the energy sector.

Making it a top priority, Christi has worked to educate the public about the oil and gas industry and its impact in Texas. She has fought against Washington's one-size-fits-all environmental policies that would kill jobs and stifle energy production growth. Christi has advocated for recycling in the oilfields, helping to drive the percentage of reclaimed water upwards, an essential achievement in a state enduring a multi-year drought.

As part of her efforts to modernize the agency, Christi has championed an Information Technology (IT) overhaul for the Commission, seeking improvements that would upgrade the Geographic Information System, increase public access to the agency's data, and speed up inspections and permitting times.

A native of Midland, Christi earned both her Bachelor's Degree as a Plan II graduate and her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from The University of Texas at Austin. During her career as an attorney, she specialized in oil and gas, water, tax issues, electric deregulation and environmental policy.

Following the example of her father and mother, Craddick has been drawn to public service and politics. As president of a grassroots advocacy firm, she took the lead on work in coalition building in the public policy arena and development and implementation of issue strategies.

Christi serves her community as an active member of organizations including the State Bar of Texas, University of Texas Liberal Arts Alumni Advisory Council, and Dell Children's Medical Center Foundation. Christi resides in Austin with her daughter, Catherine, and is an active member of St. Austin's Catholic Church.



Tracye McDaniel

Founder

McDaniel Strategy Ecosystems

Tracye McDaniel – founder of McDaniel Strategy Ecosystems and a recognized trailblazer in the economic development and travel marketing industry – has been a trusted advisor to CEOs, nonprofits, public organizations and private enterprises for more than three decades. McDaniel is a widely recognized strategist with C-Suite level experience in all facets of the industry. She has earned a reputation of creating mutually beneficial strategic partnerships among leaders, public entities, nonprofits and businesses across a broad spectrum of industries.

Prior to founding McDaniel Strategy Ecosystems, McDaniel led successful public and private state and regional economic development organizations under five governors in two states: Ann Richards, George W. Bush, Rick Perry and Greg Abbott in Texas; and Chris Christie in New Jersey. She most recently served as president and CEO of Texas Economic Development Corporation, Inc. (TxEDC), an independently funded and operated 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to marketing the state globally for business attraction, retention, foreign direct investment leading to job creation and investment for the Lone Star State.

In 2010, McDaniel was tapped by then newly elected New Jersey governor Chris Christie and business leaders to serve as the founding CEO of Choose New Jersey, Inc., a global marketing and lead generation initiative to drive economic growth and job creation in the Garden State.

Serving from 2006 to 2011 as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Greater Houston Partnership, Houston's most influential business organization serving over 1200 members companies in a 11-county Houston region, McDaniel refined and implemented the organization's 10-year strategic plan with the goal of generating \$60 billion in capital investment and 600,000 net new jobs for the 11-county Houston region.

A committed business and community leader, McDaniel currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the International Economic Development Council. She has served on the Board of Directors for the New Jersey Chapter of the NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association. She was also appointed by Governor Chris Christie (NJ) to the Council on Innovation and the New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force. Governor Rick Perry (TX) appointed McDaniel to the Texas Southern University Board of Regents in 2009 and the TxEDC Board of Directors in 2015. She was recognized by Consultant Connect in 2016 as one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers. McDaniel also received the Excellence in Economic Development Award from the Site Selectors Guild in 2014. In recognition of her accomplishments in business and community, NJBIZ named McDaniel one of New Jersey's 2014 Best 50 Women in Business. She was also listed among the 100 Most Powerful People in New Jersey Business.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, the Waco native is also a Ford Foundation Regional Sustainable Development (RSD) Fellow, a program of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE).



The Honorable Linda Koop

State Representative

Texas House of Representatives

Representative Koop has supported the community through a long list of Civic and Community service endeavors during the last 30 years. She has served on the DART Board of Directors, McKinney Avenue Transit Authority Board of Directors; Dallas Park and Recreation Board; and Fellow of the University of Texas Law School - Center for Policy Dispute. Additionally, she is a lifetime member of the Texas

PTA. As a PTA President her local PTA received State and National Awards for Excellence. Linda served on the Dallas City Council from 2005-2013, where she served as Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee. She represented the City of Dallas at the North Central Texas Council of Governments as President of the Executive Board and Chair of the Regional Transportation Council.

On January 13th, 2015 Linda was sworn in to her first term as State Representative for District 102. As a sophomore in the 85th legislative session, Rep. Koop was appointed to the House Committee on Appropriations, Calendars and Public Education.

Linda has a Master's Degree in International Management Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas where she graduated with honors. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Colorado State University and additionally attended Temple University in Rome, Italy.

Linda has been married to her husband Myron for 40 years. They have 2 adult sons that were raised in Richardson and graduated from Berkner High School. Myron and Linda have lived in the district for over 30 years.



The Honorable Cynthia Leon

Commissioner and Former Chair
Texas Department of Public Safety

Cynthia Leon of Mission, Texas, is a retired regional director for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She served 25 years in the U.S. Navy Reserves and retired as a captain. She is a life member of the Naval Reserve Association, Navy League, U.S. Naval Institute and the Reserve Officers Association. She is also a member of

the International Women's Forum and Leadership Texas, and past chair of the Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio Federal Executive Boards.

Chairman Leon received her bachelor's degree from Austin College and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is a former member of the Senior Executive Service and a graduate of the Federal Executive Institute of Charlottesville, VA. She currently serves as a Commissioner and the former Chairman of the Texas Department of Public Safety.



Hope Andrade

*Former Texas Secretary of State and Co-Founder
& Chief Strategic Advisor*

Andrade-VandePutte and Associates

Secretary Andrade, a successful entrepreneur and business leader in the San Antonio community for more than three decades, previously served as workforce commissioner, transportation commissioner, and Texas' Chief Elections

Officer, senior advisor and liaison to Governor Rick Perry for Texas Border and Mexican Affairs, and Chief International Protocol Officer for Texas.

Under her leadership the Secretary of State's Office, led fourteen international and domestic trade missions to promote Texas, ensured the efficient movement of goods at all Texas international crossings, promoted Texas Wide Open for Business, brought new businesses to local communities creating hundreds of new jobs, worked closely with over ninety General Consuls to develop business relationships with their prospective countries, worked closely with international companies to bring the largest foreign investment to Texas, and increased outreach and information resources to voters. She was the first Latina and longest serving Secretary of State in Texas History.

Her civic service includes leadership roles with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Free Trade Alliance of San Antonio, United Way, the San Antonio Symphony and the board of trustees for Our Lady of the Lake University.

She has been recognized and honored with numerous awards and accolades such as, Small Business Advocate of the Year by the Small Business Administration, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Hope for Children Esperanza Award, San Antonio Leadership Hall of Fame Award, the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award, and Woman of the Year Award.



Nandita Berry

Attorney and Former Texas Secretary of State

Secretary Berry was the 109th Secretary of State of the State of Texas. She was appointed by Governor Rick Perry. As Secretary of State, she served as the Chief Elections Officer for Texas, ensuring the uniform application and interpretation of election laws throughout Texas. She oversaw the elections both during the primary and general statewide gubernatorial election in 2014. She also headed the Office of Secretary of State, which manages the business and public filings for the State of Texas and the commissioning of notaries public. During her tenure, Nandita Berry served as the Governor's liaison for border and Mexican affairs, as Texas' Chief Protocol Officer for State and International matters, and as an economic ambassador for the State.

She is a proud graduate of Mount Carmel College in Bangalore, India. She then came to America, in 1989, to study at the University of Houston, where she graduated with a degree in economics. During that time she met Michael Berry, and they were married as students on campus. Ms. Berry continued her studies at the University of Houston Law Center, and then began practicing law.

She served as the Vice Chair of the University of Houston Board of Regents. Named as one of the 50 most influential women by Houston Woman Magazine, Ms. Berry is also an inductee into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. Prior to serving as Secretary of State, Ms. Berry practiced law with the law firm Locke Lord, LLP. She has two sons, Crockett and Michael T, who are 11 and 10 years old, respectively.



Merrie Spaeth

Founder and President
Spaeth Communications

Merrie has a unique background in media, government, politics, business and entertainment. She is a thought-leader in communication theory, executive training and coaching. Merrie is acknowledged as one of the most influential communication counselors in the world.

Merrie was a White House Fellow assigned to FBI Director William Webster. She then served two years as director of public affairs for the Federal Trade Commission, and in 1983, President Reagan appointed her as director of media relations at the White House. In 1987, she founded Spaeth Communications, Inc., which provides strategic counseling and communication consulting for a wide range of companies and institutions.

Merrie writes regularly on communication topics, and her columns have been collected into two books, *Marketplace Communication* and *Words Matter*. Both books are available at merriespaeth.com. *You Don't Say!*, her most recent book, is available on Amazon and compiles communication mistakes from her popular monthly BIMBO Memo. She also blogs regularly on spaethcom.com.

A cum laude graduate of Smith College and a graduate of Columbia Business School, she is an instructor at Business Leadership Center of the Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business where she teaches "Communication as a Strategic Business Tool," "Influencing Through the Power of Storytelling" and "Humor as a Leadership Tool." She speaks on these topics and others to companies and associations in virtually every industry.



The Honorable Dawn Buckingham

Small Business Owner and State Senator
Texas State Senate

Dawn Buckingham is a conservative small business owner who believes the best approach to government is “less is more.” As a doctor, she has witnessed firsthand how government often inter-feres, rather than enhances, an individual’s or a business’ success.

Dawn Buckingham’s forefathers were among the first settlers to Texas seven generations ago, and that tough, independent, pioneer spirit is deeply rooted in her personality. Dawn spent her early years growing up on Fox Run Farm until the family moved to Austin. While she graduated from Westlake High School, Dawn remains a country girl at heart as an avid hunter and outdoorswoman. Her commitment to service began early, serving as a volunteer fire fighter, and she is a graduate of the A&M Fire School.

Dawn lived at home and worked two jobs to pay for college at UT-Austin, graduating Magna Cum Laude and debt-free. It was during college that Dawn met the love of her life and husband of 25 years, Ed Buckingham. Dawn and Ed both received their medical degrees from the Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Dawn’s commitment to service and recognition for her work has allowed her to hold leadership positions in local, state, and national medical organizations.

Dawn was elected to the Texas Senate in November 2016. She serves on the Health & Human Services Committee, Higher Education Committee, Nominations, and Veterans & Border Security.



Katharine Armstrong

Government Affairs

Katharine Armstrong is a fifth-generation Texan raised on her family's South Texas cattle ranch. She was appointed to the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Commission in 1999, and in 2001, became the first woman to lead the Commission as its Chairman.

Armstrong is the founding president of Texan by Nature, a statewide conservation awareness initiative founded by former First Lady, Laura Bush. Armstrong was the cofounder and first Chairman of the South Texas Native Plant Restoration Project at Texas A&M Kingsville. She also serves as chairman of the Armstrong Center for Energy and the Environment at the Texas Public Policy Foundation and is a director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Texas Wildlife Association. She serves on the board of directors of SJW Corp., an investor owned, publicly traded water utility.



Allison Castle

Public Affairs Consultant

Allison Castle is a visionary who brings a no-nonsense approach to strategic communications and effective policy making. During a career spanning the worlds of business, government, nonprofits and politics, she has earned the reputation of an insightful tactician who always calls them like she sees them.

Her keen mastery of the intricacies of state government was honed while serving as a senior advisor to the Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller, and at the Texas Department of Insurance. She has a firm grip on the state's complex policy, legal and budget issues and a sixth sense about the communications implications of pending decisions, a sense that has been proven true time and again on some of the most important issues facing our state.

Allison directly advised Gov. Rick Perry for more than six years in her role as his press secretary and communications director. She crafted and guided the execution of a strategy that gained global attention for the Governor's priorities, ranging from health care and public safety to establishing Texas as a biotech hub ("America's 'third coast' for high-tech innovation.") She and her team garnered untold volumes of coverage for the state's successful economic development efforts to bring global corporations and jobs to Texas.

Focused and diligent in times of crisis, Allison has helped guide the state's media response through everything from public health emergencies and natural disasters to the Governor's Mansion arson, renovation and grand reopening.

Allison and her team also deftly handled the media strategy, messaging and stakeholder engagement on some of the state's most important legal cases before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

In one job after another, Allison has imposed tight communications discipline, crafted effective strategy and maximized the impact of that organization's story. Her strong relationships with the Texas political press, easy alignment with senior leaders and sharp communications skills combine to make her an unparalleled asset to organizations anxious to shape the public conversation.



Toni Anne Dashiell

Republican National Committeewoman for Texas

Toni Anne Dashiell was elected for a second term in May 2016 and currently serves as the Republican National Committeewoman for Texas. She is a leader among leaders, who was awarded the 2009 Ronald Reagan Leadership Award by the National Federation of Republican Women for her distinctive performance as the President of the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW). She has traveled to Bosnia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Burma on behalf of the Women's Democracy Network to train women and men seeking public office in campaign management, leadership development, and communication. She Co-Authorred "Leading for Freedom: Leadership Skills for Republicans" and conducts workshops across the nation on the topics addressed in the book.

Toni Anne's service as a volunteer grassroots leader dates back to 1968, when she worked on a presidential campaign as a member of Teenage Republicans. Since that time she has been a consistent leader in numerous Republican campaigns including Presidential, Senatorial, Congressional, statewide, city, and county races. She also served as the Texas for Trump Vice Chairman in Texas during the 2016 election cycle.

She has also served as a leader within the Republican National Committee. Most recently, she was reelected as the Southern Region Representative to the RNC budget committee. Toni Anne served as the Kendall County Republican Party Chairman 2009 to 2013. She has been elected as a delegate to numerous Texas Republican State Conventions and served as a delegate to the 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016 Republican National Conventions.

Toni Anne believes in the importance of community service. She has demonstrated this by serving as a leader in her hometown, including the Boerne Chamber of Commerce: Government Affairs, the Boerne ISD Budget Committee, and her church. As for the State of Texas she serves on the Texas Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board.

Currently she holds two licenses for life insurance and real estate. Together, she and her husband, Tom, are small business owners in Boerne, Texas, working in both real estate and insurance.



Gaby Fuentes

Acting Appointments Director
Office of Governmental Appointments

Gaby Fuentes is currently Acting Appointments Director in the Office of Governmental Appointments for Governor Greg Abbott. She has been a part of the Governor's Appointments Office since 2001, serving under both Governor Rick Perry and Governor Greg Abbott. As an advisor to Governor Abbott, she recommends candidates for appointment to

various state boards and commissions and oversees the day to day activities of the Appointments Office.

Gaby is also very involved in the legislative process and works with staff, legislators and stakeholders on legislation pertaining to the governor's appointment authority. Her first position in the Appointments Office was executive assistant to the director, where she learned of the incredible influence held by ordinary people in state policy making due to the original structure of our state government. She is grateful that she meets amazing people every day with an interest in serving our great state of Texas.

Prior to her work in the Governor's Office, she was a receptionist and executive assistant at the Texas Historical Commission and clerk in the City of Austin's Employment Office. Gaby has served on the Texas Children's Commission as a gubernatorial appointee and on the Commissioner of Education's Accountability Policy Advisory Committee. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a minor in journalism from the University of Texas and is a graduate of the Governor's Executive Development Program at the LBJ School of Public Affairs.



Kathleen Jackson

Board Member

Texas Water Development Board

Kathleen Jackson has a diverse background representing agricultural, environmental, industrial, and wholesale-supply interests, which includes developing and implementing water management strategies for Southeast Texas. As a registered professional engineer, Jackson served as public affairs manager for one of the world's largest petroleum and petrochemical producers.

Additionally, she was involved in production agriculture with her late husband, who ran a cattle operation and farmed rice. She served as a past member of the Lower Neches Valley Authority Board of Directors, the Texas Water Conservation Association, and participated on the Sabine and Neches Rivers Bay and Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment Program Stakeholders Committee.

She is also a board member and past president of the Lamar Institute of Technology Foundation, a sustaining member of the Junior League of Beaumont, a member of the Texas Farm Bureau, past president of the American Cancer Society of North Jefferson County, and a past board member of Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle.

Jackson received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from North Carolina State University. Jackson has three children, sixth-generation Texans, who all reside and work in Texas.



The Honorable Kara Sands

County Clerk
Nueces County, Texas

Kara Sands serves as Nueces County Clerk in Corpus Christi, Texas. Sands was elected on November 4, 2014 and took office on January 1, 2015. Her job includes, serving as clerk and custodian of records for the Commissioners Court, acts as a recorder and custodian of important public records, including all bonds, deeds, birth and death certificates, assumed names and livestock brands, ensuring that records are maintained in

a secure, archival manner, issues marriage licenses. She also serves as the county treasurer and the chief elections officer.

Determined to make a difference, Kara chose to run for office in order to be a voice in action. Her top priority has been to fulfill all promises made during her campaign and has aimed to find solutions to problems. Kara has made it her mission to reduce election costs, save taxpayer dollars, provide accountability, and transparency.

During her first term, Kara has succeeded in reducing election costs from 2012 by \$270,000.00, launched the Thank-A-Veteran Program, passed the OCA Audit, helped residents find unclaimed property, made all public records available free of charge to residents and introduced the Countywide Polling Place Program during the 2016 Presidential Election.

On her time off, Kara enjoys spending time with her sons, running, and volunteering her time in the community.



Kate Tankersley

Finance Director

Harris County Republican Party

With over a decade of experience in communications, fundraising and event management, Kate Tankersley is well versed in the world of politics and non-profits. Ms. Tankersley is currently the Finance Director for the Harris County Republican Party, the 3rd largest county in the United States. Kate directs fundraising operations for over \$3 million during two-year cycle.

Prior to joining the Harris County Republican Party, Ms. Tankersley worked as a consultant for Walden and Associates, a Houston-based political fundraising and non-profit consulting firm. She has also served as the executive director for Pink Door and development director for the John P. McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science. In all capacities, she dedicated her time to budgets, fundraising events, direct mail, corporate recruitment, planned giving activities, membership acquisition and retention, donor relations, and community partnerships.

Ms. Tankersley completed her Bachelor of Liberal Arts Degree in Communication from Texas A&M University, and then booked a one-way ticket to Washington, D.C. While in D.C., she worked on Capitol Hill for over five years with U.S. Congressman Louie Gohmert (TX-01) and Former U.S. House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas (OK-3). Ms. Tankersley dealt with local and national media, implementing communication and public relations strategies, and maintaining relationships with constituents. She also served as the Texas Committee Chair for Taste of the South, a non-profit organization that has donated over \$5 million to charities across the south and in Washington, D.C.

In addition to her work at the Harris County Republican Party, Ms. Tankersley is a Junior League of Houston member, serves on the Texas A&M University Liberal Arts Advisory Council Board, and volunteers with the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Gatekeepers Committee. She is also a native Houstonian and enjoys traveling, running with her dog, Kona, and spending time with her husband of nearly three years, Justin.



The Honorable Connie Wade

County Clerk
Gregg County, Texas

In her mid-20's Connie Wade became involved in Republican Party politics immediately upon moving from the panhandle of Texas to Gregg County. Through her years of volunteering for local, statewide and national races, she served as chair or co-chair for campaigns for Ronald Reagan, Phil Gramm, Bill Clements, George H.W. Bush, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Rick Perry and George W. Bush. Being given the opportunity to schedule Rick Perry's statewide campaign for Lt. Governor afforded her the opportunity to understand the workings of a campaign from the inside.

Never having thought that she would run for office, Connie nevertheless felt ready to do so when she was recruited in 2004 to run for an open slot as Gregg County Clerk. Connie won the contested race with 68% of the primary vote. She gives credit for that winning margin to her 20 plus years of volunteerism for the GOP. She organized walks, phone banks, served as an election judge, held positions in the Gregg County Republican Party and Republican Women of Gregg County, and served as a delegate to numerous GOP state conventions. She believes that her appointment to the Texas Women's Commission by Governor Bush as well as an appointment to the Sabine River Authority Board of Directors by Governor Perry carried weight with the Gregg County GOP primary voters.

While serving as the Gregg County Clerk, she has also served on the committee tasked with updating the county's personnel manual, employee salary grievance committee, the committee to select Gregg County's Elections Administrator, served as the county's investment officer for 10 years, and most recently has taken on the position as chair of the County Wellness Committee. This busy grandmother of 3 lives with her husband Jerry, a retired Air Force and corporate pilot in Longview.

MENTORS

The speakers and panelists who have participated in the program today, along with the mentors listed below are all committed to developing and maintaining a mentoring program to inspire and encourage women as they work to achieve personal success.



CATHIE ADAMS

Non-Profit Full Time Volunteer

Former Republican National Committeewoman for Texas

Named one of the 2010 Campaigns and Elections Magazine's top 50 Republican influencers

Cathie Adams has more than 30 years experience as a full time volunteer. She served as the President of Texas Eagle Forum from 1993 to 2015. She is a board member of the national Eagle Forum and also serves as its International Issues Chairman that has involved attending dozens of United Nations meetings around the globe. She is the Editor of the Eagle Forum Report, successor to the Phyllis Schlafly Report.

She was elected Republican National Committeewoman for Texas in 2008 and stepped down after being elected Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas from 2009-2010. She was named by Campaigns and Elections magazine's August 2010 issue as one of the top 50 Republican influencers in Texas.



A. JO BAYLOR

Small Business Owner & Former Candidate for Congress

Ms. Baylor, a small business owner, has thirty-five years in commercial real estate, ad valorem and inner city development experience. Ms. Baylor is also a Certified Commercial Investment Member. Additionally, Ms. Baylor owns and operates a property tax consulting company which manages over 500 Million dollars of properties in the State of Texas. Only 6 percent of the estimated 125,000 commercial real estate practitioners nationwide hold the CCIM designation, making it one of the most respected designations in the industry. In 1994, Ms. Baylor was the Republican nominee for Congress from the 10th Congressional District in Austin, Texas. She is a member of the Austin Republican Women's Clubs of Texas. Baylor was married for twelve years to former professional baseball player, Don Baylor. They have one son, Don Baylor, Jr.

Jo Baylor was appointed on July 23, 2001 as an appointee in the Bush Administration and assigned to HUD as a Special Assistant. In February 2002, the Secretary appointed her as the Director of HUD's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business. Under her leadership, in fiscal year 2004, HUD awarded 67 percent of its contract dollars to small businesses, far exceeding its Small Business Administration (SBA) goal of 33 percent. In July 2004, when HUD, an agency with a \$32 billion budget, needed a Chief Procurement Officer to shepherd the Working Capital Fund procurements to update the IT programs, Ms. Baylor earned the nod to maximize contract awards prior to the end of the fiscal year. During her tenure, the office earned numerous awards including receiving the SBA Frances Vanguard Award for its exceptional achievements three consecutive years. The National Federation of Black Women Business Owners (NFBWBO) selected Ms. Baylor as the winner of its prestigious annual Government Achievement award in 2004 and the Federal Procurement Integrity Award in 2005. On June 3, 2005, the Secretary of HUD appointed Ms. Baylor as the Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Office of Field Policy and Management at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and was responsible for the management and oversight of the Department's 80 field offices located within 10 regions across the nation.

After returning back to Austin, Ms. Baylor did not lobby HUD, but chose instead to reinstate her Real Estate Broker's license and Senior Property Tax Consultant's license in the State of Texas.



Diane Rath

Executive Director of AACOG

Diane Rath has served as Executive Director of AACOG since December 2014. In this capacity, she oversees 300 employees in 11 program areas with a budget of \$46 million.

Before joining AACOG, Ms. Rath served as Senior Vice President at ResCare Workforce Services, with oversight responsibility for operations in over 300 locations in 28 states with 2200 employees and a budget of \$223 million.

In 1996, then Governor George W. Bush appointed her as Chair and Commissioner for the Texas Workforce Commission, where she served until 2008. During her tenure, she oversaw the consolidation of 28 programs from 10 different state agencies to form a \$1.2 billion agency with responsibility for services involving federal programs from the U.S Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and four other federal agencies. In 2007, Rath was nominated by President George W. Bush as Assistant Secretary of Administration for Children and Families at U.S. Health and Human Services. During this time she became recognized as a national leader in workforce development, forging partnerships with economic development and educational entities to meet the workforce needs of Texas businesses.

A physical therapist by background, Ms. Rath attended TCU, and graduated from UTMB-Galveston. She is active in the San Antonio community and currently sits (or has sat) on numerous boards and committees.



Karen Robinson

Owner KWR Acuity Strategies, LLC

Cyber Security and Information Technology Consulting

Karen W. Robinson has over 35 years in public and private industry cultivating connections between ideas, information technology solutions and leaders across various fields. After serving in top IT positions for the State of Texas, she earned a position as the state's top IT executive, Texas' Chief Information Officer. She was recognized as Texas CIO of the Year, Texas Public Sector Executive of the Year, and recognized nationally in 2014 by State Scoop 50 as a Golden Gov State Executive of the Year. She was also named to the Dell President's Advisory Board and named as a

Computer World Premier 100 IT Leader. She currently serves on the Advisory Board for Acquia and as a senior consultant for CMG Consulting. In mid-2015 Karen founded her own cyber security and information technology consulting company, KWR Acuity Strategies, LLC.

Karen's experience and relationships in information technology is amplified by her ability to connect innovative ideas and approaches with the right people to meet specific objectives. Her 21 years in state government meant managing, guiding, and translating policy into action. As CIO she built strong teams and relationships to streamline agency operations. She negotiated new service delivery contracts, developed a state of the art governance model and matured a billion dollar data center program.

Karen doesn't just open doors; her team provides the best approach for clients to open the right doors for their goals by connecting ideas, IT solutions and industry leaders.



Teresa Spears

Consulting and Event Management

Teresa was committed to making a difference and was on the path to working on issues she was passionate about after winning a 4-H citizenship contest and representing the state of Arkansas in Washington DC in her early teens. This later led her down a path for a future in politics and government. For over 30 years, she volunteered and worked in Texas politics in the Republican Party and for numerous candidates and causes. She is a former Board Member of TFRW and NFRW. Spears served with former Governor Rick Perry for 25+ years, including his Director of Organization for Texans for Rick Perry, specializing in grassroots efforts. She later joined Governor Perry at the Capitol as his Director of Governmental Appointments, as a Senior Advisor and as Deputy Chief of Staff. She served as Chief Inaugural Officer for Governor Perry's 2007 and 2011 Inaugural Committees.

Spears also served as Director of Constituent Services in the Senate Office for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison in 1993 after serving on her campaign as the statewide volunteer coordinator. Prior to working in politics, she served as vice president of a mortgage corporation and paralegal. In 1995 then Governor Bush appointed Spears to the Texas Commission for Women. She has been married for the past 30 years to Austin attorney Franklin Scott Spears, Jr. She has one son and two grandchildren.



Lauren Hamner Spreen

Campaign Manager - Director of Public Affairs
Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick

Lauren Hamner Spreen has an extensive background in Texas politics with over a decade of experience in political and non-profit fundraising, campaign management, public policy, legislative affairs and strategic communications.

For almost six years, Lauren has served as Commissioner Christi Craddick's statewide campaign manager as well as Director of Public Affairs throughout Craddick's time at the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Raised in Louisiana, Lauren attended Louisiana State University, and completed her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. She is an active member of the Junior League of Austin, Austin Republican Women and attends Saint Mary Cathedral Catholic Church with her husband, Payton Spreen.



Kathy Walt

Retired

Editor, Reporter, Press Secretary

Kathy Walt is former chief of staff, deputy chief of staff and press secretary to former Texas Gov. Rick Perry. Prior to joining the Perry Administration in 2000, she worked more than 30 years reporting and editing for newspapers and magazines in Ohio, Virginia and Texas, and won numerous awards for her work. She also taught at The Ohio State University, Virginia Commonwealth University and Sam Houston State University.

She received a bachelor's and master's degree from The Ohio State University. Now retired, she spends her time traveling, tracing her family history and occasionally consulting as an editor for technology companies.



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