

MISSION CONTROL:

TEXAS' LEADERSHIP
IN SPACE, TECHNOLOGY,
AND INNOVATION



THE TEXAS LYCEUM

APRIL 4-6, 2024
HOUSTON, TX

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MISSION CONTROL: TEXAS' LEADERSHIP IN SPACE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

On behalf of the Texas Lyceum, welcome to the 38th Public Conference — Mission Control: Texas' Leadership in Space, Technology, and Innovation. We landed in Houston, the Space City, to discuss the impact and influence of space on our state and the economy. In Houston, art and music inspired by space and discovery fuel research and innovation in the region. NASA and the Mission Control Center are located here and have been responsible for directing all of NASA's human spaceflights since 1965. The space industry reaches far beyond the greater Houston region. There are multiple investments in spaceport infrastructure across the state from El Paso to the Rio Grande Valley. Austin, Dallas and San Antonio are incubators for several space inspired startups. Even Kerrville has a manufacturing company that supports the industry. Space has a significant impact on the Texas economy.

Texas' role in space exploration has made it a major center for scientific research and development. Texas has STEM programs in our high schools, and tracks in our community and technical colleges to support workforce development. Universities and research institutions are involved in space-related research.

As a nod to our founders and to share a bit of Lyceum history – 40 years ago, the 4th Public Conference in Dallas was about technology and the economy. The topics included the emerging technology society, the impact of technology industries on economic growth and wildcatting technology in Texas. Those wildcatters are still around today!

Thank you to our PubCon Chairs — Jessica Attas (2021), Darrell Davila (2019) and Elizabeth McGee (2021) — for their tireless efforts to plan a conference that promises to be “out of this world.” I would also like to extend my gratitude to AMC, the conference planning team and to our alumni Ashley Smith (1980), Harvin Moore (2003), Brad Morrison (2013) and the entire Houston delegation of Lyceumites. Special thanks to our partners at Space Center Houston and Johnson Space Center. We are grateful to Space Center Houston for hosting us for the second half of our programming on Friday and for providing us with ideas to enhance our conference. To our sponsors: Thank you for your incredible support of the Texas Lyceum.

Over the next two days, I encourage you to buckle in as we embark on a journey to learn about space and the web of enterprises behind it. We hope that this conference allows you to connect with your fellow directors and guests, rekindle some of your childhood dreams and create new memories. I know my 12-year-old self is excited to spend time at NASA. Thank you for joining us!

Kind Regards,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Molly Quirk".

MOLLY QUIRK
2024 PRESIDENT

MEETING CHAIRS' MESSAGE

MISSION CONTROL: TEXAS' LEADERSHIP IN SPACE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

We are thrilled to welcome you to Houston for the Texas Lyceum's 2024 Public Conference, ***Mission Control: Texas' Leadership in Space, Technology, and Innovation.***

In Texas, the pioneering spirit of innovation, determination, and resilience is deeply ingrained in our core values. Propelled by those virtues, Texas boldly took the lead in space exploration, and has never looked back.

It is that tradition of legacy and success that we will celebrate here and further inspire over the course of our time together. We will discuss some of the major achievements as well as challenges and opportunities of the space revolution, from cultivating a well-educated workforce of tomorrow, to maintaining a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, while creating a regulatory environment conducive to harnessing the creative power of the private sector for the public good. These are all vital to safeguarding our national interests and preserving the security and stability of life on Earth.

Led by an historic investment made by the Texas Legislature in 2023 to create and fund the Texas Space Commission and Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium, Texas is well-poised to solidify its place at the forefront of the national and global space industry. The time is now to foster dialogue and collaboration amongst policymakers, industry leaders, and academic experts to ensure the challenges and opportunities of a changing space economy are addressed and that Texas remains at the cutting edge of innovation and development.

As astronaut John Glenn once said, "If there's one thing I've learned in my years on this planet, it's that the happiest and most fulfilled people are those who devoted themselves to something bigger and more profound than merely their own self-interest."

That can be said of each of you. We thank you for joining us as we devote ourselves to something bigger and more profound than ourselves – for what is more grand and profound than unlocking the vast potential of the cosmos? Together we can chart a course for a future beyond our greatest imaginations and help Texas continue to blaze a trail in the ongoing pursuit of new frontiers.



JESSICA ATTAS '21

CEO
PROSPER WACO
CONFERENCE CHAIR



ELIZABETH MCGEE '21

GENERAL MANAGER STATE/LOCAL
GOVERNMENT & EDUCATION
INTEL CORPORATION
CONFERENCE CHAIR



DARRELL DAVILA '19

CHIEF OF STAFF
OFFICE OF THE LT.
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS
CONFERENCE CHAIR

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THE TEXAS LYCEUM

UPCOMING 2024 CONFERENCES

THE LABOR OF LUXURY: THE INDUSTRY BEHIND ENTERTAINMENT (OPTIONAL MEETING)

Napa, California | July 10-12

THE STATE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN TEXAS

Abilene | September 26-28

WIN, LOSE OR DRAW: THE FUTURE OF MARIJUANA AND GAMBLING IN THE LONE STAR STATE

South Padre Island | November 7-9

MEET THE CHAIRS

MISSION CONTROL: TEXAS' LEADERSHIP IN SPACE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION



JESSICA ATTAS

CEO

PROSPER WACO
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2021

Jessica Attas is the CEO of Prosper Waco, a collective impact organization driving systems-level change. A seasoned executive with nearly two decades of experience spanning organizational leadership, community and economic development, public policy and government affairs, and fundraising, Jessica brings strategic vision and hands-on operational and administrative expertise to build effective public-private partnerships and develop and manage impactful projects, from conception to execution.

Before joining Prosper Waco, Jessica held leadership positions at the Greater Waco Chamber and the Texas Association of Business, where she advocated for pro-growth policies at state and federal levels – including specifically for the aerospace sector, which sparked in her passion for this subject matter. Passionate about education, she has taught at the Honors College of Baylor University and Tecnológico de Monterrey in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where she lived for over a decade. Jessica holds a master's degree in applied sociology from Baylor, leveraging her academic background to implement data-driven solutions.

Actively engaged in her community on boards and philanthropic endeavors, she also is a regular contributor to the Waco Tribune Herald, helping to promote community understanding of complex issues. Attas has two teenage sons, and enjoys living, working, and playing in the great state of Texas, and loves calling Waco home.



DARRELL DAVILA

CHIEF OF STAFF

OFFICE OF THE LT.
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2019

Darrell Davila leads the Office of the Lt. Governor, managing all legislation, daily office operations, and a team of advisors covering policy areas including finance, energy, business and commerce, healthcare, transportation, natural resources, education, agriculture, economic development, border security, criminal justice and public safety, and the state's \$321 billion biennial budget.

Darrell previously served as General Counsel and also advised the Lt. Governor on state affairs policy and economic development.

Prior to the Lt. Governor's office, Darrell played a key role in Governor Rick Perry's administration as Director of Governmental Appointments and Counsel for Legal and Judicial Appointments. In this role he and his team advised the Governor on appointments to over 400 state boards and commissions, encompassing thousands of appointees serving across Texas. He was involved in the appointment of over 60 district judges and appellate justices, including multiple Texas Supreme Court justices.

Darrell has practiced as both a civil litigator and prosecutor and has tried over 100 jury trials to verdict. A former legislative liaison to the Texas Legislature, Darrell brings a wealth of strategic advocacy and communications expertise honed in the courtroom and the Texas Capitol to every matter he engages.

Darrell received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University and a law degree from The University of Texas School of Law.



ELIZABETH MCGEE

GENERAL MANAGER
STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT
& EDUCATION

INTEL CORPORATION
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2021

Elizabeth Haines McGee is General Manager of Intel's State/Local Government and Education business. In this role, she supports K-12 and Higher Education institutions to advance research and improve student achievement and workforce readiness. She works with state and local leaders to improve citizen outcomes through the integration of digital technology from the edge to the cloud. Elizabeth serves in an official capacity as an advisor on Artificial Intelligence, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and Workforce development to the University of Houston, Houston Community College, the University of Texas, K-12 schools, and non-profit organizations. McGee received the 'Industry Leadership of the Year' award in 2023 by StateScoop for her work launching Intel's digital readiness curriculum, expanding opportunities for AI education and upskilling, and preparing students for a transforming workforce. Elizabeth holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a BS in Computer Engineering from the University of Washington.

THE SPACE HORIZON

Space exploration is a domain crucial to our daily lives, driving new scientific discovery, advancing life-improving technologies, increasing our knowledge of the planet and inspiring the next generation of problem solvers. Space is also increasingly becoming a region of contention as US leadership is being challenged and national security concerns are growing. In this brief survey of the space domain, Dr. Alexander discussed the major components that define the broad sweep of activities in space and introduced some of the opportunities and challenges, technical and political, that await us.



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**DAVID
ALEXANDER**

*DIRECTOR, RICE SPACE
INSTITUTE*

RICE UNIVERSITY

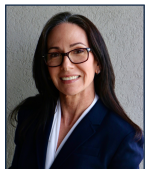


Alexander is a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, where his primary areas of research are solar physics, exoplanetary physics, and earth remote sensing. Alexander also serves as the Director of the Rice Space Institute where he is responsible for providing vision, direction, and leadership, managing the various institute programs, identifying and fostering research opportunities for faculty, and interacting with government and the space industry. He was awarded an OBE in June 2018 for services to the space industry at home and abroad and to higher education.

David received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in 2004 and was appointed a Kavli Frontiers Fellow by the National Academy of Sciences in 2006. He is the former Chair of the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society and the former Chair of the Solar Heliospheric Interplanetary Environment Group. He has served on the NASA Advisory Council's Heliophysics Subcommittee and the NASA Solar Heliospheric Management and Operations Working Group. He currently serves on the advisory boards of SpaceCom, the Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture and on the editorial boards of Space Science Reviews and ROOM: The Space Journal. He has been named a GlobalScot by the Scottish government and was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Astronautical Society in 2018. He served as Chair of the inaugural Aerospace and Aviation Industry Committee of the Greater Houston Partnership until December 2022 and was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of the Houston Spaceport Development Corporation.

**PRE CONFERENCE
SESSION**

BEYOND EARTH: INNOVATIONS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH & SCIENCE IN SPACE EXPLORATION



**JENNIFER
FOGARTY, PH.D.**

CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE FOR SPACE
HEALTH

Jennifer Fogarty, Ph.D. is the Chief Scientific Officer for the Translational Research Institute for Space Health (TRISH) at Baylor College of Medicine and a former Chief Scientist of the NASA Human Research Program. She has more than twenty years of operational, science strategy, and research experience in human health and performance in extreme environments. Her mission is to improve health and performance by increasing access to high-quality healthcare in space and on Earth, empowering astronauts, patients, and medical providers.

Dr. Fogarty received her Ph.D. in Medical Sciences from Texas A&M University College of Medicine, is currently an Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, Editor of the Fundamentals of Aerospace Medicine and npjMicrogravity Editorial Board Member.



THANK YOU TO THE PUBCON PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING CHAIRS:

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& ELIZABETH MCGEE '21

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1321 ANTOINE DRIVE, HOUSTON, TX 77055

VENUE INFORMATION

THOMPSON HOUSTON, BY HYATT

1717 ALLEN PKWY, HOUSTON, TX 77019

SPACE CENTER HOUSTON

1601 E NASA PKWY, HOUSTON, TX 77058

THE POST

401 FRANKLIN STREET HOUSTON, TX 77201

TRANSPORTATION

FRIDAY:

DEPART THE THOMPSON FOR
SPACE CENTER HOUSTON @ 2:00 PM

DEPART SPACE CENTER HOUSTON FOR
THE THOMPSON @ 9:15 PM

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND POLICY IMPERATIVES**



**FUTURE OF SPACE
EXPLORATION**



**NATIONAL SECURITY
AND DEFENSE**



**TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION**



**WORKFORCE AND
EDUCATION**

VENUE INFORMATION:

DETAILS ON TOPIC/VENUE WILL BE PROVIDED AT REGISTRATION.

NAVY BLUE

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CANDENTE

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AGENDA

MISSION CONTROL: TEXAS' LEADERSHIP IN
SPACE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

THURSDAY APRIL 4, 2024

- 5:00 PM **Welcome Reception**
- 5:30 PM **Welcome & Cosmic Musical Exploration**
Molly Quirk, Principal, State & Local Government, Ardurra |
President, The Texas Lyceum; *Lyceum Class of 2018*
Jazz Houston Youth Orchestra All-Star Quintet
- 6:00 PM **A Welcome from the Chairs**
Jessica Attas, CEO, Prosper Waco; *Lyceum Class of 2021*
Darrell Davila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Lt. Governor of Texas;
Lyceum Class of 2019
Elizabeth McGee, General Manager State/Local Government
& Education, Intel Corporation; *Lyceum Class of 2021*
- Houston: A Legacy of Discovery**
Intro: The Honorable Chris Hollins, City Controller, City of Houston;
Lyceum Class of 2022
Michael Heckman, CEO, Houston First
- Launching into the Future of Space**
Jim Szczesniak, Director of Aviation, Houston Airport Systems
- 6:30 PM **Opening Plenary Session: Texas' Leadership in Investment,
Education, and Policy to Support Developing the Space Sector**
Moderator: Merrill Davis, Vice President, Communications,
Texas 2036; *Lyceum Class of 2013*
Speakers:
The Honorable Dr. Greg Bonnen, Chairman of Appropriations,
Texas House of Representatives
Adriana Cruz, Executive Director, Texas Economic Development
& Tourism Office
Dr. Harrison Keller, Commissioner of Higher Education, State of Texas;
Lyceum Class of 2004

- 7:30 PM **Conference Art Auction**
- 7:45 PM **Salon Dinners**
- 9:30 PM **Hospitality Suite, Thompson Houston, by Hyatt, Sol 7 Restaurant**

FRIDAY APRIL 5, 2024

- 7:30 AM **Opening Breakfast, Thompson Houston, by Hyatt**
- 8:00 AM **Chair's Welcome**
Jessica Attas, CEO, Prosper Waco; *Lyceum Class of 2021*
Darrell Davila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Lt. Governor of Texas;
Lyceum Class of 2019
Elizabeth McGee, General Manager State/Local Government
& Education, Intel Corporation; *Lyceum Class of 2021*
- 8:15 AM **Official Welcome to our Host City Houston**
Intro: Elizabeth McGee, General Manager State/Local Government
& Education, Intel Corporation; *Lyceum Class of 2021*
The Honorable John Whitmire, Mayor, City of Houston
- 8:30 AM **Texas Launchpad: Exploring Commercial Opportunities in
the Final Frontier**
Intro: E. Ashley Smith, General Counsel, Houston Community College;
Lyceum Class of 1980
Moderator: Brad Morrison, CEO, Atlantis Industries, Inc.;
Lyceum Class of 2013
Speakers:
Jack "2fish" Fischer, Vice President, Production & Operations,
Intuitive Machines
Tim Kopra, CEO, Starlab
Kathy Lueders, Starbase General Manager, SpaceX

9:20 AM **Spaceconomics: Texas' Orbital Opportunity for Economic Growth**

Intro: Jessica Attas, CEO, Prosper Waco; *Lyceum Class of 2021*

Moderator: Brian Freedman, President, Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership

Speakers:

The Honorable Carol Alvarado, Senator, Texas Senate

Sam Gunderson, Director, Business Development,

NASA Johnson Space Center

Matt Ondler, President, Axiom Space

Eddie Seyffert, Director of Government Affairs, Blue Origin

10:00 AM **Break**

10:10 AM **Cognitive Cosmos: Exploring Space & The Tech Industry's Virtuous Cycle of Innovation**

Intro: Dr. Paul Cherukuri, Chief Innovation Officer, Rice University

Moderator: Harvin Moore, Principal, Frontera Technology Ventures;

Lyceum Class of 2003

Speakers:

Dr. Niall Gaffney, Director Data Systems, Texas Advanced Computing Center, University of Texas

Dr. Melvin Greer, Fellow & Chief Data Scientist, Intel Corporation

John Mulholland, Vice President and Program Manager,

International Space Station, Boeing

Kirk Shireman, Vice President of Lunar Exploration Campaigns,

Lockheed Martin Space

11:10 AM **Launching Careers: Building the Space Industry Workforce through Education**

Intro: Elizabeth McGee, General Manager State/Local Government & Education, Intel Corporation; *Lyceum Class of 2021*

Moderator: Justin Yancy, President & CEO, Texas Business Leadership Council; *Lyceum Class of 2004*

Speakers:

Dr. Margaret Ford Fisher, Chancellor, Houston Community College

Dr. Bernard Harris Jr., MD, MBA, FACP, CEO, Vesalius Ventures |

Founder, Harris Institute/Foundation

Mike Reeser, Chancellor, Texas State Technical College

John Sharp, Chancellor, Texas A&M University System;

Lyceum Class of 1987

12:00 PM **Lunch with the Lieutenant Governor**

Intro: Darrell Davila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Lt. Governor of Texas; *Lyceum Class of 2019*

The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor, State of Texas

Break

2:00 PM **Buses Depart for Space Center Houston**

Conference Resumes at Space Center Houston

3:00 PM **Houston's Space Legacy: Welcome to the Space Center Houston**

Intro: Laolu Davies-Yemitan, Trustee District IV,

Houston Community College; *Lyceum Class of 2022*

William Harris, President & CEO, Space Center Houston

3:15 PM **Frontiers of Exploration: NASA's Vision for the Future of Space**

Vanessa Wyche, Director, NASA Johnson Space Center

AGENDA

MISSION CONTROL: TEXAS' LEADERSHIP IN
SPACE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION

3:30 PM **Behind-the-Scenes of Johnson Space Center**

4:45 PM **Reception in the Starship Gallery**

5:30 PM **Celestial Dinner Experience**

5:45 PM **Spotlight: EDGE Center for Aerospace Training**

Intro: Jessica Attas, CEO, Prosper Waco; *Lyceum Class of 2021*
Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor, San Jacinto College District

6:00 PM **Fellow Presentation - The Accessibility of Space: Making the Texas Space Industry Accessible to Rural High School Students**

Moderator: Cary Dupuy, Texas Regional Director, National Parks Conservation Association; *Lyceum Class of 2021*
Keilly O'Reilly, Texas Lyceum Fellow, Bush School of Government & Public Service, Texas A&M University

6:35 PM **Safeguarding the Earth and Skies: The Intersection of National Security, Defense, and Space Exploration**

Intro: Betsy Martin, Director, Southeast Region, Boeing;
Lyceum Class of 2024
Moderator: Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Joseph Kopser, Military Liaison for Military & Veterans Affairs, University of Texas at Austin;
Lyceum Class of 2017

Speakers:

Cameron Chehreh, Vice President & General Manager, US Public Sector, Intel Corporation
Major General (retired) Clint Crosier, Director, Aerospace & Satellite Solutions, Amazon Web Services
Dyan Gibbens, Founder & CEO, Trumbull

7:45 PM **Fireside Chat**
Space Policy Leadership: Charting a Course for the United States and Beyond

Intro: Darrell Davila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Lt. Governor of Texas;
Lyceum Class of 2019

Moderator: Lila Flores, US Commercial Leader, Palantir Technologies;
Lyceum Class of 2021

The Honorable Ted Cruz, Senator, United States Senate;
Lyceum Class of 2004

8:45 PM **Chair's Closing Remarks**

Jessica Attas, CEO, Prosper Waco; *Lyceum Class of 2021*
Darrell Davila, Chief of Staff, Office of the Lt. Governor of Texas;
Lyceum Class of 2019
Elizabeth McGee, General Manager State/Local Government & Education, Intel Corporation; *Lyceum Class of 2021*

10:00 PM **Galactic Gateway Lounge, Thompson Houston, by Hyatt, 5th Floor**

SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2024

8:00 AM **Breakfast, Thompson Houston, by Hyatt**

9:00 AM **Board of Directors Meeting, Thompson Houston, by Hyatt**
Limited to Directors and Alumni ONLY

Join us for lunch at **The POST**, Houston's hub for culture, food, and recreation, immediately following the Board Meeting.



THE HONORABLE CAROL ALVARADO

SENATOR

TEXAS SENATOR

Senator Carol Alvarado is proud to serve Texas Senate District 6 in Harris County and was first elected in a 2018 Special Election. In 2008, she was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and served five terms representing District 145. She served as the Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee and Co-Chair of the Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations.

Now in her third term serving in the Texas Senate, Carol is a member of the senate committees on Administration, Natural Resources and Economic Development, Nominations, Transportation and the Special Committee on Redistricting. Carol also serves as the Chair of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus.

Carol's primary legislative focus has been on economic development, public health and public education. She has championed legislation aimed at strengthening our state's workforce, helping small businesses succeed, creating tools to recruit businesses to relocate to Texas, regulating the use of e-cigarettes for children and criminal justice reform.

Carol is an advocate for women's health and reproductive rights and has passed legislation to assist victims of sexual abuse. She is also a strong advocate for voting rights and ensuring access to the ballot.



THE HONORABLE DR. GREG BONNEN

*CHAIRMAN OF
APPROPRIATIONS
TEXAS HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES*

Representative Greg Bonnen is Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and is currently serving his sixth term as State Representative for House District 24.

Prior, he served as Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher and Public Education and as a member of the Insurance Committee. He has also served on the Energy Resources Committee; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, the Judiciary, and Criminal Justice; Joint Interim Committee on Coastal Barrier Systems; Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) Funding Structure Oversight Board; Interim Committee on Border Security; and Interim Committee on Mental Health.

Dr. Bonnen grew up in Angleton and graduated *cum laude* from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry, and attended medical school at UTMB where he also did his neurosurgery residency and served for two years as an assistant professor of neurosurgery. During college, Representative Bonnen spent two summers working as a counselor at Texas Lion's Camp for handicapped children, which he credits with introducing him to both his profession as a doctor and his wife, Kim. He has continued to devote time to his church and different charitable organizations and has participated in numerous mission trips to Mexico, Panama, Haiti, Cuba, and the Philippines.



CAMERON CHEHREH

*VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL
MANAGER, PUBLIC SECTOR*

INTEL CORPORATION

Cameron Chehreh is Vice President, Sales and Marketing Group & General Manager of the Public Sector team at Intel. He leads a team focused on driving innovation to solve complex mission challenges for US Federal civilian agencies, the Department of Defense & Intelligence community, defense contractors, State and Local Government, and Education customers and partners. Cameron specializes in leveraging the power of modern technology to expand human potential and help organizations digitally transform the way they work.

Previously, Cameron held senior leadership roles at numerous technology providers, including Vice President and Chief Technology Officer for Dell Technologies Federal Systems and founder and CTO of commercial cyber services for General Dynamics Information Technology. Cameron has been recognized with the 2023 Wash100 Award and a FedScoop Industry Leadership Award.

Cameron is a published author and speaker on information technology topics, including digital transformation, cloud computing, cyber security, service-oriented architecture, data center consolidation and optimization, and business topics covering strategic outsourcing, IT to business alignment, government markets, business strategy and operations, and organizational change. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Audio Engineering and Mass Communications from Middle Tennessee State University.



MAJOR GENERAL (RETIRED) CLINT CROSIER

*DIRECTOR, AEROSPACE &
SATELLITE SOLUTIONS*
AMAZON WEB SERVICES

Maj Gen (Ret) Clint Crosier leads the AWS global Aerospace and Satellite business, responsible for providing customers with cloud solutions for building satellites, conducting space operations, and reimagining space exploration. Prior to AWS, he spent 33 years in the US Air Force/Space Force. During his career, he operated multiple satellite constellations, launched rockets putting satellites into orbit, and held key roles as a US Senate Staffer and in DOD Intelligence and Space Policy. Prior to retiring, he was credited by the US Vice President as “the architect” of the establishment of the US Space Force, the first new military service in 72 years.



ADRIANA CRUZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
OFFICE

As Executive Director, Cruz provides leadership to Business and Community Development, Economic Development Finance, Texas Tourism, Texas Workforce Investment Council, Texas Music Office, and the Texas Film Commission.

Cruz has more than 20 years of leadership experience in economic development, marketing, and international business. Prior to her appointment to lead the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, Cruz was President of the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the regional economic development organization established to encourage and nurture economic growth in San Marcos, and Hays and Caldwell Counties. Previously, Cruz was the Vice President of Global Corporate Recruitment for the Austin Chamber of Commerce.

In April 2020, Cruz was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Strike Force to Open Texas, a team of nationally recognized private and public leaders to advise the Governor on safely and strategically reopening the state of Texas. In January 2020, Governor Greg Abbott appointed Cruz to the Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs, and named her vice chair of the council. In 2021, the Governor appointed Cruz to the Texas Freight Advisory Committee. She also serves on the Texas Economic Development Council and the Texas Workforce Investment Council. In addition, from 2016 to 2019, she served on the Texas Economic Incentives Oversight Board, to review the efficiency of Texas’ incentive programs.



THE HONORABLE TED CRUZ

SENATOR

UNITED STATES SENATE
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2004

Ted earned his undergraduate degree from Princeton and his law degree from Harvard Law School. After law school, Ted clerked for Chief Justice Rehnquist and then worked in private practice. In 1999, Ted joined George W. Bush’s campaign for president as a domestic policy advisor.

After working at the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission during the Bush administration, Ted moved back home to be the Solicitor General of Texas. Following his service as Solicitor General, Ted returned to private practice, where he continued to litigate high stakes cases and argued his ninth case before the Supreme Court.

In 2013, Ted was sworn into the United States Senate, where he has been a passionate fighter for limited government, economic growth, and national security. He has authored dozens of legislative measures that have been signed into law, including expanding 529 college savings accounts to allow parents to save for K-12 public, private, and religious education, repealing Obamacare’s individual mandate, imposing sanctions on terrorists who use civilians as human shields, designating North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, targeting Putin’s Nord Stream 2 pipeline through multiple bills that halted construction and kept it stalled, reauthorizing and reforming NASA, holding dictatorships in South America accountable, and ensuring the availability of additional records to help solve civil rights cold cases.



MERRILL DAVIS

VP OF COMMUNICATIONS

TEXAS 2036
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2013

Merrill Davis currently serves as the Vice President of Communications for Texas 2036, leveraging over 25 years of experience in strategic communications and public affairs to significantly enhance the organization's brand, reputation, and reach. Prior to her current role, Merrill worked for Public Strategies, Inc., rising from an Associate to Executive Vice President at Hill+Knowlton Strategies and later served as Senior Vice President at Mercury, showcasing her prowess in managing complex strategic initiatives for a variety of clients. Additionally, Merrill has taught strategic communications at the University of Texas at Austin's Center for Professional Education.



CARY DUPUY

*TEXAS REGIONAL DIRECTOR
NATIONAL PARKS
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION*

LYCEUM CLASS OF 2021

As Regional Director for the National Parks Conservation Association, Cary connects people, communities and businesses with national parks in Texas and Oklahoma to protect and enhance these parks for current and future generations.

Previously, Cary served as a policy advisor for state-wide elected officials in Texas, working on natural resource and economic development issues impacting private landowners, rural economies and the agriculture industry. Cary is a Director of the Texas Lyceum and a Board member for the Hill Country Conservancy.

Cary earned degrees in History and Public Administration from Texas Tech University. A native Texan, Cary and her husband, Will, spend time with their two kids exploring the rivers and trails in the Hill Country and across the state.



JACK "2FISH" FISCHER

*VICE PRESIDENT,
PRODUCTION & OPERATIONS*

INTUITIVE MACHINES

Jack D. Fischer (Colonel, U.S. Air Force) was selected by NASA in July 2009. The Colorado native served as a Flight Engineer aboard the International Space Station of the Expedition 51/52. During his 2017 mission, he logged 136 days in space with two spacewalks. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Astronautical Engineering from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and a Master of Science in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Colonel Fischer is an Air Force Command pilot with over 3,000 flight hours in more than 45 types of aircraft.



DR. MARGARET FORD FISHER

CHANCELLOR

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Margaret Ford Fisher, Ed.D., began her tenure as the ninth Chancellor of Houston Community College on January 24, 2024. She has served as Interim Chancellor since September 1, 2023.

From 2018-2023, she served as founding president of HCC Online College, leading to the establishment of more than 60 fully online degrees and 70 hybrid programs, building an enrollment of more than 62,000 students.

Previously, she served 20 years as HCC Northeast College president. There, she led two successful capital campaigns and community support for HCC District annexation. She led development of new, leading-edge STEM energy and biotechnology programs, secured federal and state grants and philanthropic support, and brokered industry relationships that led to high-tech, stackable-certificate programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and an enrollment of 14,000 students.

Since joining HCC in 1985, Dr. Ford Fisher has served in leadership roles, including Interim Vice Chancellor of Instruction, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academics, Dean of Instruction, Division Chair of Arts and Humanities, and English Chair and professor. She has also taught at Texas Southern University, the University of Houston, and Wichita High School South. She was an assistant professor of Intercultural Communications and International Relations at Wichita State University (Kansas) for nine years. Dr. Ford Fisher has been a lifelong advocate for education locally, nationally, and internationally.



LILA FLORES

US COMMERCIAL BUSINESS LEADER

**PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2021**

Lila Flores is a senior executive at Palantir, managing the US commercial business. She is also a Principal at CAZ Investments. Previously, Flores was a Vice President of Business Development at Freedom Solar and spent a decade at Goldman Sachs on the FX trading desk. Lila also served as Finance Director on Senator Cruz's 2016 Presidential campaign. Mrs. Flores serves as a board member of the Texas Bowl, is the Mutton Bustin' announcer at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and is an active member in St. Martin's Episcopal Church. She graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy and Cornell University. Lila enjoys golf, hunting and fishing.



JENNIFER FOGARTY, PH.D.

(POST CONFERENCE VIRTUAL PANELIST)

CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SPACE HEALTH

Jennifer Fogarty, Ph.D. is the Chief Scientific Officer for the Translational Research Institute for Space Health (TRISH) at Baylor College of Medicine and a former Chief Scientist of the NASA Human Research Program. She has more than twenty years of operational, science strategy, and research experience in human health and performance in extreme environments. Her mission is to improve health and performance by increasing access to high-quality healthcare in space and on Earth, empowering astronauts, patients, and medical providers.

Dr. Fogarty received her Ph.D. in Medical Sciences from Texas A&M University College of Medicine, is currently an Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, Editor of the Fundamentals of Aerospace Medicine and npjMicrogravity Editorial Board Member.



BRIAN FREEDMAN

PRESIDENT

BAY AREA HOUSTON ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Brian D. Freedman serves as the president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP), where he leads regional economic development efforts, advocates for regional priorities, and directs a team of world-class economic development professionals. The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a membership-driven organization dedicated to stimulating regional economic development and employment in the Houston - Bay Area region.

Prior to joining BAHEP, Freedman served as senior manager of State and Local Government Operations, Southwest Region, for The Boeing Company, and prior to that role, as the lead for Legislative Affairs at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC).

Freedman holds a bachelor's degree in management from Mississippi State University, an MBA with a graduate certificate in finance from Colorado State University, and an executive certificate in strategy and innovation from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



DR. NIALL GAFFNEY, PH.D.

DIRECTOR OF DATA COMPUTING

TEXAS ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Niall Gaffney's background primarily revolves around the management and utilization of large inhomogeneous scientific datasets. Niall, who earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in astronomy from The University of Texas at Austin, joined TACC in May 2013. Most of his focus has been on creating environments to foster better data practices from improving metadata, data processing, analysis, and reuse. He focuses on improving researchers' data practices to accelerate outcomes and better feed the Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence applications which are becoming more broadly adopted in science and engineering research fields. Much of this stems from his 13 years as designer and developer for the archives at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), which holds the data from the Hubble Space Telescope, Kepler, and James Webb Space Telescope missions.

He was also a leader in developing the Hubble Legacy Archive. This project harvested the 20+ years of Hubble Space Telescope data to create some of the most sensitive astronomical data products available for open research. Before his work at STScI, Niall was worked as "the friend of the telescope" for the Hobby Eberly Telescope (HET) project at the McDonald Observatory in west Texas. This was the start of his work in planning experiments and then cataloging the data the HET produced.



DYAN GIBBENS

FOUNDER & CEO

TRUMBULL

Dyan advises the innovation arms of the U.S. Air and Space Forces and founded Trumbull, a Forbes Top 25 Veteran Founded Startup, serving energy and defense. Dyan studied engineering, instructed skydiving, and learned to fly at the U.S. Air Force Academy with experience in autonomy, aerospace, and AI. As Veteran Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, Dyan focused on AI in space.

After serving as an Acquisitions Officer, Dyan supported Air Force One, then tech initiatives during Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations and G7 I7. Google selected Dyan as 1 of 8 globally to serve on their "AI Council." The White House - U.S. CTO asked her to serve on the Global Partnership on AI. Dyan founded autonome, serves on Space Center Houston's Board, and works with Stanford Engineering to introduce engineers to national security.



DR. MELVIN GREER

*FELLOW AND CHIEF
DATA SCIENTIST*

INTEL CORPORATION

As Intel Fellow and Chief Data Scientist, Dr. Melvin Greer has achieved the company's pre-eminent technical distinction in recognition of his outstanding and sustained technical achievement and leadership. Dr. Greer is a technical expert in the application of artificial intelligence, neuromorphic computing, machine learning, post quantum and blockchain zero trust models. His systems and software engineering experience has resulted in patented inventions in Cloud Computing, Synthetic Biology, and IoT Bio-sensors for edge analytics. He has authored 5 books and published over 400 research papers. His research has been cited more than 4000 times worldwide. Dr. Greer is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and serves on the Board of Directors for the U.S. National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine. Dr. Greer has been appointed to Senior Advisor and Fellow at the FBI IT and Data Division, where he accelerates of the FBI mission via data analytics and advanced data science techniques. Dr. Greer has been recognized by LinkedIn as a Top 10 Voice in data science and analytics. He is the recipient of the BDPA Lifetime Achievement Award and has been inducted into the BEYA Hall of Fame which recognize his technical expertise and impact. Dr. Greer also is Adjunct Faculty, Advanced Academic Program at Johns Hopkins University, where he teaches the Master of Science Course "Practical Applications of Artificial Intelligence". He has also been appointed to Senior Advisor at the UC Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy where he develops and accelerates the adoption of public policy for emerging and advanced technologies such as Web3.0, Generative and Conversational AI and the Metaverse.



SAM GUNDERSON

*DIRECTOR, BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT*

**NASA JOHNSON SPACE
CENTER**

Sam Gunderson is the Business Development Director at NASA's Johnson Space Center to enhance relationships to "propel the space economy." Specifically, bringing JSC competencies to help industry manage their risks in support of NASA mission objectives.

Previously, Gunderson was a director on the business development team at Blue Origin, as well as a Boeing ISS senior manager engaged on the ISS Program and new spacecraft business development.

He has a BBA in Finance & Accounting from Texas A&M University and a M.S. in Future Studies from the University of Houston - Clear Lake. He is also a Texas CPA.



DR. BERNARD HARRIS JR., MD, MBA, FACP

*CEO | FOUNDER
VESALIUS VENTURES |
HARRIS INSTITUTE /
FOUNDATION*

Dr. Harris is responsible for managing a portfolio of private assets of early and mid-stage venture investments and operating companies. He served as CEO & Executive Director of the National Math & Science Initiative and led the organization's efforts to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement in communities across the country. Dr. Harris was at NASA for ten years, where he conducted research in musculoskeletal physiology and clinical investigations of space adaptation and developed in-flight medical devices to extend Astronaut stays in space. A veteran astronaut for over thirty years, he has logged more than 438 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Raytheon Technologies, MassMutual, and U.S. Physical Therapy. Dr. Harris served as a Board of Director/Trustee for Salient Midstream & MLP Fund and Salient MF Trust, and Barings Fund & BBDC. In addition, he is on the non-profit Boards of the Texas Medical Center (currently Chair), Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the Harris Institute & Foundation. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Houston, a Master of Medical Science from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Houston and a Doctorate of Medicine from Texas Tech University School of Medicine. He trained as a Flight Surgeon at the Aerospace School of Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base. Dr. Harris is the recipient of numerous awards, including nine honorary doctorates.



WILLIAM HARRIS

PRESIDENT & CEO

SPACE CENTER HOUSTON

William T. Harris oversees the strategic direction of the space exploration learning destination, Space Center Houston. Joining the foundation and center in April 2016, Harris has more than 38 years in nonprofit leadership.

Prior leadership roles include multiple positions at the University of California, Los Angeles; the RAND/UCLA Center for Soviet Studies; the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts in Boston; and the Boston University School of Medicine. He served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay and is fluent in Spanish.

He serves as the immediate past chair of the board of directors of the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC). He is also a member of the board of directors and chair of the grants committee for the QueensCare Charitable Foundation, is a member of the board of directors for the Greater Houston Partnership, serves as board vice president of the Association of Science Museum Directors (ASMD) and was recently appointed to the United States National Museum and Library Services Board of Directors.

Harris holds a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. He earned certificates in Community Health and the Delivery of Health Services at Tufts and in development from The Fundraising Institute at Boston University School of Communications.



MICHAEL HECKMAN

PRESIDENT & CEO

**HOUSTON FIRST
CORPORATION**

Michael Heckman has served in the role of President and CEO of Houston First Corporation since August 2020 and has been part of the organization's leadership team since 2009.

Prior to this role, Heckman served as Chief Operating Officer of Strategic Initiatives for Houston First, responsible for developing a new strategic direction for the corporation. He has also served as the Senior Vice President of Partnerships and Event Development, with responsibilities ranging from major events like the Super Bowl to a portfolio of entrepreneurial enterprises.

Under Heckman's leadership, Houston First helped steer the post-pandemic recovery of the region's leisure and hospitality sector. By 2023, most industry indicators—from hotel revenue to sector employment—had completely recovered in the region. During the most recent Texas legislative session, Houston First effectively lobbied for the passage of SB 1057, a bill that provides nearly \$2 billion in funding to transform the George R. Brown Convention Center and the surrounding district. Heckman has called the project slated to break ground in 2025 a "once in a generation opportunity."

Heckman has a more than 20-year career with leadership roles spanning from destination marketing and hotels to sports and event management.



DR. BRENDA HELLYER

CHANCELLOR

**SAN JACINTO COLLEGE
DISTRICT**

In 2009, Dr. Brenda Hellyer was appointed chancellor of San Jacinto College, Texas' eighth largest community college with about 45,000 credit and non-credit students, five campuses, and several extension centers.

Prior to joining San Jacinto College, Hellyer worked in the corporate world as an accountant in both the private and public arena.

She holds a bachelor's of science degree in accounting from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, a master's degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Austin, and a doctorate degree in community college leadership from the University of Texas at Austin.

Brenda has served on a variety of community boards and committees, including chambers of commerce, economic development councils, city and county government, and nonprofit organizations. She has also served and chaired various associations and commissions at the regional, state, and national levels.



DR. HARRISON KELLER

*COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER
EDUCATION*

**STATE OF TEXAS
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2004**

Harrison Keller is Commissioner of Higher Education for the State of Texas and chief executive officer for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Dr. Keller is a sixth-generation Texan with nearly twenty-five years of experience in state budget and policy, university administration, fundraising, and building coalitions among higher education institutions, school districts, and policymakers. At the Coordinating Board, Dr. Keller has worked with higher education leaders, employers, and policymakers to develop and advance the state's strategic plan for higher education, Building a Talent Strong Texas. Dr. Keller has worked with the Governor, legislators, and higher education leaders to accelerate innovation and increase support for financial aid, transfer, workforce education, and research and development. He is a recognized innovator in programs to improve college readiness and student success, especially for low-income and first-generation students.

Dr. Keller has taught at Georgetown University, St. Edward's University, and the University of Texas at Austin. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and an M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University. From 2005 to 2015, he served as an intelligence officer in the United States Navy Reserve. He and his wife live in Austin with their three children.



TIM KOPRA

PRINCIPAL

STARLAB

A seasoned executive and leader, Tim Kopra serves as CEO of Starlab and Nanoracks (part of Voyager's Exploration Segment). Previously, he served as the President of OneWeb Technologies, and as Vice President, Robotics and Space Operations for MDA. Prior to his work in the private sector, Tim Kopra spent 18 years as an astronaut for NASA, including his role as a flight engineer on Expedition 46 and commander of Expedition 47. Tim Kopra is a retired U.S. Army Colonel and served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He earned his BS from the United States Military Academy, a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, an MS in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech, and MBAs from Columbia Business School and London Business School.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RETIRED) JOSEPH KOPSLER

*MILITARY LIAISON FOR
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS*
**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AUSTIN
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2017**

Joseph Kopsler is a lifelong problem solver committed to building the teams needed to take on our toughest challenges. In addition, he is a technology entrepreneur and expert in transportation, smart cities, urban mobility, energy, national security issues as well as an Army combat veteran. His roles include special advisor for military and veteran affairs at the University of Texas as well as leadership development for several start-ups. Previously, he served as an Executive-in-Residence at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas. In addition, he is President of Grayline where he works with people and companies to grow their businesses.

Joseph served in the U.S. Army for 20 years earning the Combat Action Badge, Army Ranger Tab and Bronze Star. He 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, he was recognized as a White House Champion of Change for his efforts in Energy and Transportation. In 2019, Joseph became the inaugural Chair of the Board of Advisors for the CleanTX Foundation, an economic development and professional association for cleantech. Joseph and his wife of 27 years, Amy, live in Austin and they are extremely proud of their three adult daughters.



KATHY LUEDERS

STARBASE GENERAL MANAGER

SPACE X

Lueders joined SpaceX in April of 2023 as the head of the company's Starbase facility in South Texas, after a long career at NASA, culminating as NASA's human spaceflight chief and leader of the Commercial Crew Program which saw the first successful commercial space launch with Demo-2 from the Kennedy Space Center in May 2020.

Lueders began her NASA career in 1992 at the White Sands Test Facility in New Mexico, where she was the Shuttle Orbital Maneuvering System and Reaction Control Systems Depot manager. She later moved to the International Space Station Program and served as transportation integration manager, where she led commercial cargo resupply services to the space station.

She also was responsible for NASA oversight of international partner spacecraft visiting the space station, including the European Space Agency's Automated Transfer Vehicle, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's H-II Transfer Vehicle, and the Russian space agency Roscosmos' Soyuz and Progress spacecraft. She went to Kennedy as acting Commercial Crew program manager in 2013 and was selected as the head of the office in 2014.

Lueders has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from New Mexico State University.



HARVIN MOORE

PRINCIPAL

**FRONTERA TECHNOLOGY
VENTURES
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2003**

Harvin is Principal at Frontera Technology Ventures, a growth stage angel and venture fund and corporate finance firm. He has had C-level roles in companies including pioneering aerospace company Space Services Inc. and Celestis, Inc. Harvin was a founding LP of Station Houston, board member of the Houston Angel Network, and mentor at Houston Technology Center, Station Houston, Capital Factory, and at other start-up organizations.

From 2019-2021, Harvin led Houston Exponential, an independent nonprofit tasked with significantly increasing the vibrance and size of Houston's innovation ecosystem and attracting talent and venture capital.

Harvin is a graduate of Northwestern University and NYU Business.



BRAD MORRISON

FOUNDER & CEO

**ATLANTIS INDUSTRIES, INC.
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2013**

Brad is a Texas based "business builder" focused on aerospace, defense and "dual use" technology that makes an impact on the future of work, life and security. Brad has over 20 years of Big 5 consulting, corporate development, capital formation, M&A and tech start-up expertise across the Telecommunications and Aerospace and Defense sectors which included co-founding and leading multiple high-tech companies. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran passionate about helping service members transition into workforce. He is past Chairman of the Texas Lyceum.



JOHN MULHOLLAND

*VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAM
MANAGER, INTERNATIONAL
SPACE STATION*

BOEING

As vice president and program manager of Boeing's Commercial Crew Program, John Mulholland leads the development of the Crew Space Transportation (CST)-100 Starliner system. Mulholland ensures that proven innovations and capabilities from across Boeing are used in the design, development and operations of Starliner vehicles to support NASA and other commercial customers.

Prior to his present position, Mulholland was the vice president and program manager for the Boeing Space Shuttle Program, responsible for overall direction and successful execution, from January 2008 to August 2011. Mulholland led Boeing in its role as the major subcontractor to United Space Alliance in support of its operations contract with NASA's Space Shuttle Program.

From 1996 to 2002, he was the space shuttle deputy manager of operations and project engineer at NASA's Johnson Space Center, where he was responsible for orbiter vehicle modifications, flight and ground processing anomaly resolution, and flight preparation and vehicle modification processes. A NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal recipient, Mulholland was employed at NASA's White Sands Test Facility in New Mexico from 1986 to 1996 and was responsible for shuttle propulsion testing, including refurbishment of the orbiters' flight components. Mulholland is a graduate of New Mexico State University with a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering and a master's degree in mechanical engineering.



MATT ONDLER

PRESIDENT

AXIOM SPACE, INC.

Recently promoted to President, Matt Ondler brings more than two decades of leadership experience, including serving as NASA Johnson Space Center's assistant director of engineering, where he was responsible for all advanced exploration systems development. NASA conferred upon him its Outstanding Leadership and Exceptional Achievement medals.

Ondler has more than 35 years of engineering and management experience, including founding and serving as president & CEO of Houston Mechatronics, Inc. (HMI), a growing robotics and intelligent automation company. Under his leadership, HMI grew from a three-person start-up to an engineering staff of 75 and a valuation of \$60 million. Previously, he was a senior executive at Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies.

He is an aerospace engineering graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder and holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston Bauer College of Business.



KEILLY O'REILLY

*TEXAS LYCEUM FELLOW, BUSH
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC SERVICE*

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Kelly O'Reilly is a Master's of International Affairs candidate at the Bush School of Government and Public Service studying national security and diplomacy. Prior to this, she earned her B.A. in Political Science and B.S. in Economics from the University of Houston. Kelly's primary research activities include the accessibility of space careers, deterrence in the space domain, and how countries leverage the space domain for national security. Post graduation, Kelly seeks a career in the national security space industry.



THE HONORABLE DAN PATRICK

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

STATE OF TEXAS

Dan Patrick was first elected Lt. Governor of Texas in 2014 and then re-elected in 2018 and 2022. He was also twice elected to the Texas Senate in 2006 and 2010 representing part of Harris County. He is a preeminent voice for principled conservative policies both in Texas and across the nation. Critics have called Lt. Gov and supporters the “most effective Lt. Governor in Texas history.”

Lt. Governor Patrick is a leader in the fight to protect liberty, lower property and business taxes, create jobs and grow our economy, strengthen our grid by adding additional reliable dispatchable power, provide a high-quality education for all, secure our border, support law enforcement, and to protect life, religious freedom, and the Second Amendment. Lt. Governor Patrick delivered the largest property tax cut in history, \$18 billion, benefitting homeowners and businesses, including a \$100,000 homestead exemption. He cut the franchise tax 25% and has kept regulations reasonable.

Lt. Governor Patrick and his wife, Jan, a former schoolteacher, will celebrate 49 years of marriage in 2024. They are the proud parents of two children, Ryan, a former state prosecutor, judge and U.S. Attorney, and daughter Shane, a speech therapist and registered nurse. They have a great daughter-in-law and son-in-law and are proud grandparents to eight grandchildren.



MICHAEL REESER

CHANCELLOR/CEO

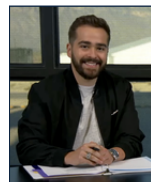
TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

As Chancellor & CEO of the Texas State Technical College, Mike Reeser leads the only statewide public 2-year technical college system with 10 campuses across Texas.

Under Reeser's leadership, TSTC has become well-known as an innovator in higher education operations. Two of the most noteworthy innovations are the Returned-Value Funding Formula, a state-funding method based solely on student employment outcomes and not on enrollment census; and the Money-Back Guarantee, an employment assurance program that refunds tuition to students who can't find a job after earning a TSTC degree.

Prior to being appointed Chancellor in 2010, Reeser served TSTC in various roles including chief financial officer, college president, and dean of instruction. In the early half of this career, Reeser was a banker who served in executive and management roles in Houston and Waco.

Reeser is married and has four grown children. He holds a BS degree from Texas A&M University and an MBA from The University of Texas in Arlington.



EDDIE SEYFFERT

*DIRECTOR, TEXAS
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS*

BLUE ORIGIN

Eddie Seyffert is the Director of Texas Government Relations for Blue Origin, a private space company working to radically reduce the cost of access to space and harness its vast resources for the benefit of Earth. A fellow Texan from El Paso, Eddie leverages his passion for and experience in space, STEAM, business, government affairs, and in the community to lead Blue Origin's Government Relations efforts in Texas.

As a company leader, Eddie has been a webcast host for New Shepard launches NS-20, NS-21, NS-22, and NS-24. Previously, he managed the BE-4 liquid rocket engine test stand at Blue Origin's Launch Site One facility in far, west Texas, and has experience with BE-3 engine testing and New Shepard launch and landing operations. Eddie cares about aerospace and aerospace in Texas, having been elected to the local school board in Culberson County between 2018 and 2021. Empowered by the local community, he helped build a successful cradle-to-career pipeline for Van Horn Technology Early College High School students and other West Texas students.

Eddie joined Blue Origin in 2014, and has an MS in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from Purdue University, and a BS in the same from MIT.



JOHN SHARP

CHANCELLOR

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
LYCEUM CLASS OF 1987

John Sharp was appointed Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System by the Board of Regents in 2011.

As chancellor, Sharp leads one of the largest systems in the country with an annual budget of \$7.8 billion and an enrollment of more than 153,000 students at 11 System universities and eight state agencies.

Chancellor Sharp brings with him more than three decades of public service. He was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, Texas Senate, the Texas Railroad Commission, and state comptroller.

Sharp is married to Diana (Atchison) Sharp. They exchanged vows on May 5, 2023.



KIRK SHIREMAN

VICE PRESIDENT, LUNAR EXPLORATION CAMPAIGNS

LOCKHEED MARTIN SPACE

Kirk currently serves as the Vice President for the Lockheed Martin Lunar Exploration Campaign, a position he has held since joining Lockheed Martin in July 2020. Prior to joining Lockheed Martin in July 2020, Kirk served as the International Space Station (ISS) Program Manager.

Previously, Kirk served as the deputy director of NASA's Johnson Space Center. Kirk also served as the chair of the ISS Mission Management Team, where he was responsible for all aspects of on-orbit operations of the ISS. He was responsible for the overall management and integration of all Program operations elements, including the United States and international partners.

In March 2019, Kirk received the National Space Club Astronautics Engineer Award. He has also been recognized with NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal, NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal for successful integration of the ISS's Russian elements, the Silver Snoopy award in 1990, and the Presidential Rank Award twice in 2010 and 2017. In 2013, Shireman received the Eagle Manned Mission Award for his outstanding leadership of the ISS from the National Space Club at its 56th Annual Robert H. Goddard Memorial Dinner in Washington D.C.



JIM SZCZESNIAK

DIRECTOR OF AVIATION

HOUSTON AIRPORT SYSTEM

Jim Szczesniak, A.A.E. is the Director of Aviation for the Houston Airport System (HAS). Jim has more than two decades of management experience in both the public and private sector. He is responsible for the overall management of the Houston Airport System's three aviation facilities: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) and Ellington Airport (EFD).

Previously, Mr. Szczesniak served as the Airport Director for the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC). ANC is the world's fourth busiest air cargo airport and gateway to Alaska. Jim also spent a decade at the Chicago Department of Aviation. Jim started in airport operations at O'Hare International Airport, became Director of Airport Planning and ultimately Deputy Commissioner of Aviation at O'Hare and Midway International Airport.

Mr. Szczesniak holds a MBA from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor's in Aviation Management from Southern Illinois University. Jim is a licensed commercial pilot and aircraft mechanic. Jim is an Accredited Airport Executive by the American Association of Airport Executives.



THE HONORABLE JOHN WHITMIRE

MAYOR

CITY OF HOUSTON

John Whitmire, the former Dean of the Texas Senate, was sworn into office as Houston's 63rd Mayor on January 2, 2024. Throughout his career as a State Representative for 10 years and State Senator for 40, Whitmire has fought for district representation across Houston. He played a key role in establishing the first Latino state senate district in Harris County and has been an advocate for expanding access to early voting in person and Election Day polling locations in African American and Latino communities. His commitment to LGBTQ+ rights earned him the Harvey Milk Award in 1993 for his efforts against the decriminalization of the Sodomy Law. Whitmire has also been a vocal champion of women's rights, backed by a 100% voting record. He has worked to preserve the DREAM Act. He supported workers' compensation for injured farm workers and unemployment compensation.

Whitmire and his family were robbed at gunpoint, an experience that led to his chairmanship of the Criminal Justice Committee. As a long-serving chair of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, he authored the Sandra Bland Act, addressing law enforcement training, jail resources, and support for individuals with mental illness, substance abuse, or intellectual differences. He eliminated the "pick a pal" system and promoted diversity in panel selection. Additionally, he successfully led efforts to decriminalize school behavior and expunged thousands of class C misdemeanors from the records of young Texans.



VANESSA WYCHE

DIRECTOR

**NASA JOHNSON SPACE
CENTER**

Vanessa E. Wyche is the director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, home to America's astronaut corps, Mission Control Center, International Space Station, Orion and Gateway programs and its more than 11,000 civil service and contractor employees. She is responsible for a broad range of human spaceflight activities, including development and operation of human spacecraft, NASA astronaut selection and training, and mission control. Wyche oversees commercialization of low-Earth orbit – ensuring commercially provided destinations to continue research there following transition from the International Space Station in 2030. Additionally, she leads Johnson Space Center's role in exploring the Moon and Mars with NASA's Artemis spacecraft, including surface system capabilities for human and commercial robotic missions, and partners with academia, industry, and international community to establish a sustainable lunar economy. Under Wyche's leadership, Johnson Space Center was recognized by Forbes and Statista as the No. 1 best employer among Texas' major employers for two consecutive years.

Wyche previously served as deputy director at Johnson Space Center for three years beginning in 2018. Before joining NASA in 1989, Wyche worked for the Food and Drug Administration in Washington D.C.



JUSTIN YANCY

PRESIDENT

**TEXAS BUSINESS
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2004**

Justin Yancy joined the Texas Business Leadership Council (TBLC) as its President in July 2001. Yancy is responsible for all aspects of the TBLC's mission and organization including managing membership involvement and overseeing policy work and general operations.

Yancy also serves as Executive Director of the Foundation for a Globally Competitive Texas, a nonprofit organization created by Texas business leaders to facilitate the growth of a prosperous Texas.

Before joining the TBLC, Yancy served in the administrations of Governors' George W. Bush and Rick Perry. From February 1995 to February 2001, he served as Director of International Protocol to the Governor and Secretary of State. During the 77th Legislative Session, Yancy worked as a Policy Analyst in the Governor's Policy Office.

Yancy serves as a member of various boards and organizations including the national State Business Executives (former Chairman), the Texas Commissioner of Higher Education's Economic and Workforce Council, the Texas Workforce Commission Chairman's Workforce Council, the Texas Association of Community Colleges' Business Advisory Council, Texas Student Success Council, and the national State Business Roundtable Executives.

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| SCOTT ATLAS | LUKIN GILLILAND | RYAN LINDSEY | JAY RUTHERFORD |
| FAYRUZ BENOUSEF | KRISTEN HAWKINS | TRACY LAQUEY PARKER | JENIFER SARVER |
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| RAY FLORES | | | |

MEMBERS AS OF DATE OF PRINTING

3/26/2024

