



LEADERSHIP  TEXARKANA

CLASS OF 2020

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

MAY 19, 2020 • 4 P.M.

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END OF YEAR CELEBRATION!

May 19, 2020

**Honoring the
Leadership
Texarkana
Class of 2020**

&

**Texarkana Partners
who made the
LT 2020 Class possible
as Sponsors, Speakers,
Facilitators & Hosts**





For 40 years... **LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA** has been about **COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE!**

Leadership Texarkana is committed to creating our best future—by engaging and equipping citizens throughout our community to **LEAD THE WAY** in creating ever better **OUTCOMES** and **PROGRESS** in pursuit of **COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE**.

We Believe that...

- **Leadership is our Lid.**
- **Working Together is the Key.**
- **Individuals Lead the Way.**
- **Numbers Matter!**



No team can excel if only a small number of individuals are taking responsibility for success...

Leadership Texarkana’s vision is to create a community FULL of leaders WORKING TOGETHER with common purpose to create the thriving center of business, education, culture—and life—that attracts and serves us all!

WE CONGRATULATE ALL WHO invested their time and energy to PARTICIPATE in the Leadership Texarkana Class of 2020—along with the many individuals and organizations who directly and indirectly contributed to our community’s best future by ensuring an outstanding experience for all involved.

**The inaugural
1980 Class of
Leadership
Texarkana**

(Click here for more about the history of Leadership Texarkana)



Celebrating the members of the LT Class of 2020 for...

- Taking the time
- Investing the energy
- Sharing perspectives
- Bringing questions
- Adding insights
- Thinking creatively
- Doing for the common good
- Stepping up as a leader of our community!



2019-2020 GRADUATES LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA

Brad Bailey

President-CEO,
Red River Credit Union

Brett Beck

Furniture Sales Specialist,
Ledwell Office Solutions

Erica Martinez Cain

Reentry Affairs Coordinator,
USA DOJ Federal Bureau of
Prisons; Mental Health Care Private
Practitioner, Business Owner

Destiny N. Carter

Academic Recruiter,
University of AR Medical
Science-Texarkana

Ron Copeland

Senior Reliability Manager,
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company

Jordan Cox

Assistant Vice President
Commercial Lending,
Guaranty Bank & Trust

Malenda Cree

Program Director,
CASA of Northeast Texas

Jay Davis

Mortgage Loan Officer,
State Bank

Rebekah Drennon

Development Director,
Opportunities, Inc.

Donovan Driver

Licensed Real Estate Broker,
Schimming Company

Bethany D. Gaddy

Regional Private Wealth Advisor,
Regions Bank

Tiffany Godwin

Attorney, Capshaw Green, PLLC

Cathy Harrison

County Judge, Miller County

Robert Hernandez

Manager, Veteran Services
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Kevin Johnson

Sr. Vice President,
Farmers Bank & Trust

Holly Nicole Jones

Educator

Sheree Kennedy, MS/OTR

Director Inpatient Rehabilitation,
CHRISTUS St. Michael
Rehabilitation Hospital

Richard Kroll

Associate Attorney,
Norton & Wood, LLP

Cody LaRose

Business Account
Executive, Sparklight

Liliana Luna

Assistant Principal
Nash Elementary, TISD

Amanda Manca

Director of Student Services,
TISD

Greg Morgan

Associate Pastor,
Williams United Methodist Church

Kimberly Murray, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Sociology,
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Jeff Neal

Chief Deputy,
Bowie Country Sheriff's Office

Anthony Pinkham

Senior Vice President, BancorpSouth

Chad Pirtle

Superintendent, PGISD

Anna Powell

Foundation Executive Director,
University of AR-Hope/Texarkana

Jason B. Ross

Vice President of Lending, State Bank

Crystal Russell

Assistant Principal,
Arkansas High School, TASD

Dana Scott

Director of Administration,
College of Business,
Engineering, and Technology (CBET),
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Jay Stephen Simpson

Pastor, Christ United
Methodist Church, Ogden

Lisa M. Sitterley

Bank Officer, Retired

Cindy S. Thomas

Program Manager, Child
and Adolescent Clinic,
Community Healthcare

Robin Thomas

Music and Worship Associate.
Director of the School of Worship Arts,
First Baptist Church, Texarkana

Lee Williams, III

Director of Admissions &
Educational Opportunity,
Texarkana College

Hannah Wren

Director of Partnership Development,
Texarkana Regional
Chamber of Commerce

THREE CHEERS for all BOSSES who made possible the participation of these wonderful individuals in the LT Class of 2020!



Brad Bailey

President-CEO
Red River Credit Union

Brad has lived in Texarkana for four years, but very much feels a part of the community. Brad is currently a member of Rotary, a CASA volunteer, and is on the Texarkana, Texas Planning and Zoning Commission. Brad brings over twenty years of leadership experience in the credit union industry from Alaska, Idaho and now Texas. At Red River Credit Union, he serves over 112,000 members, with branches in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. RRCU’s main base of operations is Texarkana. He says, “Texarkana is a great place to live and I am excited about its future!”

“My goal is to help Texarkana continue to grow and capitalize on its strengths, which are many. I will continue to volunteer for at least one non-profit organization and volunteer for a government entity or school. Texarkana’s success will have a big impact on Red River Credit Union’s success. Red River is a community based financial institution with one of its primary missions to support local non-profit organizations and schools such as United Way, REDI and Texas High, to name a few. Giving back to the community is what Red River is about and what I firmly believe in.”



Brett Beck

Furniture Sales Specialist
Ledwell Office Solutions

Brett is a native of Texarkana and graduated from Arkansas High School where he met his lovely wife, Hannah. They have one daughter, Kairi, who is almost 5-years-old and the center of their attention. Brett is a Furniture Specialist at Ledwell Office Solutions. Ledwell provided all types of furniture needs for healthcare, finance, education or general businesses. Life is more than work, though. In his free time, Brett enjoys writing, playing music, playing video games, podcasting, and of course, time with his family.

“My mission moving forward is to further push to involve myself with local happenings that I find of interest and believe could better our wonderful cities. Downtown and its revitalization will continue to be front and center for me, as someone lucky enough to live in a 90+ year old house, because I see value in hearkening back to the city’s history to allow others to explore and fall in love with the old heart of our city. I will continue to encourage people to take pride in their city and see that with the right attitude and will, change can happen. Through my work, I hope to be able to be part of this by helping furnish new endeavors in the area with great furniture to fit their needs as well as pushing to act as sponsors for events that aid our communities and better our cities.”



Erica Martinez Cain

Reentry Affairs Coordinator,
USA DOJ Federal Bureau of Prisons
Mental Health Care Private Practitioner

Erica Martinez Cain, the proud wife of Mr. Eric Brian Cain, is an active agent for positive transformation of people, families, and society. As a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, Erica dedicates her life to providing exceptional quality mental health services to people who are in pain, struggling with life transitions, or simply feeling unfulfilled. Also, she is employed by the USA DOJ, BOP, at FCI Texarkana.

“Adopting part of the mission of CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System “to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ,” all of my efforts will center on the foundation of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ... we are his hands. I will utilize my skills, talents, resources, training, and expertise in the community areas in which I am most passionate and knowledgeable about: government and politics pertaining to criminal justice, healthcare matters pertaining to mental health, domestic violence prevention, and suicide prevention (AFSP). Also, I will continue to study and research, refining my skills professionally and growing personally as the city quality lies in the quality of people who reside here. A well-educated community, citizen pride, and purposeful engagement is my mission.”





Destiny N. Carter

Academic Recruiter
University of Arkansas Medical Science-Texarkana

As Academic Recruiter for UAMS-Texarkana, Destiny works primarily with high school and college students interested in pursuing careers in health care professions. Throughout her nearly 20 year career at UAMS, Destiny has had the pleasure to serve Texarkana through academics and healthcare. A Texarkana native, Destiny attended high school and college in Texarkana. She is married to Bo Carter and they have one son, Caeden. She always finds time for her family and enjoys attending her son’s activities, photography, and traveling, specifically to the beach! She loves all things vintage especially anything related to Texarkana history.

“I believe in Texarkana as a great place to live, work, learn, and play. I plan to continue the with work on goTXK—a positive Texarkana branding—through social media and website work. In my role as an academic recruiter, I will continue to encourage our local students to seek education and whenever possible return to serve the community in which they were raised. Leadership Texarkana has made it incredibly easy to help others find the highlights of our community! Also, Leadership Texarkana has opened up my eyes to the needs, and I know my skills will be helpful in several ways, as I narrow my path.”



Ron Copeland

Senior Reliability Manager
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company

An employee of Cooper Tire in Texarkana, Arkansas for over two decades, Ron has held many roles and has worked with successful leaders in the organization to help drive growth in the business. He actively participates in fundraising events for charitable organizations in the Texarkana region and never turns down an opportunity to support Cooper and his community. Ron served on the Industrial Maintenance board at Texarkana College and is currently a member of the Government Affairs committee for the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce. Ron and his wife Tiffany, of 23 years, are residents of Texarkana, Texas.

“I intend to promote economic development throughout the community. Working through the committees I currently serve and my position at Cooper Tire. With the current and past graduates of Leadership Texarkana I believe we as a community can make Texarkana not only a place we call home, but a home for future economic growth. I will also seek to help a local non-profit organization that addresses the needs of children.”



Jordan Cox

Assistant Vice President, Commercial Lending
Guaranty Bank & Trust

Jordan was born and raised in Texarkana and has deep ties to the area. He is a graduate of Texas High School, class of 2004. Jordan is also a graduate of the University of Arkansas where he completed his major in Finance and a minor in Economics. After college, Jordan worked in a financial role at Hewlett-Packard for six years before joining Guaranty Bank & Trust as a Credit Analyst. Currently, he is an Assistant Vice President in the commercial lending department. He has been married for nine years to his beautiful wife, Lauren. They are blessed with two sons, a 7-year-old named Jase, and an 18-month-old named Barrett.

“Community Mission Statement: To help business owners grow their organizations and meet financial goals. To be an imperative part of job growth and student retention post-graduation. Through a background in finance and knowledge from Leadership Texarkana I plan to use these tools to serve on area boards to further impact the Texarkana community.”



Malenda Cree

Program Director
CASA of Northeast Texas

Malenda joined CASA in November 2004 as the Volunteer Coordinator; she became CASA’s Program Director in 2007. The training, empowerment and support of volunteer advocates is her primary focus. Malenda has been recognized by the Arkansas State CASA Association as Volunteer Coordinator of the Year and the Face of CASA. Malenda grew up in Winthrop, Arkansas and moved to Texarkana to study business at Texarkana College. Prior to joining the CASA team, she worked at Mil-Way Federal Credit Union, Texarkana National Bank and Hibernia National Bank. Married to Shawn Cree for twenty nine years, the couple have three children and two grandchildren.

“Intention for leadership: Through my work with CASA For Children I will continue educating the public about the need for private citizens to stand up and support our most precious commodity, our children. Also, I will encourage others in our community to shop local, buy from local manufacturers, support local events and be vocal in sharing ‘What’s to Love about Texarkana.’”



Jay Davis

Mortgage Loan Officer
State Bank

Jay is proud to call Texarkana home. Born and educated in Texarkana, he is currently a Mortgage Loan Officer with State Bank. He is the husband of Kimberly Davis, and they are the parents of two beautiful daughters, both graduating this spring. Lauren from The King’s College in New York City and Kathryn from Pleasant Grove High School. Jay is a graduate of Texas A&M—Texarkana. He is serving his first term as Ward 6 City Councilmember for Texarkana.

“I intend to continue to help people by “Fulfilling Dreams and Delivering on Hope Through Home Ownership!” Offering my compassion and willingness to work with those ready to buy and those that may need some guidance along the way. I intend to serve the citizens of Texarkana in City Government. Offering my leadership and love for the community to effect and impact the path of Texarkana’s anticipated growth with the addition of I-49 and I-69 to our I-30 corridor. I intend to share what I have learned during my participation in Leadership Texarkana, offering my enthusiasm for all the great things that Texarkana has to offer; it is a great place to work, live, and play.”



Rebekah Drennon

Development Director
Opportunities, Inc.

Rebekah Drennon is a Texarkana Native, but spent the majority of her 23 years in Mineola, Texas. After graduating high school at the top of her class, she decided to move back to her hometown and pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Mass Communication at Texas A&M-Texarkana. In her years at TAMU-T, she served as a Student Ambassador, Student Government Association Senator, wrote for the University’s *Eagle Eye* Newspaper, and graduated Cum Laude. Aside from her current role as Development Director for a local nonprofit, Rebekah works for the Dallas Cowboys on game days as part of the Event Presentation Staff, is a member of the Texarkana Kiwanis, serves as a board member for the Greater Texarkana Young Professionals, is part of the TAMU-T Alumni Association and is pursuing her master’s in Communication.

“My family instilled in me the value of community service and the importance of nonprofit sectors, which are driving forces in my career path. It is my hope to be an advocate for populations in Texarkana that cannot do it for themselves. I strive for all I do to go hand in hand with my Christian faith. My parents have always taught me that even if you end up with your dream job, and no matter the positions you hold in the community, it means nothing without your faith in God. I hope to represent ‘generation z’ well in Texarkana, because I strongly believe we have a lot to offer towards progress in the coming years.”



Donovan Driver

Licensed Real Estate Broker
Schimming Company

Donovan Driver is married to Nino, and they have two children, four-year-old Jude, 14-year-old Salome, and two Boston Terriers, Rocky and Sissy. Donovan is a real estate broker who began working for Schimming Company in 2009. He has a unique perspective on the business climate in his native city, Texarkana. Combining his experiences in retail management, construction, and commercial real estate, Donovan has insights into the world of business that others may not see.

“As a stakeholder, parent, and leader, growing a better Texarkana is my main focus. Leading by example is what has inspired my daughter to become involved in volunteerism. As a leader, when I influence a person to become service-oriented, the ripple effect has the potential to inspire others and our whole community benefits. I believe that when my immediate circle of influence is positively impacted by an initiative that I believe in, the effects are lasting and productive. I want to see Texarkana grow into a city where my daughter, son, and community can say, ‘I helped build.’”



Bethany D. Gaddy

Regional Private Wealth Advisor
Regions Bank

After studying Humanities at Brigham Young University, Bethany transitioned to banking fourteen years ago and finds banking is a true calling. She loves feeling the excitement and variety each new day brings and strategizing with her clients to best align their values with their finances. Bethany happily joins the Texarkana area after most recently living in El Dorado, Arkansas where she currently serves as the Vice President of the United Way Board, and serves on the Union County Chamber of Commerce Board. She enjoys traveling with her family and playing golf well enough for a scramble.

“We feel blessed to have joined such a diverse and energetic community as Texarkana. Though Leadership Texarkana, I have been so impressed with the realization that in this town that, one person can and does make a difference, so we should step up and get involved! I hope to add my voice by becoming more involved and adding to the dialogue through becoming an influence in my place of employment, with my clients and individually within my own family. As a citizen of Texarkana, I now seek to live more mindfully, being open to share any talent that I might have, and add to those already seeking out ways to improve the lives of others and our community.”



Tiffany Godwin

Attorney
Capshaw Green, PLLC

After completing law school at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Tiffany and her husband, Daniel, moved from Huntsville, Arkansas to Texarkana in the summer of 2015. Tiffany is an attorney with Capshaw Green, PLLC, and concentrates her practice in the areas of business and real estate law. She is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Texarkana, and previously served on the board as Secretary. She and her husband have a two-year-old daughter and a son on the way.

“I intend to continue to work with local business leaders in our community to further economic development for the Texarkana region and facilitate transactions that will help grow Texarkana’s local economy. I also plan to volunteer my time to local non-profit organizations that support children in Texarkana, particularly those working to improve educational opportunities within the region. Through my job, I will also continue to work with law schools in Arkansas and Texas to mentor and recruit talented students to the Texarkana area in hopes of retaining that talent long term.”



Cathy Harrison

County Judge
Miller County

Cathy was elected as the first female Republican County Judge of Miller County in 2018. Prior to 2018, Cathy served two terms as the Tax Collector, where she brought records online, increased payment rates, and initiated a recuperation program, which brought in over 1.2 million dollars in unpaid taxes. Cathy is a lifelong resident of Miller County and a licensed real estate agent. In December, Cathy was appointed to the Committee on Security and Emergency Preparedness by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

“I believe that working in the unique position of a county judge and with the outstanding leadership in Miller County, we can grow and expand economically. We are currently working for additional grants with a focus on improvements for both county roads and the Smith Park area. In addition, I am working closely with our quorum court members to bring in additional manufacturing opportunities which will provide new tax revenues for the county, and vocational opportunities for citizens of Miller, Bowie, and the surrounding areas. My focus is growth for Miller County, which will benefit everyone because I believe with county borders, city borders, and a state borders in our region, we can all work together for the benefit of the entire area.”



Robert Hernandez

Manager, Veteran Services
Texas A&M University-Textarkana

In his role leading Veteran Services at TAMU-T, Robert assists active duty military, veterans, and their families with identifying and utilizing benefits through the VA and State of Texas. He guides them from admission to graduation. Robert served thirty years as a medic and hospital superintendent in the US Air Force with a tour in Iraq. He received many awards and decoration including seven Meritorious Service Medals. Robert and his wife Denise returned to their hometown of Texarkana upon retiring from the military.

“I commit to serving our Texarkana community by leading the charge to promote education at all levels, community service, and helping my fellow military veterans integrate back to the community after serving our country. Through my position at TAMU-T, I will continue to educate our community about the importance of quality education and the educational opportunities available in Texarkana. I will continue my volunteer involvement leading local veteran and student organizations to promote community service projects that promote advancing the economic, social, and religious development of our city. My efforts to help veterans acclimate back to our community will be dual focused; to help them understand their potential contributions to our community growth and to help them navigate the state and federal systems for receipt of their veteran benefits. A well-educated and involved community is critical to promoting a thriving city. As a graduate of Leadership Texarkana, I will help pave the path to guiding our community to taking responsibility for the continued growth and development of Texarkana.”



Kevin Johnson

Senior Vice President
Farmers Bank & Trust

Being raised in Little River County, Arkansas, Kevin Johnson has been a life-long resident of the greater Texarkana area. Kevin graduated high school from Ashdown High and then attended the University of Arkansas-Monticello where he graduated with a BSBA in Finance. He has been in banking in the Texarkana area for the past twenty-five years. Kevin currently calls Cass County, Texas his home where he lives with his wife, Kelly, son, Nathan and daughter, Maggie.

“Statement of Intentions: To continue to support non-profits in the Texarkana area by volunteering to help organize and work various functions that are geared to raise capital for needed and worthy causes, as well as helping secure corporate sponsorships.”



Holly Nicole Jones

Educator

Holly Jones is a certified teacher in Texas and Arkansas, she also has a Master's of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University-Texarkana. Holly's passion is working with children and education. She has worked as a Curriculum Assessment Coach and Trainer for Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas where she served teachers from Texarkana to Hot Springs, Arkansas. A single mother of three children, Kullen, Karsyn, and Kollyns, Holly also manages to volunteer her time in the Junior League of Texarkana. Holly enjoys anything to do on the water, like fishing, frog catching, and floating or swimming. She also enjoys Texas Country concerts, traveling, and just spending quality time with her friends and family.

"Being in Leadership Texarkana, I have learned so much about Texarkana in a positive light. I am currently in a group with other leaders from the community working on a project to improve downtown Texarkana. I love downtown and I hope to keep striving with others to make it as thriving as it once was. I also plan on working in education again and focusing on building relationships with students as well as other educators in the school system. I also have a passion for our homeless and I want to get involved in a non-profit that addresses what I can do to help them as well as educate the public on what we can all do to help."



Sheree Kennedy, MS/OTR

Director of Rehabilitation
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehabilitation Hospital

Sheree is the Director of Rehabilitation at CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehabilitation Hospital, where she has worked since 2016. She started her CHRISTUS journey working several months as a Lead Occupational Therapist before receiving a promotion to Manager of Inpatient Rehabilitation. After two years she was promoted to Director of Rehabilitation. Sheree received her associate’s degree in Applied Science in Occupational Therapy Assisting from Panola College in 1998; Masters of Science in Occupational Therapy from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee in 2006 and is currently enrolled at Frost School of Business at Centenary College in the Executive Masters of Business Administration program.

“Intention for community leadership: Upon completion of the Leadership Texarkana program, I will remain committed to the betterment of Texarkana by remaining involved in United Way of Greater Texarkana (UWGT) as a board member and by serving on the Community Impact Committee for my second year. I will also continue as the CHRISTUS St. Michael United Way campaign chairperson. UWGT is very dear to my heart as we share a common belief—that everyone has a right to a good life and a responsibility to improve our community. Further, I look forward to serving on the Leadership Texarkana board and sharing my knowledge of the healthcare system. Lastly, I absolutely LOVE Texarkana and my personal mission will be to see us as a community GROW and SUCCEED!”



Richard Kroll

Associate Attorney
Norton & Wood, LLP

Richard Kroll joined Norton & Wood, L.L.P. as an Associate Attorney after graduating cum laude from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law. He has been married to Heather for 14 years, and together they are the parents of three children: Zeth (7), Avenleigh (5), and Lincoln (2). When not at work, Richard enjoys spending time with his family outdoors enjoying the pleasures nature has to offer.

“As a life-long resident of Texarkana who could not wait to return after graduation, it is disheartening to hear the younger generations bad mouth Texarkana and all that it has to offer. I remain committed to Texarkana and the vision that Texarkana is a great place to live and raise a family, as well as the vision that there is plenty to do in Texarkana. I hope to further the thought that Texarkana, USA is second to none and continue to foster a positive attitude and outlook toward our great city.”



Cody LaRose

Business Account Executive
Sparklight

Cody LaRose graduated from Shaker High School in Latham, New York in 2011 where he majored in advertising/design and cinematography. He has not attended college, but went straight to work for Time Warner Cable. In February 2017 Cody made the move from his home in Albany, New York to Ashdown, Arkansas. He got on board with Sparklight as a field technician and was promoted to Account Executive for Sparklight Business in January, 2019. Cody continues to love his new home here in the south. He also loves Texarkana and is excited to be a part of all the great things to come!

“I intend to stay committed to Texarkana, USA. Having only been here for just over three years, I’ve learned so much. Leadership Texarkana has shown me all of the good there is here and I intend to spread all of the knowledge I’ve acquired over these last several months. There are several non-profits I plan to volunteer at as well. Also, in my current position, I will help to bring in more business with our advanced fiber rich infrastructure to keep Texarkana connected and prove our community is the place to be for families and businesses alike!”



Liliana Luna

Assistant Principal
Nash Elementary, TISD

Liliana Luna has been with Texarkana ISD for 16 years. She is currently an Assistant Principal at Nash Elementary, a position she has held for nine years. She is an alumni of Texas A&M-Texarkana where she earned her Bachelors of Interdisciplinary Studies, a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master’s Degree in Educational Administration. Her passion is education and helping students see their potential. Liliana is married to Ricardo Luna and they have two boys, Ricky and Leo who attend Texarkana ISD schools.

“After concluding my Leadership Texarkana class, I have decided to lead and join the efforts of CASA by becoming a child advocate and volunteer. Children and education have always been my mission. As an educator our mission is to be the advocates for our students. Now I will not only get the opportunity to advocate for my students, but I will also be an advocate for those children in our community who need an advocate the most.”



Amanda Manca

Director of Student Services
Texarkana Independent School District

A life-long area resident, Amanda has worked for the Texarkana Independent School District for eleven years. She has a passion for children and their education. She has volunteered for many district and campus projects. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance and a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M University-Texarkana. Amanda enjoys reading, traveling, drag racing, and spending time with her family.

“Statement of Intention: I have personally seen the needs of our children and know that as a community we must continue to improve for their future. I commit to going the extra mile to make Texarkana a place where our students can grow and where they want to stay. I believe I can make a difference in our community in the area of education through my experience with Texarkana Independent School District. I will seek opportunities where my knowledge and skills can benefit the upcoming generations. I plan to encourage others to utilize their strengths to make Texarkana a place that we are all proud to call home.”



Greg Morgan

Associate Pastor
Williams United Methodist Church

Greg Morgan is completing his first year as a Texarkana resident and as an associate pastor at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church. He is commissioned as a provisional elder in the Texas Annual Conference. He recently graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky with two master's degrees, and has been accepted to begin a doctorate at Baylor University in the fall of 2020. Greg is passionate about taking part in transformation, revitalization, and the movement from "good to great."

"Statement of Intention: Through the relationships I share at the church, I hope to help develop and facilitate connects between different groups and voices that can be used to develop a stronger network for strategic doing opportunities and partnerships needed to make the changes we desire. I also plan to dedicate more time towards volunteer service with the various non-profit organizations, specifically with regard to children and youth. Finally, I hope to be more vocal in my position as a pastor to the community to encouraging others to participate and lend their support in the initiatives taken for community transformation and advancement."



Kimberly Murray, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Sociology
Texas A&M University-Texarkana

Prior to beginning work at TAMU-T, Kimberly earned her PhD at the University of Oklahoma, a Master's in Sociology at the University of Arkansas, and Bachelor's in Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Arkansas. Her research interests include gender and family, terrorism, and the military. She is the Sociology Club advisor at Texas A&M University-Texarkana and has served on a variety of committees on campus in order to enhance student learning, research, and involvement. She was born and raised in Maud, Texas, and has a large extended family in the Texarkana area. She loves spending time with her loved ones, especially her two-year-old daughter, Claire.

"I will continue to develop and encourage a positive narrative about Texarkana through my position at TAMU-T, incorporating knowledge acquired during Leadership Texarkana into my weekly teaching and service activities, including texts and examples of local history and culture, the #goTXK social media movement, and community calendar to faculty, staff, and students. I would love to work with Texarkana region's K-12 schools to encourage students to pursue educational excellence at a local college or university by highlighting the successes of our local institutions, sharing information about educational opportunities available locally, and facilitating learning opportunities and/or community projects that build bridges between local colleges and universities and K-12 schools. I would also like to become more directly involved in efforts to promote downtown by joining a non-profit board, volunteering, and/or by joining influencers who are already deeply invested in downtown improvement and development."



Jeff Neal

Chief Deputy
Bowie County Sheriff's Office

Jeff Neal currently serves as the Chief Deputy of the Bowie County Sheriff's Office. Jeff earned his Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science degree from Texas A&M University-Texarkana in 2013. He became the first Bowie County Deputy to graduate from the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas' (LEMIT) flagship program known as Leadership Command College (LCC) as part of Class 82 in 2018. Jeff is married to his beautiful wife Tiffani, and they have two children Tori and Caleb.

“My adult life has been dedicated to serving my community through my chosen profession of law enforcement. This will be true now more than ever as I successfully ran for and was elected to the office of Bowie County Sheriff. As sheriff, I can ensure that our partnership with our local mental health authority, Community Healthcore, continues to grow. In fact, it already has through the Leadership Texarkana process by meeting my fellow classmate Cindy Thomas. We have already worked together to help a young man expand his experiences. Moving forward I expect this relationship will continue to blossom for the betterment of everyone involved.”



Anthony Pinkham

Senior Vice President
BancorpSouth

Anthony was born and raised in New Boston, Texas and is a graduate of New Boston High School. He is a 2002 graduate of Texas A&M University-Texarkana where he obtained a BBA in Finance. He has been employed with BancorpSouth since May 2000; currently, he is a Senior Vice President and commercial lender. Anthony presently resides in the Redwater, Texas area and is actively involved in the community. He is a board member of Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas, TAMU-T alumni club and Bowie Cass Electric Cooperative. In addition he is active in the Texarkana Noon Lions Club. His greatest accomplishment in life are his two children, Cameron, age 11 and Sophie, age 8 who both attend Redwater ISD. In his spare time he enjoys watching college football, camping and playing golf.

“Statement of Intentions: I want to volunteer my time and resources to various Texarkana organizations that are focused on enhancing the quality of life, promoting economic growth, and retaining graduates, which will enable Texarkana to become a better place for future generations.”





Chad Pirtle

Superintendent
Pleasant Grove ISD

Prior to his current position serving the PGISD as Superintendent of Schools, Chad spent fourteen years in the Liberty Hill Independent School District in Central Texas. Chad has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M University–Commerce, a Master’s degree in Education and Community Leadership from Texas State University, and has completed all classroom hours and is currently completing his doctorate degree from The University of Texas at Austin’s Cooperative Superintendency Program. Chad is married to Emily and they have two boys, Jack and Ryan.

“I know the value of education for our students and the adults in the community. I commit to continuing to expand educational opportunities for our students and adults in the Texarkana area. I will also seek opportunities to serve on boards of directors where my skills, knowledge, passions and abilities match with the organization’s mission.”



Anna Powell

Foundation, Executive Director
University of Arkansas-Hope/Texarkana

Anna was born and raised in Stuttgart, Arkansas. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Public Administration from the University of Central Arkansas in 2011. She has held positions at the Chamber of Commerce in Conway, Arkansas, Hewlett- Packard Software Division, and Iroko Pharmaceuticals. Powell previously served as Industry Outreach and Community Education Director and as Kids’ College Director at the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana before becoming Executive Director of the Foundation.

“After graduation from Leadership Texarkana I have charged myself with the community duty to serve our bi-state region in continuing to develop public and private partnerships that directly benefit Higher Education opportunities for Texarkana, USA. Through my role as Executive Director of Institutional Advancement I hope to bring innovative opportunities and partnerships specifically to our K-12 arena. In addition, I believe that innovation and public and private partnerships can benefit our regional economy directly. Making Texarkana, USA aware of its own assets and telling our story will define our future. I am strapping up my work boots, are you?”



Jason B. Ross

Vice President of Lending
State Bank

Jason B. Ross grew up in Lewisville, Arkansas, and graduated from Southern Arkansas University. Jason provides financial guidance and education as Vice President of Lending with State Bank, partnering with local businesses and consumers to cultivate more progressive long-term financial solutions. Jason believes his greatest personal accomplishment is marrying his best friend, Lauren, and raising their daughters Emerie and Nora. Jason is an active member of Williams Memorial United Methodist Church, and serves on the boards of several organizations.

“I intend to lead change in my community by using my natural gift for figuring out how different people can work together productively by using the experiences I have in leadership and finance to create and further economic advancement opportunities. I have a knack for familiarizing myself with others to use a logical thinking and planning style for impact. I have been described as a leader who is constantly impatient for action, and plan to take that all gas no breaks approach to becoming more involved in Texarkana. Through Leadership Texarkana I have learned our community is Good, and on the verge of becoming GREAT, which has inspired me to commit passionately to improve the way our community culture attracts, interacts, and grows with Young Professionals.”

Jason was one of two chosen by this LT Class to represent the Leadership Texarkana Class of 2020 for a year’s term on the Leadership Texarkana Board.



Crystal Russell

Assistant Principal, Arkansas High School
 Texarkana Arkansas School District

As an assistant principal at Texarkana Arkansas School District, Crystal brings a previous sixteen years of experience in education. She attended Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas where she received her bachelor’s degree in education. She later received her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, and administration and supervision. Crystal became an educator to make a difference in the lives of children and believes that being an educator is one of the most rewarding careers. Crystal and her husband Roderick enjoy creating memories with their three children.

“As my Leadership Texarkana class experience comes to an end, I look forward to using the knowledge that I have gained to make a larger impact in my community. I believe that change starts with me and that I can lead change in my role as an educator. I will educate and train students for future leadership roles and showcase opportunities within their community to help others. I will seek to assist a non-profit that addresses the needs of children. I commit to volunteer my time and services to non-profit organizations such as Harvest Texarkana and Texarkana Museum Systems.”



Dana Scott

Director of Administration
 College of Business, Engineering,
 and Technology (CBET)
 Texas A&M University-Texarkana

In her role as Director of Administration for the CBET at TAMU-T, Dana oversees the administrative staff ensuring all college internal operations function efficiently. Through Dana’s experience in higher education, she has found a passion for building relationships in the community that will have a positive impact on students. A native of Texarkana, she is a graduate of Pleasant Grove High School and Texarkana College earning her Bachelor’s degree as well as an MBA in Supply Chain Management from Texas A&M University-Texarkana.

“I remain committed to improving pathways for education and skill training for all age levels as a way to expand the overall economic growth and educational needs in the Texarkana region. Bringing awareness to the opportunities available for higher education and how this leads to economic growth will result with a positive impact on families and our community. I plan to continue my mission to enrich our community through my professional position and the nonprofit organizations I am involved with. Sharing educational and economic opportunities through Leadership Texarkana will also provide an outlet to reach citizens in our community and will provide a positive message on the work being done in Texarkana.”



Jay Stephen Simpson

Pastor,
Christ United Methodist Church, Ogden Arkansas

Jay Stephen holds a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Crichton College in Memphis, Tennessee. A second-career pastor, he has been serving full-time churches for three years (Texarkana, Arkansas First United Methodist; Osceola, Arkansas First United Methodist Church) and part-time for two years (Hughes, Arkansas and Madison, Arkansas United Methodist Churches). Jay Stephen “retired” from AutoZone, Inc. in Memphis, Tennessee after 26 years working as the IT (Information Technology) Manager. Jay Stephen has been married to Peggy Simpson since July 30, 1988 and they have two sons and one grandson. In his spare time, Jay Stephen enjoys being outdoors, camping and tinkering with old vehicles.

“It is my goal to fulfill the mission of the United Methodist Church: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is important that every person have a place to serve God using their God-given abilities. By getting every member of my congregation engaged in some sort of ministry in the church, the greater community of Texarkana will be served (feeding ministries, prison ministries, etc.). When a group of people acts with purpose, they are indeed a force that can change the world. I will stay plugged in to organizations like Leadership Texarkana and assist in whatever ways I am needed. Much like a pastor, Leadership Texarkana is in the business of equipping leaders. When we work to equip leaders, then the leaders will lead and the community will follow.”



Lisa M. Sitterley

Bank Officer, Retired

Before moving to Texarkana, Lisa Sitterley worked in the banking industry for almost thirty years. During that time, she assisted in closing more than \$900 million in commercial loans, and provided the highest level of legal and ethical standards applicable to the banking industry while observing all government regulations, laws, bank policies and procedures. Lisa’s responsibilities included assisting in the commercial loan process by supporting efforts to underwrite and close loans in accordance with policies and procedures, as well as coordinating and executing the business development plan on all social, business networking, civic and charitable events.

“Texarkana is a wonderful place to live, work, and play. I remain dedicated to changing stereotypes of the area by seeking out opportunities for positive and constructive dialogue within and outside the community. I will continue as an AR-TX REDI ambassador and champion marketing efforts outside the region to showcase that Texarkana is a place where businesses, families and people can thrive. My service on the board of the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra is one of the ways I can directly help elevate the cultural vibrancy of our community. Through my volunteer work with Opportunities, Inc. and CASA, I am able to focus on providing support for individuals with special needs and children who are victims of abuse and neglect.”



Cindy S. Thomas

Program Manager, Child and Adolescent Clinic
Community Healthcore

A Licensed Professional Counselor, Cindy has worked in the field of mental health for most of the last 25 years. In her current position, Cindy manages a team of LPCs and Qualified Mental Health Professionals that provide outpatient counseling, skills training, community living supports, and other services to address mental health problems in children in Bowie, Cass, and Red River Counties. Cindy moved to Texarkana in July, 2018 with her husband of 20 years, and three children, Jasmine, Sawyer, and Sage, who all attend Pleasant Grove High School.

“The COVID-19 health crisis has had an enormous impact on the mental health of our community. My participation in Leadership Texarkana has provided me with invaluable knowledge of our community as well as a multitude of resources available to individuals in our community that many do not know exist or do not know how to access. Moving forward, my intention is to engage with community partners (i.e.: schools, law enforcement, medical community, etc.) to provide resources and education and meet the mental health needs of individuals in our community. Additionally, I plan to provide education to the community on mental illness for the purpose of stopping the stigmatization of individuals who suffer from mental illness.”



Robin Thomas

Music and Worship Associate
 Director of the School of Worship Arts
 First Baptist Church, Texarkana

Before coming to Texarkana, Robin served as Music Associate at First Baptist Church in West Monroe, Louisiana. Robin attended Louisiana Tech University and the University of Louisiana in Monroe, receiving bachelor and master’s degrees in piano performance. Robin has four published collections for solo and duo piano along with five recordings for solo and duo piano. She currently serves on the Texarkana Symphony Board of Directors. Robin and her husband, Joe, enjoy spending time with their three children, spouses, and eight grandchildren.

“As a music teacher to students of all ages, board member of the TSO and performer of music, my desire is to connect people with music—continuing my calling from God through music. I have the unique opportunity to be co-guest artist for the March 2021 Texarkana Symphony Orchestra family concert. My desire is to reach out to ALL families in our community and especially people of all ages that will hear the TSO for the first time— to reach out to schools, the arts, and families throughout Texarkana to promote music and bring us together, because the beauty of music will connect people. I hope this concert along with future music and arts events will plant seeds and give people of all ages the desire to learn and grow through the arts.”



Lee Williams, III

Director of Admissions and Educational Opportunity
Texarkana College

Educator, mentor, leader and motivational speaker, Lee has passionately been involved in higher education for the last fifteen years. Known for his ability to mobilize people, Williams has assisted hundreds of adults both young and old to discover their potential through education. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Lee is the son of a Baptist minister and retired social security representative who both modeled the importance of integrity, hard work and commitment. Unique in every sense of the word, Williams is the father of one dog, Simba.

“Education is critical to the success of our community. I believe the work I am privileged and honored to do at Texarkana College will continue to allow our community to move forward. Through initiative partnerships with our local agencies and leaders we can work to provide educational opportunities for all ages. Our community is what we make it. I commit to work with the Texarkana Housing Authority, Texas Workforce Solutions, local school districts and the Northeast Texas Alliance of Black School Educators to collaborate and provide platforms of growth in our community. Leadership is never about what you do but about how you can empower and inspire others to excel.”



Hannah Wren

Director of Partnership Development
 Texarkana, USA Regional Chamber of Commerce

Texarkana Native and graduate of the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Hannah graduated in December 2018 with a degree in public relations. Utilizing her new skill-set, Hannah embarked on a career path, as the Director of Partnership Development at the Texarkana, USA Chamber of Commerce. Hannah is in charge of identifying businesses and brands in key industries for Chamber membership, ultimately, educating the business community on the service and benefits provided to the city through the Texarkana Chamber USA.

“I hope my hard work will have a lasting impression in the economic forecast for many decades to come. I am especially passionate about my generation and how we will react amid the uncertainty created by the emerging pathogen Covid-19. I believe leaders are not born, but developed! Unfortunately, many people do not realize this. We take for granted the future of Texarkana by simply assuming that the appropriate leadership pool will emerge to guide us whenever we need it. There is no better program to serve as a training medium for our future leaders than Leadership Texarkana. The key to Texarkana’s future is knowledgeable and skilled leaders who possess a unique understanding of all arenas within our community.”

Leadership Texarkana has never been about “a few.” From day one, Leadership Texarkana has succeeded because of the efforts of MANY!

CELEBRATING THE SESSION, SPONSORS, SPEAKERS, FACILITATORS & HOSTS!

We thank the many committed community leaders from public, private, media and non-profit sectors who generously contributed their time, energy, experience and wisdom to furthering the leadership capacity of the Texarkana, USA area.



OPENING RETREAT—SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2019

Facilitator: Ruth Ellen Whitt—LT Exec Director; **Laying the Foundation for the Year:** Our Community—Past, Present and Future; Leadership Basics; Applying Leadership Wisdom to Community. **Guest Presenters:** Beverly Rowe—Prof. of History, Texarkana College: Historical Texarkana slideshow; Dr. Lila Walker (LT 1997)—Leadership consultant on Principled Leadership/Covey; Dr. Sara Lawrence (LT 2003) on Strengths Finder for Leaders, Strategic Doing Table Guides, Mary Ellen Young (LT 1995), Elodia Witterstatter (LT 2019), Sara Lawrence, Lila Walker. Tour of RRAD: Marshall McKellar (LT 2007), Chief, Business Mgt. Office, RRAD. **Host Sites:** First Baptist Church Moores Lane; Lake Elliott, RRAD.

MONTHLY FRAMEWORKS FOR UNDERSTANDING....

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT in Texarkana, USA—OCTOBER 8, 2019

THANKS to Session Sponsor—Texas A&M University-Texarkana!

Facilitators: Dr. Gary Stading, TAMU-T Dean of College of Business, Engineering and Technology (LT Class of 2018) and Sonja Hubbard, Principal of Yates Group (LT Class of 1991). **Host Sites:** Txk, TX Convention Center, Txk Chamber of Commerce, Texarkana Aluminum, Nash City Hall, TexAmericas Center. **Economic and Community Development Panel:** Mike Malone, Txk Chamber, Rob Sitterley, Pres/CEO AR-TX REDI and AR-TX REDI Directors: Sonja Hubbard, Yates Group; Dean Barry, Barry Insurance; James Henry Russell, BWI; Steve Ledwell, Ledwell & Son; Cary Patterson, Patterson & Nix; Jennifer Harland, SWEPCO.; **Maxwell Industrial Park, Texarkana Regional Airport, Cooper Tire Driving Tour:** Curtis Schnekloth, Cooper Tire/ Chair, Texarkana Chamber of Commerce; **Nash Industrial Park Driving Tour:** Doug Bowers, City Administrator, Nash **Transportation and ED:** Cory Floyd, Past Chairman Txk Chamber; AR Dept of Transportation Rep; **TexAmericas Center:** Scott Norton, CEO TexAmericas Center, **TAMU-T sponsor Perspectives:** Dr. Gary Stading.

QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVES: Cultural Riches OF TXK USA—NOV. 12, 2019

Facilitator: RE Whitt, Ldrshp Txk Exec Direc. Reflections on who we are through the downtown. **Host Sites/** and downtown blink tour: Perot Theatre, Silvermoon on Broad, Reg'l Arts Center, Museum of Regional History, Discovery Place/Tesla Coil Demonstration, Ace of Clubs House, Antique Auto Museum, Rowe Home, Lindsay Railroad Museum, Old Town; Txk Public Library. Kidtopia, Ark Municipal Auditorium, 1894 Market, Hopkins Ice House, Pecan Point Brewery; Downtown murals tour; Amtrak historic engine experience; **Cultural Attractions and Organizations:** Main Street, Ina McDowell, Texarkana Public Library and Friends—Jennifer Strayhorn, Exec Direc; TRAHC Brian Goesl, Exec Director; Txk Symphony Orchestra—Andrew Clark, Exec Dir; Silvermoon Children's Theatre/TexRep—Diana Morriss; City of Texarkana AR—Mary Beck; City of Texarkana, TX Community Planner David Orr, TMS Board Pres Velvel Cool; David Peavy, 1984 City Market Development. Presentation and Tour: Inside the Grim with David Orr.

GOVERNMENT and LAW & Courts—DECEMBER 10, 2019

THANKS to Session Sponsor—City of Texarkana, AR!

Facilitators: Prissy Hickerson (LT 1983) former Arkansas State Representative; Liz Fazio-Hale (LT 2016), Assistant General Manager, Gulf Coast Authority Shawn Vaughn (LT 2003) Public Information Office, Texarkana TX Police Dept. **Host Sites:** First United Methodist Church-AR, Texarkana AR City Hall; St. James Church Fellowship Hall, Federal Courthouse, City Hall of Texarkana, TX; **LIFT Breakfast with Elected Officials of Two Texarkanas:** Fred Norton (LT Class of 1984), Chair, LIFT Advisory; LT Directors David Reavis, TAMU-T, Jaimie Alexander, FUMC,AR, with Mark Missildine and Michael Stephenson, TAMU-T; Texarkana, TX Mayor Bob Bruggeman, Texarkana, AR Mayor Allen Brown, City Council Bill Harp, Jeanne Matlock, Josh Davis, and Txk AR Board members: Barbara Miner, Terri Peavy, Steven Hollibush. **Working Together and City Matters with City Managers:** Kenny Haskin (Txk, AR) & Shirley Jaster (Txk, TX). **Texarkana, USA, Community of Courts:** Federal Judge Trey Schroeder; **True Crime in Texarkana, USA:** Chief Kevin Schutte, Txk, TX Police; **Ark Tex Council of Govts.:** Chris Brown; **Public Servants/Elected Officials:** State Reps Carol Dalby (AR); County Judge Cathy Hardin Harrison (Miller) and Bobby Howell (Bowie) County Commissioners JP Ernest Pender (Miller) and Tom Whitten

(Bowie). The Politics of Water: Danny Gray, Board Member SWAWD; Fred Milton, Board Member RWRD and Kelly Mitchell, Board Member SRBA, David Williams, MTG Engineers.

PURSUING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE in Texarkana, USA—JANUARY 14, 2020

THANKS to Session Sponsor—Farmers Bank and Trust!

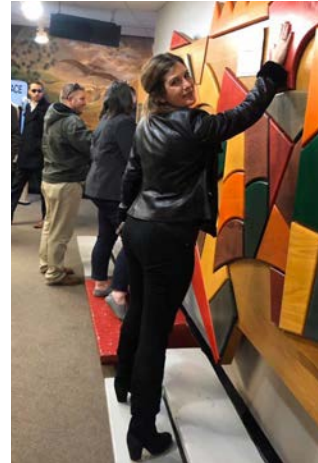
Facilitators: Patti O'Bannon (LT 2013) Principal, Nash Elementary, TISD and Toney Favors (LT 2016), TAMU-T Ass't VP/Undergrad Admissions & Recruiting; Sponsor Perspectives from Kevin Johnson (LT 2020). Host Sites: Texas A&M Univ-Texarkana with breakfast, Texarkana College with lunch, Univ of AR-Texarkana with afternoon snacks. TAMU-T Perspectives: Dr. David Yells, VP for Academic Affairs/Provost, TAMU-T. Panel with City ISD Superintendents: LEISD—Ronnie Thompson; PGISD—Chad Pirtle (LT 2020); TASD—Dr. Becky Kesler (LT 2013); TISD— Paul Norton (LT 2014). Dr. Sara Lawrence (LT 2004); Tour of Nursing Education Facilities, Dr. Heather McKnight. Texarkana College: Presentation/Discussion led by Dr. Jason Smith with Dr. Donna McDaniel, Vice Pres of Instruction, and TC Leadership; Tour: Ledwell Workforce Center and TC Nursing Facility. University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana: Welcome and Discussion led by Chris Thomassen, Chancellor and Brian Berry, Exec Vice Chancellor, UAHT; Laura Clark, Vice Chancellor for Academics.



Community Narratives: MEDIA AND MESSAGES for TXK, USA—FEBRUARY 11, 2020

THANKS to Session Sponsor—Sparklight!

Facilitator: REWhitt—LT Exec Direc; Focus on Sponsoring Session Partner: General Manager David Wall. Host Sites: Four States Fine Arts Bldg; Media Panel-Reporting the News of Texarkana, USA: Texarkana Gazette: Les Minor, Russell McDermott, Public Radio/KTXK: Steve Mitchell; Online News/TXK Today: Stephen Parker; Commercial Radio Texarkana Radio Center: Col Taylor, President; Radio/Townsquare Media: Brian Sines, Market President. The Business of Selling Texarkana, USA: City of TXK, AR: Advertising & Promotions, Sandy Varner (LT 1999); Texarkana Chamber of Commerce: Natalie Haywood; Four States Fairgrounds/ Entertainment Center: Exec Direc Brent Talley; TAMU-T Recruitment: Toney Favors (LT 2016). What's BEAUTY got to do with it?: Mashell Daniels (LT 2018), Code Enforcement, TXK, TX; Peggy Burson, Txk AR City Beautiful Commission; Wanda Boyette, TC and Texas Beautification; Nancy Hoehn (LT 2019), TxDOT. The Tourism Opportunity: Valerie Eaves, Supervisor, Texas Travel Information Center. The Social Media Opportunity: Deanna O'Malley, AR Police Dept; Independent Social Media Consultant.



MEETING HEALTHCARE/BASIC HUMAN NEEDS—MARCH 10, 2020

THANKS to Session Sponsor—Ledwell Office!

Facilitators: Terrie Arnold (LT 1987) Executive Dir, Alzheimers Alliance, Dr. Randy Sarrett (LT 1990) Physician, Family Medical Group. Sponsor Perspectives: David Farren, Ledwell Office. Host Sites: Hospice of Txk, Wadley Regional Medical Center. Generously: Breakfast by CHRISTUS St. Michael; Lunch by Wadley RMC; Snacks by Senior 4Senior Care. Healthcare Now and in the Near Future for CHRISTUS St. Michael: Loren Robinson, M.D., MSHP, CHRISTUS St. Michael VP of Medical Affairs. The Opioid Crisis: Dr. Matt Young, Txk Emergency Ctr with Reps of Txk TX and AR Police Depts; Perspectives on Healthcare: Dr. David Whitt, Head & Neck Surgeon/ENT Associates; Dr. Russell Mayo (LT 1995), Training Physicians for the Future; Dr. Randy Sarrett (LT 1999), Family Medical Group (Coronavirus); Dr. Timothy Reynolds, MD, Healthcare Express. Healthcare Now and in the Near Future for Wadley: Tom Gilbert, FACHE, President & CEO, Wadley Regl Medical Center. Mental Health as the Basis of Ensuring Human Needs: Charles Jordan (LT 2019), Admin Officer, U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs; Cindy Thomas (LT 2020), Licensed Professional Counselor; Community Healthcare: Alaina Presley, Mission Texarkana Development Coordinator; Missy Davison, Texarkana Children's Advocacy. Medical History of Texarkana: Mark Wren, MD, Social Health Panel Discussion: Malenda Cree, Prog. Director, CASA for Children; Rick Huntze, "We Honor Veterans;" Sandy Varner, (LT 1999) CEO Temple Memorial Pediatric Center; Terrie Arnold (LT 1987) Exec. Direc., Alzheimer's Alliance Tri-State Area.



and then the world changed...

PUTTING IT TOGETHER—VIRTUAL ZOOM SESSION!—APRIL 14, 2020

Facilitator: Ruth Ellen Whitt—LT Exec Direc; with technical assistance of Jay Stephen Simpson, (LT 2020). Host Site: Homes of LT Class Members. Putting it all Together: So What? Personalizing Community Leadership—where opportunity, ability, experience and passion meet. Non-Profit Leadership Wisdom.



FAST FORWARD 40 years...

Leadership Texarkana 2020

Engaging and Equipping leaders throughout Texarkana in Working Together for Community Excellence, Pride and Progress.

Leadership Texarkana has an outstanding forty-year legacy of developing leaders for our community. Hundreds of Texarkanians have had the opportunity to relish the annual class program over the decades since, including this LT Class of 2020, that we are celebrating today. However, in forty years, much has also changed. When the first Leadership Texarkana class graduated in 1980, the singular goal was to put on a first-rate program each year, equipping a select group of individuals to lead the way in our community.

Although the flagship class program remains Leadership Texarkana’s anchor and most comprehensive program for developing our people and potential for community leadership, Leadership Texarkana has grown from a focus on one program to a focus on our mission, using every sort of creative means to engage and equip citizens throughout the community, to step up and help lead the way — **WORKING TOGETHER** — Because numbers matter.

These days, you can see Leadership Texarkana’s work reflected in multiple programs and initiatives in Texarkana, from our LIFT Focus for the Future, to goTXK and What’s to Love Txx; from community workshops in Strategic Doing, to community trainings, Today’s Youth, Tomorrow’s Leaders and Wilburs Awards.



LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA:
Creating a COMMUNITY FULL OF INDIVIDUALS WILLING and ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER, to LEAD THE WAY to COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>COMMUNITY FULL</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Creating a Community-wide Culture of Community Leadership through LIFT: LT's Leadership Initiative for Texarkana</p> <p style="text-align: center;">because NUMBERS MATTER...</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No team can achieve its best if only 2% of the team is actively engaged in the team efforts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>ENGAGED</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Engaging Citizens with "What's to Love about Texarkana" and Celebrating Superlatives at goTXK.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">... because people invest themselves in things that they LOVE.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>EQUIPPED</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Equipping Leaders for Working Together – Learning, Applying and Sharing the Proven Processes of STRATEGIC DOING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and other leadership knowledge, skills and attitude that are integral to success.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>LEAD THE WAY</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Challenging and Inspiring Each to Lead the Way by providing a Leadership Voice of Possibility and Responsibility</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INDIVIDUALS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Leadership is INFLUENCE: Every INDIVIDUAL has the power to LEAD THE WAY –the opportunity to influence and encourage, by word or example.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Providing a Unifying Voice of the Vision and Values of Texarkana Citizens in the</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LIFT FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If we don't know where we're going, any road will get us there.... (and how will we know how we're doing??)</p>
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LT's challenge to every citizen: **IMAGINE TEXARKANA IS YOUR BUSINESS (...BECAUSE IT IS!)**

Imagine a Texarkana, USA in which an ever greater number of citizens were excited about ALL there is to love about our community, and wanted to be part of it—AND imagine they were inspired and equipped to work together, stepping up to lead the way and make a difference...

Imagine what that would mean for our community and it's pursuit of excellence?

That's the vision that drives Leadership Texarkana: To grow a community full of individuals, willing and able to work together for COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE.

Those who know, say...

“LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA IS...

the organization with the best chance of producing sustainable, positive change in our community.”

James Bass
Director of Logistics
RRAD
(LT Class of 2012)

“LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA IS...

the only inclusive organization that is asking the hard questions about what do the collective ‘we’ need to do to make the greater Texarkana region a better place to live, work, learn and play.”

Eric Voyles
VP of Economic Development
TexAmericas Center
(LT Class of 2018)

“LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA IS...

involved in a whole slew of activities and initiatives aimed at raising up Texarkana, USA, and creating pride in our community. I love that. Leadership Texarkana brings people together to work, with their specific strengths, toward positive change.”

Lesley Ledwell Dukelow
President
Ledwell & Sons
(LT Class of 2014)

“LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA IS...

a critical component in our collective future. Citizen leadership, from all corners of our community, is what will make Texarkana, USA a great place to live and do business in the 21st century.”

Andrew Clark
Executive Director
Texarkana Symphony Orchestra
(LT Class of 2010)

We're Excited About LT's Work Because...

- LT is working with LfT community partners to pursue promising new means for Working Together and DOING in our community through the proven processes of Strategic Doing—the foundation of OKC's transformation the past 20 years).
- LT is building new narratives and excitement for citizens around Texarkana, USA—through goTXK and the What's to Love Txk initiatives.
- LT is working with new partners to share What's to Love Txk with those on the outside looking in to attract new money for our coffers through the hospitality networks—and through recruitment efforts to attract new students—and to engage young professionals.
- LT is fostering talent retention—engaging citizens with reasons to stay—versus reasons to leave—helping to safeguard the investment of local businesses.
- LT is unleashing new talent and brain power—mobilizing ever more creative thought leaders to build our capacity for excellence—unleashing untapped creative potential in service to our best collective future.

We're growing goTXK.org and "What's to Love, Texarkana" giving ever more individuals reasons for loving and choosing Texarkana, USA—as well as the motivation to be part of making it great... because numbers matter.

Subscribe to the FREE weekly "What's to Love, Txk" at goTXK.org!



Order your shirt or goTXK letters TODAY!



SIGN UP & ENTER TO WIN AT GOTXK.ORG



THREE CHEERS to the LT Class of 2020 for growing goTXK!

During the Opening Retreat in September, class members joined one of five groups where they were challenged to imagine their opportunity as teams for working together—via Strategic Doing processes—to grow the value of goTXK resources... and their potential for growing Texarkana, USA.

Each member also signed on to contribute weekly content throughout the year for the What's To Love Texarkana blasts.

- The groups were given time for 30/30 meetings during monthly sessions. The exciting group initiatives were:
- Launching and growing Instagram resources for goTXK
 - Celebrating Texarkana's hidden gems in videos
 - Adding resources to make everyone feel welcome home
 - Video voices from the best and brightest of all sectors on "Why Texarkana?"
 - A goTXK app for locals and visitors—with partners

ALL are valuable additions to goTXK! The goal was to complete all updates to unveil at our late April 40th Community Celebration. Given that the world shut down before that was accomplished, all remain in process—and to be continued—so STAY TUNED!

IMAGINE a Texarkana USA...
 What *COULD* we do? What *SHOULD* we do?
 WHAT *WILL* we do??



WELCOME!
 Lift Strategic Doing
 Community Initiative
 January 2020

Sponsored By



*Working Together
 for Community
 Excellence*

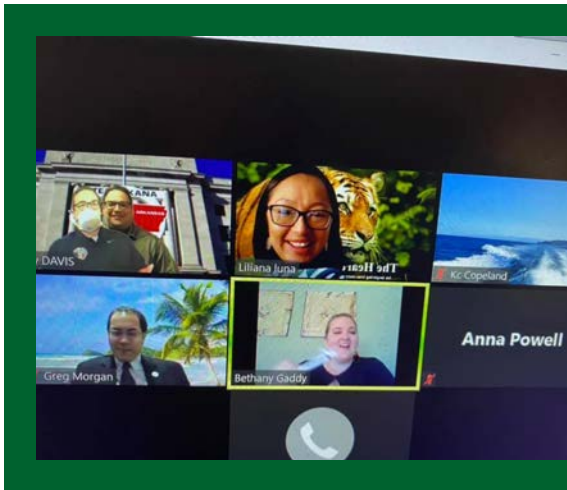
LIFT: The Leadership Initiative for Texarkana
 A PROGRAM OF LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA

*in partnership with leaders from AR-TX REDI, Inc.
 Cities of Texarkana TX and AR, Texarkana
 Chamber of Commerce, Texas A&M Univ-Txk,
 Texarkana College, University of AR-Texarkana*



We are committed to equipping leaders with the means, models and motivation for Working Together successfully working with LIFT community partners and building on the proven processes of STRATEGIC DOING.

We gathered community leaders to plan what we will DO around the framing question... Imagine Texarkana, USA was a magnet for talent and entrepreneurship to our region... What would that be like? What could we do? What should we do? What will we do?



Like the rest of our community, Leadership Texarkana is doing what's needed to stay safe and follow the guidelines...

Regrettably, we've had to cancel multiple spring programs and events... (Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Leaders, Annual Lunch with Leaders, 40th Anniversary Community Celebration our usual End of Year Dinner Celebration) But we continue to use every opportunity to celebrate our community and continue the great work of Leadership Texarkana in as many creative ways as possible...

In the meantime—STAY TUNED and follow us on Facebook for news related to...

- Idalee Raffaelli Hawkins LEADER OF THE YEAR award
- Our annual Wilbur Awards honoring exemplary community leaders
- Recruitment Social for the Leadership Texarkana Class of 2020-2021
- And all updates on what's going on with LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA!



Time to Apply for the Leadership Texarkana Class of 2020-2021

The flagship program of LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA since 1980, the annual Leadership Texarkana Class, is designed to ENGAGE AND EQUIP CITIZENS from throughout Texarkana, USA as LEADERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE. Leadership Texarkana is focused on creating our best future by developing people POTENTIAL, engaging all in imagining our POSSIBILITIES, and in pursuing new ways of doing business to lead the community PROGRESS and the EXCELLENCE we say we want.

The LT Class will kick-off in September with an overnight retreat (pandemic permitting!), followed by monthly day-long sessions on second Tuesdays from October through April.

- GREAT PARTICIPANTS from all backgrounds, professions, and sectors
- EXCELLENT PROGRAMS for understanding critical community issues and the leadership capacities needed to make a difference.
- CONNECTIONS TO COMMUNITY LEADERS providing a backstage pass of our region invaluable and eye-opening to natives and newcomers alike.

Applications are available online NOW at [LeadershipTexarkana.com](https://www.leadershiptexarkana.com) (click here for Application)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE
JUNE 23, 2020!**



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA'S SUCCESS IS YOUR SUCCESS.

Whether you value economic impact, competitive economic advantage or quality of life for yourself, Leadership Texarkana is all about YOU and YOUR best future. Leadership Texarkana's success is every citizen's success because COMMUNITY PROGRESS AND EXCELLENCE benefit all who live and work in our community: You—your business—your family—your workers—your customers—your kids.

There are numerous outstanding organizations and institutions in Texarkana, USA which are essential to our collective pursuit of community excellence, whether it be through building our workforce or filling our industrial parks, by adding to the quality of life we desire, or through public resources or dozens more means.

However, Leadership Texarkana is the only organization in Texarkana, USA that is working with intention—and a plan—to provide the foundational culture of leadership and responsibility and possibility essential to making the most of our incredible community, as we engage and equip ever more citizens to step up and help lead the way in Working Together for our best future. As every good coach knows... Even if you have a team full of the most talented players you can still lose the game if you lack the culture of leadership that makes the most of your team—our community.



Leadership Texarkana is POWERED BY PARTNERS throughout the community—individuals and businesses who understand Leadership Texarkana's unique and important role in our community. Partners are the ones who make our work possible. THANKS TO ALL!



BECOME A PARTNER TODAY! As a business, as an individual...
Read more here at LeadershipTexarkana.com (click here for Partner Information)

Celebrating the hard-working 2019-2020 leadership teams for the Leadership Texarkana organization

and for our outstanding flagship Leadership Texarkana Class program of 2020

2019-2020 LT BOARD OFFICERS

President

Paul Norton / LT 2014

President-Elect

Mary Ellen Young / LT 1995

Treasurer

Kristie Dempsey / LT 2001

Past President

Eric Cain / LT 2008

LT Executive Director

Ruth Ellen Whitt / LT 1989

2019-20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jaimie Alexander / LT 2019

Robbin Bass / LT 2016

Lesley Ledwell Dukelow / LT 2014

Toney Favors / LT 2016

Charles Jordan / LT 2019

Myra Loving / LT 2015

Novella Medlock / LT 2013

Fred R. Norton, Jr. / LT 1985

Rachael Potter / LT 2013

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David Reavis / LT 2008

Trish Reed / LT 2001

Amy Roberts / LT 2016

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2019-2020 LT CURRICULUM TEAM

Mary Ellen Young / LT 1995

Dr. Gary Stading / LT 2018

Sonja Hubbard / LT 1991

Prissy Hickerson / LT 1983

Liz Fazio-Hale / LT 2017

Shawn Vaughn / LT 2003

Patti O'Bannon / LT 2013

Toney Favors / LT 2016

Terrie Arnold / LT 1987

Dr. Randy Sarrett / LT 1990

Ruth Ellen Whitt / LT 1989

LT Executive Director

Imagine Texarkana is your business... Because it is!



Encourage outstanding applicants for the 2020-21 Leadership Texarkana Class.

Applications online at leadershiptexarkana.com. Deadline is June 23, 2020.



LEADERSHIP TEXARKANA

WORKING TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

THANKS! to our 2019-20 SPONSORING PARTNERS

Lunch with Leaders



End of Year Celebration



What's to Love TXK-WeeklyLIFT Partners



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LT Fall Party



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