



EBONY BOULWARE

DEAN, WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC HEALTH
AFFAIRS, WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER, ADVOCATE HEALTH

L. Ebony Boulware, MD, MPH serves as Dean of Wake Forest University School of Medicine and Chief Academic Officer of Advocate Health, where she leads the academic mission of one of the nation's largest nonprofit health systems. In these roles, she provides enterprise-wide vision and leadership for education, research, and clinical innovation across Advocate Health's national footprint. She unifies academic affairs across the School of Medicine's two campuses and oversees a broad range of academic programs, including MD education, nursing, and biomedical graduate education. Her leadership spans more than 240 Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs across seven sponsoring organizations and includes oversight of the Carolinas College of Health Sciences and Cabarrus College of Health Sciences.

Dr. Boulware also leads one of the nation's largest integrated clinical research platforms. This includes a single IRB operating across more than 70 Advocate Health hospitals; the Advocate Health National Center for Clinical Trials; Translational Centers of Excellence in Cancer, Heart & Vascular, and Neuroscience; and an enterprise-wide data and analytics platform encompassing more than 6 million individuals. Under her leadership, the research enterprise at Wake Forest University School of Medicine has expanded substantially, now supported by more than \$450 million in extramural funding.

A general internist, physician-scientist, and clinical epidemiologist, Dr. Boulware is internationally recognized for research focused on improving health for all. Her work identifies and addresses patient, health system, and community-level barriers that contribute to unequal health outcomes, particularly for individuals with chronic conditions such as kidney disease. Across her career, she has published more than 250 peer-reviewed manuscripts and secured more than \$80 million in individual and institutional grant funding. Dr. Boulware is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, where she currently serves on the Governing Council. She is also an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and the Association of American Physicians. Her national leadership reflects a longstanding commitment to advancing scientific excellence, equity, and innovation in academic medicine.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Vassar College and her medical degree from the Duke University School of Medicine. She completed her residency and chief residency in internal medicine at the University of Maryland and received her Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



SHELLY CAYETTE-WESTON

PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS HORNETS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Shelly Cayette-Weston joined Hornets Sports & Entertainment (HSE) as President of Business Operations on July 1, 2024. As president, she oversees the day-to-day business operations for all of HSE's properties, including the Charlotte Hornets, Greensboro Swarm and Spectrum Center. Cayette-Weston brings nearly 20 years of successful, impactful and relationship-based experience in the sports and entertainment industry to HSE.

Cayette-Weston came to Charlotte after spending the previous 12 years with the Cleveland Cavaliers, including the last two as Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer. She initially joined the Cavaliers in 2012 before rising to Vice President of Global Partnerships and Senior Vice President of Global Partnerships. Cayette-Weston oversaw all aspects of ticketing, suites and premium hospitality, client experience as well as corporate partnerships, including growth, new business development, innovation and retention for the Cavaliers, Lake Erie Monsters (AHL), Cleveland Charge (NBA G League) and Cavs Legion GC (NBA 2K League). Under Cayette-Weston's leadership, the Cavaliers became one of the top performing revenue franchises in the NBA during the last 10 years. She oversaw core initiatives, including launching a client engagement team, securing jersey patch partners, arena renovations, development of a new practice facility, international business strategy and the growth of Cleveland's youth sports outreach, all of which created a positive impact on the business, stakeholders and the community. During her time in Cleveland, Cayette-Weston was committed to serving the community with a focus as a civic leader and furthering economic growth. She served on various boards, including the Cuyahoga Community College Board, the College Now Board and the Commission on Economic Inclusion Committee, in addition to the American Heart Association.

Cayette-Weston spent the first five years of her NBA career with the New Orleans Hornets where she worked in marketing, community investment and corporate partnerships. Before joining the NBA, she began her sports and entertainment career at Caesar's Entertainment in database marketing and advertising.

A graduate of Tulane University, where she was a member of the women's basketball team, Cayette-Weston earned a degree in business management & marketing. In 2024, Cayette-Weston was inducted into the Tulane Athletics Hall of Fame and recognized with the Don and Lora Peters Career Achievement Award. She was named to Crain's Cleveland Business Forty Under 40 in 2019 and Sports Business Journal's Forty Under 40 in 2021. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Shelly and her husband, Aron, have two daughters, Ivy Grace and Averie Marie.



JOSH CHARLESWORTH

PRESIDENT & CEO
KRISPY KREME

Josh Charlesworth has served as President and Chief Executive Officer for Krispy Kreme since January 2024. He joined the company as Chief Financial Officer in May 2017. He added the responsibility of Chief Operating Officer for Krispy Kreme beginning May 2019 and served in those capacities until June 2022. Beginning in June 2022, he assumed the role of Global President.

Prior to joining Krispy Kreme, Mr. Charlesworth held various leadership positions at Mars, including as Global Chief Financial Officer of Mars Chocolate from January 2015 to April 2017.

Mr. Charlesworth is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and serves on the Board of Directors for the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance.



GERALD COHEN

CHIEF ECONOMIST, KENAN INSTITUTE OF
PRIVATE ENTERPRISE & RESEARCH
PROFESSOR OF FINANCE
UNC-CHAPEL HILL

Gerald Cohen's research is focused on understanding the drivers of national and regional economic conditions – productivity, in particular – and how to help decision makers use that information to foster growth. He teaches courses on how to develop data-driven policy decisions.

Dr. Cohen is chief economist of the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise where he provides strategic vision and leadership of its translational economic research and policy initiatives. He is the lead researcher for the American Growth Project, which examines the indicators driving the well-being of the U.S.'s micro-economies.

He has worked in both the public and private sectors focusing on the intersection between financial markets and economic fundamentals.

During President Barack Obama's administration, he was deputy assistant secretary for macroeconomic analysis at the U.S. Department of Treasury where he helped formulate and evaluate the impact of policy proposals on the U.S. economy. He previously managed a global macro fund at Ziff Brothers Investments.

Dr. Cohen is a contributing author to "30-Second Money" and co-author of "Political Cycles and the Macroeconomy." He received his PhD in economics from Harvard University and his BS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



NED CURRAN

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT STONE COTTAGE ADVISORS

With a career in commercial real estate and accounting spanning more than 40 years, Ned Curran has served in the CEO and CEO Emeritus role with large commercial real estate organizations, including the Bissell Companies and Northwood Office.

Curran now serves as Founder and President of Stone Cottage Advisors where he consults on select real estate engagements that uniquely blend civic betterment with profound placemaking impacts. He serves on the Boards of Aston Realty Investment Company, The Iron District, LLC, Biltmore Farms and as Chair of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Board of Trustees. Civically, he is past Chair of the North Carolina Board of Transportation, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, The United Way of Central Carolinas and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Health Advisory Council. He has also served on a number of real estate industry Boards including the Charlotte Regional Partnership, NAIOP and REBIC.



KULLENI GEBREYES

PRINCIPAL, VICE CHAIR AND US LIFE
SCIENCES & HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY LEADER
DELOITTE

Dr. Kulleni Gebreyes is a board member of Deloitte US and serves as vice chair and US Life Sciences and Health Care industry leader. She leads a team of diverse professionals focused on advancing the business of science and health through market-shaping and digitally enabled innovation. Dr. Gebreyes also oversees Deloitte's strategic efforts to ensure that organizations have financially durable business models that improve the health span and life span for all consumers, employees, and communities. By background, she is a physician leader with more than 25 years of experience across the commercial and public sectors.



RHEA GREENE

MANAGING PARTNER, OFFICE LEASING

TRINITY PARTNERS

Rhea Greene is a Managing Partner at Trinity Partners and a long-time leader in Charlotte's office leasing market, advising institutional owners and developers on how to position, market, and lease high-performing office assets in a rapidly evolving workplace environment. Since joining Trinity Partners in 2008, she has advanced from associate to top producer and senior leader, bringing a blend of strategic oversight and hands-on execution to every assignment.

Rhea oversees leasing strategy and execution for a notable portfolio of Charlotte landmark properties, including One South, The Iron District, Carillon, Toringdon Office Park, 110 East, and Camp North End. Her client relationships include many of the country's most active institutional owners and developers, including AIG, Barings, KBS, Shorenstein, Jamestown and Trammell Crow, reflecting a track record built on disciplined market insight, strong broker relationships, and consistent results.

In addition to leading the Charlotte leasing team, Rhea serves as Co-Managing Partner of the Charlotte office, where she helps guide overall strategy, business development, and recruiting efforts. She is a member of the firm's Executive Committee and Leadership Committee.

Known for her collaborative, entrepreneurial approach, Rhea partners closely with ownership teams to execute leasing strategy across a range of investment objectives and asset repositioning efforts. She is hands-on throughout the full leasing lifecycle—tenant targeting, positioning and messaging, broker engagement, and complex lease negotiations. Her experience includes marquee transactions such as a 294,000 SF lease with Bank of America, 140,000 SF with SCOR, 90,000 SF with First Horizon, and 160,000 SF and 291,000 SF leases with Duke Energy. She has also supported high-profile Charlotte leasing assignments, including landlord representation at 110 East and The Iron District.

Rhea earned a B.A. in Intercultural Studies in Business from Wofford College, where she was a four-year NCAA Division I volleyball player and two-year team captain. She previously worked with Lauth Property Group, supporting office and industrial development initiatives across the Southeast. Outside of work, she is a mother of four, volunteers with the Connections Team at Forest Hill Church and stays actively involved coaching youth athletics.



DAVID HOWARD

CHAIRPERSON
METROPOLITAN PUBLIC
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

DL Howard Consulting Group, LLC: As Principal, David Howard leads a reputable consulting firm specializing in innovative solutions for public policy, transportation, and urban development. He advises clients on cutting-edge strategies that integrate emerging technologies and foster equitable economic development.

- **KRJ Consulting:** As a Management Consultant, David is a key member of the business development team at KRJ Consulting in Columbia, SC. He collaborates with stakeholders to identify opportunities and build impactful partnerships. He provides strategic guidance for U.S. Department of Transportation projects, emphasizing the inclusion of small and historically underutilized businesses. His contributions include enhancing the operations of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) and driving the Pathways to Equity (P2E) initiative.
- **NC Pandemic Recovery Office (NC PRO):** As Deputy Director and COO, David managed \$3.6 billion in federal pandemic recovery funds. He ensured equitable distribution and accountability while spearheading strategic initiatives to address state-level economic recovery needs.
- **North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT):** Serving as Chief Deputy Secretary, David oversaw critical divisions such as Rail, Multimodal Transportation, Civil Rights, and Logistics. Notable accomplishments include securing \$225 million in federal grants to modernize rail infrastructure and implementing programs to increase small business participation in state transportation projects.
- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** Appointed as Associate Administrator for Policy and Government Affairs, David led the implementation of the \$305 billion FAST Act and spearheaded the Ladders of Opportunity initiative. This effort enhanced access to jobs, education, and healthcare through equitable transportation investments.

PUBLIC SERVICE

David's commitment to public service is evident in his numerous roles and initiatives:

- **North Carolina Global TransPark Authority Board:** As Chair, David revitalized this multimodal industrial and logistics hub, attracting \$50 million in investments and creating over 500 jobs while aligning strategic plans with regional economic goals.
- **Charlotte City Council:** During three consecutive terms as a Council Member At-large, David championed transformative infrastructure projects, including light rail expansion, airport upgrades, and urban streetcar development. He also chaired the Transportation and Planning Committee, advocating for regional connectivity and sustainable growth.
- **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission:** As a member, David provided strategic oversight on land use and urban planning, facilitating the approval of policies that supported equitable housing and transit-oriented development.
- **Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority (MPTA):** David serves as the inaugural chair to oversee regional transit and the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS).



DAVE KATZ

PRESIDENT & CEO

COCA-COLA CONSOLIDATED, INC.

David (Dave) M. Katz currently serves as President and Chief Operating Officer of Coca-Cola Consolidated, Inc. Dave joined Coca-Cola Consolidated in 2013 as Assistant to the Chairman and CEO. He has also served in the areas of manufacturing, engineering, quality assurance, operations planning, human resources, culture, and stewardship. In January of 2018, Dave was named Chief Financial Officer where he served until transitioning to his current role on December 31, 2018.

Dave began his career in the Coca-Cola system in 1993, when he joined Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc. as a Logistics Consultant, progressing into varying roles with increasing degrees of responsibilities. In 2008, he was promoted to the President and CEO of Coca-Cola Bottlers' Sales and Services Company (CCBSS), where he was responsible for the procurement of nearly \$5.1 billion in direct materials and \$2.9 billion in indirect spending. In 2010, Dave served as Vice President, Sales Operations, for CCE's East Business Unit, before being named Senior Vice President, Midwest Region within the newly created Coca-Cola Refreshments in 2011.

Dave is a Board member of Coke Consolidated, and also currently serves as the co-Chair of the U.S. Coke System on the System Leadership Governance Board. He is an officer and Vice President of The Coca-Cola Bottlers' Association. Dave served as Chairman of Western Container Corporation from mid-2012 through mid-2020. From 2016 through 2018, he also served as Chair of the National Product Supply Group. He was a founding member and former Chairman of The Coca-Cola Environmental Council, an international group of Coca-Cola bottlers focused on system environmental issues, and served as Chairman of Coca-Cola's Cross Enterprise Procurement Group. Additionally, Dave served on the Board of the Next Generation Mentoring Foundation and is currently chair of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance.

Mr. Katz holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Industrial Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and completed a portion of his Ph.D. program also at Georgia Tech. Dave is married to Daphne, and they have two daughters. He enjoys numerous physical activities, including running, swimming, biking and golf. He also enjoys cooking, playing the guitar, and has developed a passion for mentoring the next generation.



JENNA KELLY

HEAD OF CONSUMER & RETAIL CORPORATE BANKING

TRUIST

Jenna Kelly serves as Head of Consumer & Retail Corporate Banking at Truist, where she leads a team delivering industry-focused expertise and tailored solutions to large corporate clients nationwide. With more than 30 years of banking experience, Jenna has built a career helping companies of all sizes and industries solve complex challenges, unlock growth opportunities, and enhance long-term enterprise value.

Prior to her current role, Jenna held several senior leadership positions across Truist's footprint. She most recently served as Regional President for Truist's headquarters region in North Carolina, overseeing teams dedicated to advising privately held companies and non-profits while driving business integration and community engagement throughout Charlotte, the Piedmont Triad, and western North Carolina. She also served as Group Regional President, leading half of the company's regions across Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, Washington D.C., Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and previously as Georgia Regional President, where she guided the region through the historic SunTrust and BB&T integration to form Truist. Jenna began her career with Truist's corporate banking training program in Atlanta in 1993. Since then, she has advanced through a variety of client leadership roles in Atlanta and Charlotte, including positions in corporate banking, syndicated & leveraged finance, middle market banking and region president roles.

Deeply committed to service, Jenna contributes her leadership to numerous community organizations. She currently serves on the boards of the Charlotte Sports Foundation and Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. She has also held board roles with the Atlanta Committee for Progress, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Classroom Central, Camp Twin Lakes, Georgia Corporation for Economic Development, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Piedmont Triad Partnership, and the Woodruff Arts Center. Jenna earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She and her husband, Graham, live in Charlotte and are the proud parents of two sons.



VANESSA V. MATHEWS

FOUNDER & CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER ASFALIS ADVISORS

Vanessa V. Mathews is the Founder & Chief Resilience Officer of Asfalix Advisors, a management consulting firm providing enterprise risk and business resilience solutions in transportation, tourism, and sports and entertainment industries. With 15+ years of experience, she partners with executives to identify vulnerabilities in business resilience infrastructure—advising on top risks related to people, technology, assets, infrastructure, and supply chains.

A sought-after speaker, she delivers high-energy, actionable insights on risk and crisis leadership. Her international expertise spans North America, Latin America, and the U.K., advising multinational corporations on risk and resilience effectiveness. Recognized by the U.S. State Department as a global entrepreneur in 2017, she was selected for the Global Entrepreneurship Forum in Shenzhen, China and has been honored among Mecklenburg Times' 50 Most Influential Women in 2020, while previously hosting the Business Resilience DECODED podcast with 63K+ global downloads.

Mathews currently serves as a panel member for the Airport Cooperative Research Project (ACRP) 10-38 Airport Disaster Recovery Planning Guide and is serving on the Center City Public Safety Council. She is a former board member for several organizations, including Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont and the International Organization of Black Security Executives. She is a former adjunct professor at Savannah State University, where she taught Business Continuity and Crisis Management for undergraduates.

Mathews holds a Master's in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina, a Bachelor's in Homeland Security and Emergency Management from Savannah State University, and is a Certified Business Continuity Planner.



ROBERT MCCUTCHEON

PRESIDENT & CEO

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Robert McCutcheon brings an impressive depth of leadership experience spanning over 35 years in executive roles across diverse industries, ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to mid- and small sized enterprises. His career is marked by a proven ability to drive growth, enhance brand value, and foster innovation through strategic initiatives and a keen understanding of market dynamics.

As the President and CEO of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, McCutcheon is passionate about leveraging his extensive background in general management, brand marketing, and finance to propel the organization forward. He has a strong track record of building successful brands and businesses through organic growth, innovative product development, and strategic mergers and acquisitions. Throughout his career, he has executed numerous significant M&A transactions and led corporate integrations that have strengthened organizational capabilities and market positioning.

Prior to his current role, McCutcheon served as President and CEO of Husqvarna North America in Charlotte, where he transformed the company's leadership position in residential and commercial outdoor power equipment by championing a radical capability enhancement and an aggressive innovation agenda that drove record profits. Formerly, he held the position of President and Managing Director for Britax Child Safety in Fort Mill, leading the Americas division.

Before relocating to Charlotte in 2018, McCutcheon amassed over two decades of experience in the consumer packaged goods sector. As President at Conagra Brands, he oversaw a portfolio worth over \$3 billion and managed well-known brands such as Marie Callender's, Healthy Choice, Hunt's, Bertolli, PF Changs, and Reddi Wip, and led his businesses to significant growth in sales and profits. His diverse experience also includes leadership roles at Walmart, The Gillette Company, and Conoco, Inc.

McCutcheon holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and a BS in Business from Arizona State University. He lives in Charlotte, NC with his wife Patricia and has four children.

In his role at the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, McCutcheon builds the capabilities and impact of the CLT Alliance through collaboration with local businesses and stakeholders to foster economic growth and sustainable development in the vibrant Charlotte Region.



ED MCKINNEY

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE
CITY MANAGER FOR MOBILITY
CHARLOTTE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Ed's career spans across 30 years of public and private sector experience in transportation, urban design, and community planning. Since joining the City of Charlotte in 2013, Ed has served in leadership roles for both the Planning and Transportation Departments and is currently serving as a Special Assistant to the City Manager for Mobility. In this role he is helping implement the city's vision for mobility to strengthen and support council's investment in housing affordability, business and workforce development, sustainability, and upward economic mobility.



RICK MCDONALD

FORMER CHIEF SUPPLY CHAIN OFFICER THE CLOROX COMPANY

Rick is the retired Chief Supply Chain Officer of The Clorox Company, a \$7.1B+ global consumer packaged goods company. Currently he advises Supply Chain Tech Founders and CEOs on strategy development, customer acquisition, focused messaging and TCP introductions.

Rick has extensive experience leading through crisis - including the COVID-19 pandemic, US hyper-inflation and a 5 month long cyber-attack in 2023 endured by Clorox. Rick keeps his team focused on the critical few objectives and delivers on commitments. During COVID, he streamlined objectives to two: keeping his people safe and healthy while running his plants and DCs flat out, delivering life-saving disinfecting products to consumers worldwide. Recently he led the Digital Transformation of the Clorox Supply Chain, while pivoting his team from a “just-in-time” mindset to “just-in-case”.

Rick supports the industry by serving on multiple Advisory Boards. He is a member of the Georgia Tech Scheller College of Business Advisory Board. Additionally he serves as the Chairman of the ketteQ.com Executive Advisory Board as well as on the Advisory Boards of Cleo.com and Vorto.ai. He is a Strategic Advisor to Vocab Partners, PopCapacity.com, inventory.ai and Verusen.

Previously a Board Advisor for the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), he also served on the Advisory Boards of other industry groups: The Chlorine Institute, Commonwealth Handling Equipment Pool (CHEP), and the National Barbeque & Grilling Association (NBBQA).

From a governance perspective, Rick helps boards exercise their fiduciary duty by mitigating risk in some of the most complicated regions of the world during challenging economic conditions while driving the business to improve its market share and profitability.

Rick is a renowned subject matter expert and industry thought leader on supply chain and leadership podcasts and is a regular guest on the Supply Chain Now podcast. He was an invited speaker at Supply Chain Insights annual Supply Chains to Admire awards forum and many others including MANIFEST, PROMAT, Cushman Wakefield, GDS Group, Millennium Group, Procurement and Supply Chain Live, Supply Chain Point and Conferenzia World. Recognizing his leadership performance, Rick has garnered a notable list of industry awards, including Top 10 Chief Supply Chain Officers in 2022 by Logistics Tech and Supply Chains to Admire 2022 by Supply Chain insights.



TOM NELSON

CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT, & CEO
NATIONAL GYPSUM COMPANY

Since 1999, Thomas C. (Tom) Nelson has served as Chairman, President, and CEO of National Gypsum Company.

Nelson serves on the Boards of Advocate Health, Yum! Brands, Bechtel, and Milliken. He recently completed a 6-year Board term on the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Nationally, Nelson is a member of The Business Council, The Business Roundtable, The Council on Foreign Relations and Harvard Business School's Board of Dean's Advisors. Locally he serves on the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council. He served as former Chair of the Harvard Joint Center Policy Advisory Board and former Chair of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

Nelson received a B.S. degree in industrial engineering from Stanford University and his MBA from Harvard Business School. He was selected in 1992 as a White House Fellow where he served as assistant to the Secretary of Defense for special projects and received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.



TOM OSHA

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

WEXFORD SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY

Tom is employed by Wexford Science + Technology as Executive Vice President. In this role, he guides Wexford's implementation of its Knowledge Community strategy across its portfolio, working with Wexford's partner universities and research institutions, entrepreneurs and innovators, growth companies, and economic development stakeholders globally to position Wexford's innovation district developments as critical hubs in the regional innovation ecosystem.

He currently serves as the founding board chairman of the Global Institute for Innovation Districts, a global non-profit organization, established by a group of influential leaders active in the growth and advancement of innovation districts. He is an author of the recently released paper, *The Evolution of Innovation Districts: The New Geography of Global Innovation* (Wagner, Katz, Osha), a member of the Leadership Council of the Brookings Institution and served on their Centennial Scholars Program Advisory Board for Innovation Districts and the Bass Initiative for Public Spaces.

Tom is an engaging speaker who has recently delivered keynotes on creating innovation ecosystems and helping Universities, research institutions, cities, regions, and federal governments, leverage their research and technologies into knowledge-led economic development, at the Association of University Research Parks, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, the Society for Research Administration, South-by-Southwest, and the NATO Industry Summit. He has also appeared on CNBC, CBC, CNN, and CBS and his opinions have appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Fortune*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The New York Times*, among others.

Additionally, Tom has served as an advisor to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on global innovation, and has acted as an innovation advisor to Global Affairs Canada, helping Canadian companies successfully expand their operations into the United States and assisting US companies in developing Canadian partnerships and markets.

Previously, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Broadwing Inc., an NYSE-listed, telecommunications provider, providing executive leadership in the areas of corporate strategy, mergers and acquisitions, and innovation. Prior to that, he served as Special Assistant to United States Senator Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.), providing advice on foreign policy issues. Tom also provided policy advice to the Reagan Administration and developed a research methodology that has become a standard at *Congressional Quarterly* magazine.



DAVE REGNERY

CEO & CHAIR
TRANE TECHNOLOGIES

Dave Regnery is chair and chief executive officer (CEO) of Trane Technologies plc, a global climate innovator focused on sustainable solutions for buildings, homes and transportation.

Under Dave's leadership, Trane Technologies has sharpened its strategy as an industry leader in climate solutions with a singular purpose – to boldly challenge what's possible for a sustainable world.

Dave has been with Trane Technologies for his entire career. He was appointed CEO in July 2021, and named chair of the company's board of directors in January 2022. Previously, Dave served as the company's president and chief operating officer, with direct responsibility for its three regional reporting segments and full portfolio of businesses, as well as mission-critical company operations including supply chain, engineering and information technology.

Throughout his tenure, Dave has led the majority of the company's businesses around the world, including Commercial HVAC and Transport Refrigeration. As president of the Commercial HVAC business, Dave led the launch of the company's successful EcoWise™ portfolio of products, designed to lower environmental impact through high efficiency operation and low global-warming potential refrigerants.

Dave serves on the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders for the World Economic Forum, and is active in climate industry, business and manufacturing associations. When he is not with investors or customers, Dave devotes significant time and focus speaking with early talent, new hires and leadership development groups.

Dave graduated from Northeastern University with a bachelor's degree in finance and holds a Master of Business Administration from Lehigh University. Dave and his family live in Charlotte, NC, where he is active in the local community.



WILLIAM H. ROGERS, JR.

CHAIRMAN & CEO

TRUIST FINANCIAL CORPORATION

William H. “Bill” Rogers Jr. is chairman and chief executive officer of Truist Financial Corporation, a purpose-driven financial services organization committed to inspiring and building better lives and communities.

Rogers was named chairman on March 12, 2022, and chief executive officer on Sept. 12, 2021, after serving as president and chief operating officer of Truist between December 2019 and September 2021. Prior to that, he served as chairman and CEO of a predecessor company since January 2012, after having been appointed CEO in June 2011. Rogers held increasingly senior positions in corporate and commercial banking, corporate finance, retail banking, private wealth management, and mortgage after joining the commercial banking division in 1980. Rogers is a champion for the company’s philanthropy and volunteerism. He serves on the boards of several local and national organizations including the Board of Governors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Emory University’s Board of Trustees. Rogers is chairman of Charlotte Center City Partners’ Board of Directors. He also serves on the advisory board of Operation HOPE Inc. and is a member of the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council.

A native of North Carolina, Rogers earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MBA from Georgia State University.



STEPHANIE SCHUCKERS

BANK OF AMERICA DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
IN COMPUTING & INFORMATICS
UNC CHARLOTTE

Dr. Stephanie Schuckers is the Bank of America Distinguished Professor in Computing & Informatics at UNC Charlotte. She serves as the co-director of the Charlotte AI Institute (CLTAI2). She also serves as the Director of the Center for Identification Technology Research (CITeR), a National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center.

Schuckers received her doctoral degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan. Professor Schuckers research focuses on processing and interpreting signals which arise from the human body. Her work is funded from various sources, including National Science Foundation, Department of Homeland Security, and private industry, among others. She has started her own business, testified for US Congress, and has over 50 journal publications as well as over 100 other academic publications. She was named an IEEE Fellow in 2023, serves as a Board of Directors for the Biometrics Institute, and is President for the IEEE Biometrics Council. Shuckers has volunteered for numerous organizations including the FIDO Alliance and Identity Theft Resource Center (ITRC).



TONY SCACCO

PRESIDENT

RIVERSIDE INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT

With 25 years of development and major project experience, Tony Scacco has helped lead developments totaling nearly 20 million square feet of office, multifamily, hospitality, and mixed-use projects in multiple markets on two continents. As President for Riverside Investment & Development, Tony oversees all business lines while working with the executive team to develop and implement the company's strategic plans.

Tony received his BS and MS in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University, and an MBA from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management.



RICK SCHNALL

CO-CHAIRMAN & GOVERNOR HORNETS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Rick Schnall serves as Co-Chairman & Governor of the Charlotte Hornets and Hornets Sports & Entertainment. Along with Gabe Plotkin, Schnall led a group in purchasing the majority share of the Hornets from Michael Jordan on August 3, 2023. Prior to purchasing the Hornets, Schnall had been a minority owner of the Atlanta Hawks and an alternate governor on the NBA Board of Governors since 2015. Schnall is Co-President of Clayton, Dubilier & Rice LLC, where he has worked for 29 years.

Schnall is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. He is a Board Member of the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Zeta Charter Schools, The Charlotte Hornets Foundation, and the CD&R Foundation. He and his wife, Susie, have three sons (ages 24, 23, and 21).



RASU SHRESTHA

CHIEF INNOVATION &
COMMERCIALIZATION OFFICER,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
ADVOCATE HEALTH

Rasu B. Shrestha, MD, MBA, is enterprise executive vice president & chief strategy and transformation officer for Atrium Health, one of the largest non-profit and leading academic health systems in the United States. As a member of the executive leadership team, Shrestha is responsible for Atrium Health's enterprise strategy, including planning and tactical direction for the organization's current strategic roadmap and beyond. In addition, he spearheads a renewed focus on innovation, launching new healthcare inventions, discoveries and ideas to benefit the patients and the communities Atrium Health serves. He also provides executive leadership for corporate communications and marketing, as well as enterprise data and analytics.

With over 25 years of experience, Shrestha joined Atrium Health in February 2019. Prior to joining the organization, Shrestha served as chief innovation officer for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), where he was responsible for driving UPMC's innovation strategy, serving as a catalyst in transforming the payer-provider organization into a more patient-focused and economically sustainable system. In addition to leading innovation at UPMC, Shrestha also served as executive vice president of UPMC Enterprises.

In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), the Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM), as well as Academy Health, and was the chairman of the HIMSS Innovation Committee, and co-chair of Health Datapalooza. Shrestha also serves on the Board of the Blumenthal Performing Arts.

Among his many achievements, Shrestha was recognized as "Executive of the Year" by Healthcare Dive and was acknowledged as one of the "Top 20 Health IT Leaders Driving Change" and as a "Top Healthcare Innovator" by InformationWeek.

Shrestha was the youngest student in his college in Malaysia and holds a Doctor of Medicine degree from CCS University in India. He has received training in radiology and has held a fellowship in informatics at the University of London. Shrestha also holds a master's degree in business administration from the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California.



ZACH WADE

PRINCIPAL
MRP REALTY

Zach Wade has over 20 years of experience in commercial real estate investment and project leasing and has led the company in over \$500 million of office acquisitions since joining MRP Realty in 2006. During this time, he also played a major role in MRP's coworking affiliate company, MAKE Offices, where he served as CEO and treasurer until April 2020.

Prior to joining MRP, Zach was Director of Acquisitions for the Mid-Atlantic region of NPV/Direct Invest, an operating partner of Lehman Brothers, and was directly responsible for the acquisition of office and warehouse properties valuing over \$120 million. While at Trammell Crow Company, Zach leased over two million square feet of office space in Northern Virginia. He is an Executive Committee Member for the Washington Real Estate Group.

Zach received a B.A. in Economics and Communications Studies from the University of North Carolina and a Master of Real Estate from Johns Hopkins University.



GENE WOODS

CEO

ADVOCATE HEALTH

& CELC IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Eugene A. Woods, MBA, MHA, FACHE, is Chief Executive Officer of Advocate Health, the nation's third-largest nonprofit integrated health system. Created in 2022 through the combination of Atrium Health and Advocate Aurora Health, Advocate Health serves nearly six million patients in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Illinois, and Wisconsin across 69 hospitals and more than 1,000 care sites. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, and with Wake Forest University School of Medicine as its academic core, Advocate Health employs 167,000 teammates with a mission to redefine care, from discovery to everyday moments. Woods has made expanding access, enhancing affordability, achieving clinical excellence, and driving leading-edge innovation the centerpieces of Advocate Health's strategy.

Since 2022, Advocate Health has delivered almost \$20 billion in community benefit — while launching initiatives such as an innovative \$1 billion investment to help narrow the 30-year life-expectancy gap in Chicago's South Side by building a new hospital, expanding primary and specialty care in the community, and hiring more than 1,000 neighborhood residents. In North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, Advocate Health provides virtual medical care and teletherapy to 448 schools. In Milwaukee's underserved Near West Side, the new Beacon Health Center will offer integrated physical, mental, and social services. And in Macon, Georgia, the Food as Medicine Market combines a free pantry with a "food pharmacy" to combat nutrition insecurity.

Advocate Health also serves almost one million people in rural communities through 21 hospitals and almost 400 clinics. Investments are bringing more services closer to rural patients, including building new access sites of care and embedding virtual behavioral health services in every rural primary care practice.

To enhance affordability, Woods introduced one of the nation's most generous financial-assistance policies, covering families earning up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level and automatically approving roughly 90 percent of eligible patients. System-wide clinical excellence initiatives have reduced patient-mortality rates by 14 percent and increased the number of hospitals receiving a Leapfrog "A" safety grade from 5 to 24.

To drive future breakthroughs, Woods led the development of The Pearl, a multi-billion dollar medical innovation district that opened in Charlotte in Summer 2025 focused on advanced medical technology. The Pearl hosts industry partners such as Siemens, Stryker, and Boston Scientific; is home to North America's only IRCAD advanced surgery training center; is creating approximately 11,000 jobs; and houses Charlotte's first four-year medical school—the second campus of Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

Woods holds a bachelor's degree in health planning and administration, as well as MBA and MHA degrees, from The Pennsylvania State University, and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Drawing on more than three decades of experience, Woods is focused on shaping a future to improve health, elevate hope, and advance healing FOR ALL — one patient and community at a time.