



Board2Board™ Houston Area - October 17, 2024

## CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOS



**Shawn Callaway** became the President and Owner of FI in August 2022. He started his career in nonprofit management in 1993, and has accrued 30 years of experience in non-profit management and has been on the FI team since 2015. From religious and education to business and economic development nonprofits, Shawn has served in most roles of non-profits from Board Member all the way to President/CEO.

Shawn was named a “Hometown Hero” in 2020 and “Businessperson of the Year” in 2022. Under Shawn’s leadership two different local Chambers have received Five Star Accreditation, the highest rating from the U.S. Chamber. Shawn also formerly served as the first executive director of the award-winning Aledo ISD Education Foundation, which has raised over \$3.5 million dollars since its founding in 2013.

Shawn is actively involved in pro-education legislation and activism. After earning his degree from Texas Tech, he achieved certifications in adolescent education from Southern Methodist University and Princeton University.



**Suzi Pagel, CFRE (Certified Fund Raising Executive)**, has consulted with Foundation Innovation since 2011 and is currently serving as Lead Strategist. She served as Midway ISD’s Director of Development from 2002 - 2022. During this time, the Foundation provided over \$1.75 million for more than 650 classroom grants for the students and staff of Midway ISD and has an endowment of \$2 million dollars. The Education Foundation has funded other programs beyond the scope of the typical school budget such as academic letter jackets and funds for first year teachers to supply their classrooms.

Suzi holds a B.S.Ed. from Baylor University. In addition to teaching in Texas and California, she served as the volunteer coordinator for the City of Woodway and the program coordinator of Keep Knoxville Beautiful. She volunteers for the Junior League, Hewitt Chamber of Commerce, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Suzi has received the Junior League’s Golden Wing Award for Outstanding Volunteerism and the Association of Fundraising Professional’s Outstanding Professional Fundraiser awards.



**Teresa Benden, CFRE** has served as the Foundation’s executive director since October 2009. As a 1988 graduate of Texas A&M University with a BS in Journalism, she has worked in various fields of newspaper, public relations, graphic design and sales. She’s even driven a CSISD school bus! Teresa has been married to her Aggie Professor husband, Mark, for 35 years and they have 3 sons, 3 daughter-in-loves, (all but one graduated from CSISD schools), and 8 grandchildren (3 of which attend CSISD schools). She loves Bible Study, Aggie football, photography, scrapbooking, DIY home projects, fishing and traveling.



**Gina Welsh** has served as the Executive Director of the Santa Fe Texas Education Foundation since 2019. A graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Gina moved to Texas in 2003 and established a career in healthcare marketing. She was invited to join the Board of Directors in 2019 and quickly fell in love with the mission, work, and impact of the Education Foundation. She brought her marketing experience back to her community where her husband is an alumni and her children attend school. Gina and her husband George live in Santa Fe with their twin boys, Lane and Landon. In November, Gina will have completed all 6 CEFL (Certified Education Foundation Leadership) courses.