



Board2Board™ South Texas - January 16, 2025

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.



Dawn Parnell, CPC, IOM has 20 years of experience in public education, leading Education Foundations and Communications teams throughout Texas. During her tenure in public schools, Dawn served as the Director of the Killeen ISD Education Foundation, Executive Director of Communications in Tyler ISD, and the Chief Communications Officer for Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD, where she oversaw the Education Foundation.

Dawn earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Communication & Public Relations from the University of North Texas. She has a Non-Profit Management certification from the University of Texas Permian Basin and a Certified Public Communicator designation from Texas Christian University.

An advocate for public schools, Dawn has been awarded the Honorary Life Membership and Extended Life Service Awards from Texas PTA. She is a graduate of Leadership Tyler and Leadership Killeen.

Before her work in public schools, Dawn served in leadership roles in the Chamber of Commerce industry in north and east Texas. Dawn is married to Dennis, and they enjoy volunteering, camping, and spending time with their adult daughter and family and friends.



Janet Bubert focuses her practice on representing the boards of numerous independent school districts, charter schools, universities, community colleges and education foundations. She advises clients on all aspects of education law and represents schools in both federal and state courts and before the Texas Commissioner of Education as well as other federal and state agencies. Janet has significant experience advising schools about programs for students with disabilities and authored a book chapter on disability programs.

Janet regularly provides training for boards, school administrators and staff, and she is a frequent speaker at state and national education conferences. She was named a Rising Star by Thomson Reuters from 2007-2012 in Schools and Education Law in Texas Monthly and was included in the List of Top Attorneys from 2011-2015 for Education and School Law in Fort Worth, Texas Magazine.

Following law school, Janet served as a briefing attorney for the Honorable James A. Baker and the Honorable Michael Schneider, Justices of the Supreme Court of Texas.

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James Irwin has been the Nonprofit Finance and Experience Specialist with Foundation Innovation since January 2024. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Texas State University with a B.B.A. in Accounting, James' focus is G.A.A.P. Accounting for Nonprofits and IRS reporting. A Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor, James works to empower those without accounting knowledge and feel comfortable reviewing and understanding nonprofit financial management. James attained his Pilot License in 2024 and is working toward his Commercial Pilot License in the near future.