

NTX 2050

OUR NEXT IMPERATIVES

Presented by:



Sponsored by:



Moderator for Session 1: Education Outlook and Status and Session 2: Workforce Outlook and Status
Dr. Cullum Clark

Director of the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative

Dr. Cullum Clark is Director of the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative and Adjunct Economics Professor at SMU. Cullum's work focuses on creating prosperous, high-opportunity cities as a path to improving economic mobility in America and advancing the Bush Institute principle of private markets humanized by compassionate government. He co-authored the 2021 book *The Texas Triangle: An Emerging Power in the Global Economy*. Cullum's work has appeared in *City Journal*, *Real Clear Policy*, and numerous other publications, plus the *Freakonomics* Radio podcast. He recently published an extensive report on the role of universities and academic medical centers in local and regional economies and is currently working on a report on housing supply and affordability in U.S. cities. Cullum worked in investments for 25 years, founding two firms. He serves on the Board of the Texas charter school network Uplift Education and on several foundation and endowment boards. He earned a B.A. in History from Yale, a Master's Degree in Political Science from Harvard, and a Ph.D. in Economics from SMU.

Session 1: Education Outlook and Status Panelists



Dr. Gordon Taylor

Executive Director, Education Service Center-Region 10

Dr. Gordon Taylor has proudly served as a Texas public educator for 36 years. Beginning as a History/Government teacher and a basketball coach, he has served as a principal and as a superintendent.

He is currently the Executive Director/CEO of Region 10 Education Service Center serving more than 900,000 students in approximately 130 ISDs, charters, and private schools located in 10 north Texas counties on the Dallas side of the DFW Metroplex.

Dr. Taylor earned his Doctorate in Education Administration and Public Administration from the University of North Texas researching the prevention of fraud and embezzlement. His undergraduate and Masters degrees are from Texas Tech University and TWU.

Happily married to a retired school librarian and the proud father of two sons, Dr. Taylor serves on the Executive Board of the Circle 10 Council Boy Scouts of America and on the Dallas Area Board of Directors of the American Heart Association.



Dr. Clyde Steelman

Executive Director, Education Service Center-Region 11

Dr. Clyde W. Steelman, Jr. is a distinguished leader in education who has dedicated more than four decades to the field. Currently serving as the Executive Director of ESC Region 11 since 2011, Dr. Steelman's journey at the ESC began in 2006 when he joined as Deputy Executive Director of Administrative and Business Services. Before his tenure at the ESC, he held superintendent positions at Muenster ISD and Bluff Dale ISD and served in various administrative, teaching, and coaching roles at Glen Rose, Tolar, and Granbury ISDs.

Dr. Steelman holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Lamar University, a master's degree in secondary education, and a bachelor's degree in industrial education and technology from Tarleton State University.

Outside of his professional accomplishments, Dr. Steelman shares a fulfilling personal life with his wife, Julie, a retired English teacher. Together, they have three grown children, one granddaughter, and one grandson. In their spare time, they operate a farm where they raise livestock and hay. Dr. Steelman also enjoys participating in church activities, spending quality time with his family, and engaging in various outdoor pursuits.

Session 2: Workforce Outlook and Status Panelists



Bryan Daniel

Chairman, Texas Workforce Commission

Bryan Daniel serves as Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission where he works to promote and support the growth of Texas' world class employers and talented workforce. To champion that goal, he advances innovative workforce and economic development strategies in collaboration with TWC's education partners, local officials, and industry leaders to establish Texas' competitive edge as the best place to work in the world.

Prior to joining TWC, Bryan served for four and half years on Texas Governor Greg Abbott's senior staff where he led the Office of Economic Development and Tourism – which included the Texas Enterprise Fund, Events Trust Fund, Governor's University Research Initiative, Texas Tourism Office, Texas Music Office, Texas Film Commission, Texas Workforce Investment Council, the Economic Development Bank, the Texas Military Preparedness Commission and the State of Texas Mexico Office.

Bryan's tenure as the Texas State Director for Rural Development for President George W. Bush and as Chief Administrator for Trade and Business Development at the Texas Department of Agriculture, along with his private sector experiences as a marketing executive and member of the board of directors, have provided him with valuable insights on economic development and workforce issues.

Bryan is a graduate of Texas Tech University with both a bachelor's degree and master's degree. In 2019, Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources recognized Bryan as a Distinguished Alumnus.



Phedra Redifer

Executive Director, Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas

Phedra Redifer is Executive Director of Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas (WSNCT). Ms. Redifer oversees the WSNCT region of 14 counties, 12 workforce centers and 50 staff, with an annual workforce development budget in excess of \$130 million. Ms. Redifer is an effective workforce development advocate who harnesses the combined power of workforce, industry and education to transform lives, businesses and the economy in North Central Texas. Joining WSNCT in September 2021 and quickly establishing herself as a workforce innovator, Ms. Redifer thrives on fostering collaborative partnerships that redefine what's possible for workforce systems. She has convened education, economic development, business, county and community leaders to develop new processes, programs and strategic priorities to ensure the workforce system adapts and responds quickly to our ever-changing world of work. Under Ms. Redifer's leadership, WSNCT recently received two awards from Texas Workforce Commission totaling \$225,000 for overall Service to Employers and in recognition of its efforts to increase awareness about and expand Registered Apprenticeship Programs in the region. Ms. Redifer is an accomplished executive with more than 20 years of local government, special purpose district and public/private-sector expertise. Prior to joining WSNCT, Ms. Redifer served with the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Washington, for 15 years, where she most recently held the position of Regional Parks and Attractions Deputy Director. Prior to that, she was Event Manager for the Washington Mutual Leadership Center At Cedarbrook from 2002 to 2004 and Special Events Manager for the City of Dallas, Texas, from 1999 to 2002. Ms. Redifer holds a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and German from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Post college graduation, she moved overseas as a Senator J. William Fulbright Scholar at the University of Regensburg in Germany. Ms. Redifer serves as a Trustee of the Workforce Development Council (WDC) of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. She was recently appointed to serve as the new Co-Chair of the WDC Youth and Young Adult Workforce Committee which examines and addresses the critical workforce and education issues impacting our nation's workforce. Ms. Redifer is also an alumna of Leadership North Texas (Class 15) sponsored by the North Texas Commission Foundation.



Daphne Rickard Kent

President, North Central Texas Interlink, Inc.

Daphne Rickard Kent is a steadfast advocate, leader, and transformative force in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) field. Daphne currently serves as the President and CEO for North Central Texas InterLink, a regional non-profit alliance focused on bridging the gap between education, business and government.

In her role at InterLink, Daphne is working closely with key regional partners to develop a stronger regional collaborative between industry, education, and workforce. The primary goal of this work is to significantly increase the numbers of North Central Texas high-wage, high skill jobs that are filled by local secondary and post-secondary students and upskilled workers.

Prior to joining InterLink in 2023, Daphne served as an educator for 17 years, with 14 years of experience in K-12 and 5 years of experience at the post-secondary level. She was a founding teacher of Dubiski Career High School, where she helped establish the Health Science program. In 2012, Daphne moved to Irving ISD where she coordinated the start-up of and led the Biomedical Sciences Academy at Irving High School. She moved to Fort Worth ISD in 2017 to join the CTE Department as the Public Services Coordinator and was appointed as the Executive Director of CTE in 2019.

Under Daphne's guidance, the Fort Worth ISD CTE department spearheaded multiple initiatives that ignited a paradigm shift in CTE within the district. Additionally, by collaborating closely with industry experts, local businesses, and educational institutions, Daphne ensured that CTE programs evolved in tandem with the demands of the modern workforce.

Currently, Daphne serves on multiple education advisory boards across the North Central Texas region. She has also served as a Texas HOSA Board Member and member of the National Human Genome Research Institutes Genomic Literacy Education and Engagement Initiative.