



## President's Report to the Board of Directors September 2010

October 4, 2010

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As we launch our new fiscal and programmatic year, I want to start by thanking the officers, directors and corporate investors (both current and past) who have guided, supported and sustained our progress during my nine year tenure. It continues to be personally gratifying to me to see your collective vision realized; particularly during these challenging economic times. I also remain mindful that the Chamber's ability to affect change is dependent on the strength of our strategic partnerships and the collective commitment of our corporate leadership. From my perspective, it is an exciting time to be in Arlington and I feel truly fortunate to be a part of our community's evolutionary growth.

We launch our new year with the **Rangers** in the playoffs; the **Levitt Pavilion** wrapping up its second successful season; City Council's recent approval of a **Business Improvement District** in Central Arlington; UTA's development of **College Park District**, inclusive of a Special Events Center, housing, parking and retail space; and our successful kick-off of **TechComm**, an unprecedented venture, one in which the Center for Innovation represents multiple federal agencies and more than 300 federal labs. It is an exciting time to be in Arlington!

### 2011 Chamber Leadership Elected

Our new programmatic year represents one more significant milestone in the life of the Chamber as we celebrate 65 years of service to a community, while maintaining our focus on building a sustainable community. Let me begin by personally thanking outgoing Chair **Jeff Williams** for his leadership during the past year, particularly given the significant economic challenges we have faced. I am also pleased to congratulate **Earl Harcrow** who was elected Chair of our Board of Directors during our **Annual Business Meeting**, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. I look forward to his leadership during the coming year. It is always significant for me to see individuals like Jeff & Earl step forward and demonstrate the level of commitment necessary to serve in our top leadership positions. From my perspective, it demonstrates a level of commitment our community both needs and inspires in its business leaders. Earl will be joined by **Steve Zimmer**, Chair-Elect of our Board, who will focus on developing next year's annual plan; **Mojoy Haddad**, Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors, focused on Phase III of the Policy Project, which will define our long-term strategic direction; **Steve Martindale**, who will chair the Finance Committee; and **Jeff Williams**, Immediate Past Chair, who will focus on special projects for the Chamber. Please join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals as our newly elected officers for FY 2011.

### 2010 Report to Investors

Within the next week you will receive our **2010 Report to Investors**. It is being mailed to all members of the Chamber and Foundation Board of Directors, and all Corporate Leadership Council and President's Advisory Group Investors. It is also available on line at [www.arlingtontx.com](http://www.arlingtontx.com), enabling you to view it from your computer console, as well as sending it to your staff, customers, clients, or anyone else who might benefit from gaining a sense of the work the Chamber is doing today.

As you review our Annual Report, I trust you will note the significant progress made in the growth of our community's ad valorem tax base, total jobs and median income, despite the challenges of our economy.

**UT Arlington** has grown significantly, in terms of its aspiration to become a nationally recognized Tier One research university, with its student body approaching 33,000! The following numbers should convince our biggest skeptics that **UT Arlington** is clearly on the path of a Tier One recognition. Since 2003, **UT Arlington** has increase externally funded research from \$23 million to \$60 million annually; invention disclosures from 2 to over 60 annually; recruited more than 100 new research oriented faculty including 15 just announced; and secured more than \$200 million to enhance and expand research capacity inclusive of the 300,000 square foot Science and Engineering joint research facility nearing completion.

Also noteworthy is **A.I.S.D.'s** progress in more than doubling the number of recognized schools within the district, and the district's achievement of being named a recognized district, one of the largest in the state to achieve this distinction.

I would also point to **Tarrant County College – SE Campus'** growth to more than 14,000 students in a facility designed to house 5,000!

Last, but not least, I would point to our selection by the **Department of Defense** as their newest **Partner Intermediary**, and the **Center for Innovation's** unprecedented role in serving as a national partner intermediary for four, and potentially seven, federal agencies. To put this in perspective, there are only twelve other organizations in the U.S. that serve as a national partner intermediary, and no other organization is a partner intermediary to more than one federal agency. I trust you will review the report and I look forward to receiving any comments you may have.

### Annual Dinner

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to both welcome and congratulate the newly elected members of the **Chamber and Foundation Board of Directors** who were installed during our **Annual Dinner & Business Meeting** September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Convention Center. If you were not there you missed an outstanding event including the message delivered by **U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison**, who voiced not only her support for the work we are doing at the Center for Innovation but her acknowledgement of our progress as well. In addition, **Cynthia Gonsalves**, Director Office of Technology Transition, U.S. Department of Defense, and both **Bryan Kaphammer**, Research Operations and Managment, and **Dan Upchurch** Area Director-Southern Plains at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, were on hand to formally kick-off and launch TechComm. They were followed by **State Comptroller Susan Combs'** remarks, who has agreed to serve as Chairman of the **Texas TechComm Steering Committee**.

I also want to congratulate **Judith Carrier**, long-time Arlington educator, who has contributed so much to numerous organizations and causes in our community; and who also served as the **first woman chair of the Chamber Board of Directors**, who was recognized with our **Star Award**, the Chamber's highest recognition. In addition, we inducted former Board Chairman **Steve Calloway** (posthumously) and long-time Arlington

business leader **J. Luke** to the **Arlington Business Hall of Fame**. We also instituted a new recognition, the **A-Team Member of the Year**, awarded to **Dwayne Lee**, Owner, Southern Flair Photography. I trust you will join me in congratulating these outstanding leaders and mark your calendar now so you can be with us next year on Thursday, September 29, 2011 as we celebrate our 66th year of service to the community.

### **TechComm**

In terms of progress during September, members of our staff spent two days at **Wright-Patterson Air Force Base** in Dayton, Ohio, receiving a briefing on the Air Force's planned energy research initiative for the next five to ten years.

We have been in discussions with the city regarding their engagement with Techcomm, and have formed the **Texas State Steering Committee**, chaired by **State Comptroller Susan Combs**.

We have also formed the steering committee that will develop the **TechComm Innovation Management System**, a critical component of TechComm, an internet based "Portal", enabling our affiliate partners, Chamber members and Chamber staff access to thousands of technology patents available from federal labs. The advisory committee is led by **David Markson, Engineering Manager, Siemens**, one of our outstanding Corporate Investors. Siemens has also committed three fulltime system integration engineers to the project for the next six months.

In September we presented **TechComm** at three major events; the **International COMS Showcase**, in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the **Federal Lab Consortium Meeting** for the West and Rocky Mountain Regions in Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and an event organized by the **Texas Workforce Commission** at **NASA Johnson Space Center** in Houston. We were well received at all three events, and are well on our way toward developing the network in Texas.

We will be circulating an article on the **Winston-Salem** area of North Carolina, relative to the work they have done over the past years in terms of technology led economic development. Their focus has also enabled their university community to attract, and retain the best and the brightest, in terms of the kind of innovative young thinkers we need in Arlington to build a technology led economic environment. I trust you will give some thought to the article when you receive it.

### **Arlington Arts Alliance**

I am pleased to report that on September 16<sup>th</sup> at a meeting of the **Arlington Arts Alliance**, there was full agreement that the Alliance needed to take two critical next steps; (1) to clearly define its case for support, and (2) to take that case for support to investors within our region, in order to secure the funding necessary to provide fulltime staff to the Alliance.

There was general agreement that moving the Alliance beyond an association of arts organizations striving for collaboration will require fulltime staff resources. There was unanimous support for this move and you can expect to hear more in the future, as we work to more effectively engage the business community to develop a stronger, broader more collaborative vision for the role the Arts can play in the economic growth, development and sustainability of our community.

### **Our Community, Our Kids**

September 30<sup>th</sup> I participated in the kick-off event for **Our Community, Our Kids** a collaboration among and between the **Arlington Independent School District**, the **City of Arlington**, the **Chamber** and the **United Way**, as well as **Mansfield Independent School District** and multiple Arlington youth organizations. The focus of Our Community, Our Kids is to reduce gang violence, however it goes beyond that. It provides the initial foundation for the successful integration of business, education and government working together.

Our Community, Our Kids has established five key goals and related outcomes: (1) to reduce gang involvement and youth violence, which should have the effect of reducing the juvenile crime rate; (2) to develop a continuum of services, which should have the effect of youth support services in our community; (3) to increase communications and civic engagement, which should have the effect of increasing public awareness while engaging the community; (4) to improve student achievement, which should result in improved academic achievement; and (5) to prepare youth for careers after high school, which should have the result of improving job readiness.

The four strategies adopted by the group include (1) prevention, (2) intervention, (3) suppression and (4) reintegration. Action teams have been formed around these strategies. If you would like to become involved, let me know. I look forward to your thoughts about this relatively new initiative.

### **Policy Project**

Following the Foundation Executive Committee's review of the **Phase II Report** October 6, we will release it to the Chamber and Foundation Boards, our Corporate Investors, and more than 200 participants who played key roles in both Phase I & II of the **Policy Project**.

As a reminder, Phase I of the Policy Project involved more than 100 community leaders who identified critical issues. Phase II engaged an additional 100 leaders serving on four advisory committees, representing the (1) faith based community, (2) neighborhood associations, (3) youth serving organizations, and (4) health and human service providers. Their role was to literally "drive the debate" to ensure that the Phase I Report was widely disseminated, discussed and talked about, and that we received input adequate to determine the communities level of support for the 46 recommendations made in Phase I. That work has now been completed and assessed and we are issuing the Phase II Report, which describes the 46 recommendations, classified in three tiers.

Tier 1: Community Support – The input received during Phase II revealed that 14 recommendations received mostly positive support, and were identified as recommendations that community leaders should continue to organize around to produce outcomes.

Tier 2: Community Indifference – The input received during Phase II revealed that 21 recommendations received neither strong positive support for, nor any opposition; therefore it will require additional work to advance and promote these issues in the community.

Tier 3: Community Concerns – The input received during Phase II revealed that 11 recommendations received some opposition, and in some cases negative feedback from community members. Therefore, advancing these issues will require our understanding the basis for opposition and negative feedback, in order to overcome the concerns, and move these issues forward.

During Phase III the Foundation will host a series of **Town Hall Meetings** around each key topical heading (example: Economic Sustainability) sharing with interested members of the community the results of our community assessment. We have tentatively scheduled a community wide summit in May to introduce the final report to the community. That summit will lay the groundwork for the development of action plans during the summer of 2011, resulting in a plan to be proposed to the Chamber and Foundation Boards in September 2011.

It is an ambitious schedule, however The Policy Project continues to engage and receive support from a broad cross section of our community. You can expect to receive an email alert when we post the project on the website. I would encourage your review of the Phase II Report, and welcome your comments and thoughts, relative to the community's response to the 46 recommendations made.

### **Staff**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Beth Henkel to the Chamber's professional staff effective September 27. Beth will be reporting to Jon Weist, Vice President Communications and Government Relations and will serve as the Chamber's Manager, Marketing & Communications. In her new capacity Beth will be responsible for The Chamber newsletter, websites and event information. Please join me in welcoming Beth to the Chamber's team.

### **Upcoming Events**

I would like to draw your attention to two upcoming events. Our **Annual State of the City** featuring **Mayor Robert Cluck** on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Arlington Convention Center.

Also, our next **Legislative Luncheon** on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, featuring **Texas Speaker of the House Joe Strauss**. His address is timely, given the advent of the legislative session that will convene in January 2011. Information on both events is available at [www.arlingtontx.com](http://www.arlingtontx.com). I look forward to seeing you there.

### **Corporate Leadership Council**

**I am pleased to both welcome and announce our newest investor.**

#### **Member**

James Worsham

#### **Principal**

L-3 Communications

## CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS &EVENTS

### For additional information contact:

Corporate Meetings - Cathy DeRizzo 817-543-4282  
Events - Carol Wyatt 817-543-4289  
Technology Related - Ben Magill 817-543-4298

### October

11 **Columbus Day**  
Chamber Offices will be closed

### November

1 **State of the City** (Registration required)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Arlington Convention Center

9 **Legislative Luncheon, Speaker Joe Straus** (Registration required)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., TBD

25-26 **Thanksgiving Holiday**  
Chamber Offices Close at Noon on the 24<sup>th</sup>

30 **Corporate Leadership Council Luncheon** (CLC/PAG Investors)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Moritz Boardroom

### December

9 **Morning with the Mayor** (CLC/PAG Investors)  
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., Moritz Boardroom

23-31 **Christmas Holiday**  
Chamber Offices will be closed from 12:00 noon on December 23 until January 3, 2011.

### IN CLOSING

If there are items of interest to you in this report, I would encourage you to visit with me, or contact the staff member referenced. If there are programs or initiatives you want to become involved with, or calendar events you want to participate in or know more about, please let me know as well, as it is important to me to keep you informed and engaged. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 817-543-4280 (direct) if you have questions on anything in this report or any other matters. Thanks as always for your support! I appreciate the opportunity to serve with you.