

2017-18 ICUT Board of Directors

Sandra S. Harper, Chair



Dr. Sandra S. Harper, a native of Dallas, Texas, began serving as the president of McMurry University on October 1, 2013. Prior to her McMurry appointment, Dr. Harper served as the president of Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from 2006-2013 and as the provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of communication at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi from 1998-2006. Harper received her B.S. degree from Texas Tech University and her M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of North Texas.

Don Christian, Chair-Elect



Dr. Donald Christian is the president and chief executive officer of Concordia University Texas. He became Concordia's 9th executive leader on August 1, 2014 following selection by the Board of Regents. Prior to his time at Concordia, Dr. Christian served as the head of school for Lutheran High North, a 9-12 private school in Houston (2001- 2005) and as the Minister of Young Adults at a large urban Lutheran church in downtown Houston (1990-1997). His undergraduate work was done at Concordia University Chicago where he received a degree in music education in 1981 and earned his doctorate in Management and Organizational Leadership from the University of Phoenix.

Stuart Dorsey, Past Chair



Prior to becoming president of Texas Lutheran University in July 2011, Dr. Dorsey served as the ninth president of the University of Redlands in Redlands, California, from 2005-2010. In addition to his service as a college administrator and professor, Dr. Dorsey worked as an applied economist in the federal government early in his career. Dr. Dorsey holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of South Dakota, and a master's degree and Ph.D. in economics from Washington University in St. Louis.

Tim Perrin, Secretary



Effective June 1, 2012, Perrin returned to his roots, this time as the sixth president of Lubbock Christian University. After five years with a law firm in Corpus Christi, Perrin accepted a faculty position with the Pepperdine University School of Law. Perrin graduated with honors from LCU in 1984. He went on to study law at Texas Tech University School of Law, graduating in 1987, also with honors.

Frederick G. Slabach, Treasurer



Prior to joining Texas Wesleyan as President, in 2011, Slabach was CEO of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation in Washington D.C. He was Dean of the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law from 2003 to 2006. President Slabach has a LL.M from Columbia University School of Law, a J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law and a B.S. from Mississippi College.

Thomas M. Mengler, Director



Thomas M. Mengler, J.D., became the 13th president of St. Mary's University on June 1, 2012. Before arriving at St. Mary's, Mengler served as the dean of the University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, where he also held the Ryan Chair in Law. Mengler received his bachelor's in philosophy from Carleton College and a master's in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin, where he also earned his law degree.

Haywood L. Strickland, Director



Haywood Strickland has served as president and CEO of Wiley College since 2000. During his time as Wiley's second longest-serving president, Strickland has overseen many positive changes in management and operations at Wiley, including reaffirmation of accreditation by SACSCOC, increases in fundraising, and many facilities improvements. Prior to Wiley, Strickland served as president of Texas College. He is a graduate of Stillman College.

J. Blair Blackburn, Director



Blair Blackburn was selected as president of East Texas Baptist University in June of 2015. Prior to his tenure at ETBU, Blackburn served as executive vice president at Dallas Baptist University, capping off two decades of service at the institution. Prior to his time at DBU, Blackburn spent time at three other East Texas institutions. Blackburn earned an associate's degree from Tyler Junior College, a bachelor's in Political Science from the University of Texas at Tyler, a master's in educational administration from Texas A&M-Commerce and a doctorate in educational administration from Baylor University.

David W. Leebron, Director



David Leebron has served as president of Rice University since 2004. Prior to Rice, Leebron was a faculty member and then dean of Columbia Law School. He taught at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, and held a judicial clerkship with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Leebron is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Colette Pierce Burnette, Director



Colette Pierce Burnette joined Huston-Tillotson University as president and CEO in 2015. Prior to her time at Huston-Tillotson, Pierce Burnette served as interim president of Pierce College in Puyallup, Wa., and as CFO at Central State University in Wilberforce, Oh. She also had leadership roles at Pierce College in Washington State and in the Washington State department of transportation. Pierce Burnette earned a bachelor's in industrial and systems engineering at Ohio State University, a master's in administration from Georgia College, and a Ed.D. in higher education administration at the University of Pennsylvania.

Danny J. Anderson, Director



Danny J. Anderson, Ph.D., leads Trinity University as its 19th president. Anderson assumed the presidency in May 2015 after serving as a faculty member, administrator, and dean at the University of Kansas. A native Texan, Anderson began his academic career in 1985 at the University of Texas at Austin. He received a bachelor of arts in Spanish from Austin College, and a master's and doctorate in Spanish at the University of Kansas.