

TBHF★ NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of The Texas Business Hall of Fame

Dear TBHF Members, Directors, and Alumni,

We are excited to present our second quarter newsletter. This year continues to present new opportunities and avenues for growing our impact. From new awards to record making engagement with our 38th annual induction event to new programming in the start up, high school entrepreneur and social progress space.

Our communication platforms continue to expand—their success is driven by the stories, perspectives and achievements of people like you. Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and safe summer with your loved ones.

Sincerely,
Meredith Walker
Executive Director

38th Annual Induction Dinner

Mark your calendars! The Texas Business Hall of Fame's 38th Annual Induction Dinner will take place on October 28, 2021 at the Hilton Anatole Dallas.

The six Legends to be inducted at this year's event include: Mark Cuban, John Paul DeJoria, John C. Goff, Morton H. Meyerson, Gerald Smith, and Randall Stephenson.

To reserve your table, please visit our [website](#)



Thank you to our presenting sponsor:



Titan Talk: Energy The Future

In April, TBHF. hosted our third Titan Talk of the year. We gathered a panel of experts in the energy sector to discuss the future energy outlook in Texas. The panelists included:

Bobby Tudor, Cofounder of Tudor Pickering & Holt, Wil VanLoh, Founder of Quantum Energy Partners, TBHF Legend Kelcy Warren, Founder of Energy Transfer Partners and Bill White, Former Mayor of Houston and Deputy Energy Secretary.



Titan Talks are purely conversational and provide a great platform for exchanging high level perspectives on key business topics.

Brett Wiggs Innovative Leadership Award

TBHF is excited to announce that in April of this year, we launched a new scholar award: The Brett Wiggs Innovative Leadership Award.

This award is the first of its kind for TBHF, restricted for a CEO of a Texas-based startup. TBHF worked with Blackstone Launchpad and other higher education partners to find a talented pool of student entrepreneurs.

Our Hall of Fame Legends then voted on finalists, making this the first award in the history of TBHF hand-selected by TBHF Legends.

The Brett Wiggs Innovative Leadership Award was given to Tokunbo 'TJ' Falohun at Texas A&M University. TJ is a Co-founder of Ai-Ris, a startup developing an ocular diagnostic device for primary care doctors to prevent vision loss in vulnerable populations.

This award would not be possible without the generous support of Brett Wiggs. Brett, CEO of Oryx Midstream Services, is a TBHF Scholar Recipient (University of Texas at Austin), class of 1993.

Alumni Association: In Conversation with TBHF Legends

In Q2, the TBHF Alumni Association hosted three events. These intimate Q&A discussions offer our alumni network a unique opportunity to connect and learn from our Legends.



In April we were joined by TBHF Legends and SWBC Co-founders Charlie Amato and Gary Dudley. With over four decades as business partners, Charlie and Gary were able to discuss the co-founding relationship.

In May we hosted our next event with 2010 TBHF Legend Carlos Alvarez, CEO of The Gambrinus Company and owner of the Spoetzl Brewery, brewer of Shiner Beers. Carlos shared anecdotes from early in his career as a distributor for Corona, the drivers of Shiner's impressive rise to national prestige, and the power of perspective in identifying growth opportunities.



Later in the month we hosted our third event with 2021 Incoming TBHF Legend Morton H. Meyerson, former President and Vice Chair of EDS, former CEO of Perot Systems, and current Chair of 2M Companies. During the event, alumni had the opportunity to ask Morton questions about entrepreneurship, leadership, and thinking outside the box.



Recordings of the events can be found [here](#) on our website.

Legend Spotlight: Patricia Will

Patricia Will

Houston

Founder & CEO of
Belmont Village
Senior Living

The Texas Business Hall of Fame had the pleasure of speaking with Legend Patricia Will, Founder and CEO of Belmont Village Senior Living.

Founded in 1997 in Houston, today Belmont Village Senior Living has more than 31 locations across the country and in Mexico City, an award-winning assisted living and memory care program, and ongoing collaborations with USC, UCLA, Vanderbilt to continually improve their cognitive health and evidence-based enrichment programs.

Patricia also has a long history with TBHF, spanning more than two decades. She interned and worked for Walter M. Mischer, Sr., who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1985, just three years after the inception of the organization. Patricia would later become a Director, before being inducted into the Hall of Fame herself, in 2018.

We spoke to Patricia about the origins of Belmont Village, leading through a crisis, and the best advice for early-stage career entrepreneurs.

What inspired you to start Belmont Village Senior Living?

Founding Belmont Village Senior Living was really a second career for me. From the time I got out of grad school, until the founding of Belmont Village, I had become a young partner in a real estate development company based in Houston. I transitioned to the development of medical real estate and founded, with a partner, a company in medical development.

During that time, I had occasion to become a caregiver for one of our parents and it woke me up to the crying need for excellence, not just in real estate, but also in operations, for a growing senior population. At that time when I was in the market looking, there was not an adequate supply. It was one of those moments where your professional acumen and your personal trauma, the graphs cross. I saw that we needed to solve this problem for our family, but at the same time, I saw a business opportunity and that's what gave me the opportunity as an entrepreneur to launch Belmont Village Senior Living.

How do you define "excellence" in business?

I think that excellence in business is doing really well by doing good. When you have the ability to change or improve the quality of life for countless people, and at the same time earn a great return for your investors, I call that a big win.

The relationship between business leadership and community?

From the get-go, we've always thought of both ourselves and the company Belmont Village as a community within a community. We drive great strengths from the community and now the communities that we live in, the talent pool, the terrific institutions starting here in Houston. We relied to a tremendous extent on Texas Medical Center as well as institutions like the Hilton School of Hospitality at the University of Houston to get us going.

As part of the community, it's critically important to give back. We have been a top sponsor for as long as I can remember, here across Texas but particularly here in Houston, for the Alzheimer's Association. We are a very large sponsor in Los Angeles for a program that takes indigent people and trains them to be caregivers in our communities. Again, whenever our engagement with the community and the community's engagement with us can produce the win-win, we're going to be there, really pushing for it and working very hard for it.

What traits or skills would you attribute to your success as a business leader?

I'm a risk taker, I'm persistent, and I'm passionate about what I do. I also don't think very much about the me; it's about the we. We have close to 5,000 associates across the country, and now in Mexico City, at Belmont Village.

We have seen in the last year the toughest times that we probably will ever see in our lifetimes. And the extraordinary men and women that have joined me in this enterprise is what makes it happen. It's not possible without them.

As an entrepreneur, how do you approach challenges? What strategies and skills have helped you overcome obstacles in your entrepreneurial journey?

You learn very quickly that entrepreneurship is either very lonely, or entrepreneurship is a team sport. I've always viewed it as a team sport. I think the best entrepreneurs hire people that are smarter than them. You want those people around you when you are weathering challenges, which frankly happen all the time, hopefully never on a sustained basis like what we've experienced the last year. And when you're dealing with a crisis, the importance of the team doesn't really change. But the approach has to change because how you manage through a crisis is a little bit different than the day to day.

I would say that the entrepreneurial experience is complex. Ultimately, it was always in my DNA. If I had wanted to be a part of a very large corporation, I would have signed up on the interview sheets when I was at business school. My first job out here in Houston was to work for one of the most accomplished entrepreneurs in our city and state. That gave me a lot of grounding and decision-making skills. But I knew in my blood I wanted to start a company.

Who was the entrepreneur that you worked with out of business school?

He was a former legend himself, Walter M. Mischer, Sr. and he hired me as an intern between my first and second year at business school. He actually told me that I was an unlikely candidate for the job. But you know what? I didn't leave until the advent of my second child almost 10 years later.

I remember sitting in the room in 1985 when he was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame. And I sat there, kind of wide-eyed, and I could have never imagined that the experience would repeat itself for me in 2018.

Can you share a time when you faced a setback or a challenge and how you overcame that obstacle? What lesson did you learn from that experience and what advice might you give to a young aspiring entrepreneur who finds themselves in a similar situation?

Entrepreneurship is hard and it can be lonely. Putting together that initial team of people to take the plunge with you, and then growing that team responsibly is more important than any other aspect – you know obviously you've got to count the cash – but I think that who you bring along and the talent pool that you have. It's not your sheer energy that's pressing forward; it's tempered by really good balance and a team is a critical ingredient.

I think it's important to recognize what your company is good at and sticking to its knitting, as opposed to the temptation that we have – particularly if we're chasing the revenue and income dollar – to undermine your strengths by grabbing like a kid in a candy store, I think that's really important: the discipline of understanding where your strengths are, what you excel at, and executing well on that. Too often as I watch companies in my sector and outside my sector, almighty growth for its own sake is something that you can choke on.

The temptation to be big, as opposed to being the best is often an Achilles heel for entrepreneurs.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of your involvement with TBHF?

I was a young Director in the Texas Business Hall of Fame, and I was completely wide eyed and awestruck by not only my boss and mentor, but also by the men and women who were inducted years and years before me. I had the opportunity to learn so much from them and continue to learn from them today, even during this pandemic. Any leader has the propensity to get dragged down and function inside their box. The many rich Zoom sessions that we've had, with the likes of Gary Kelly or Richard Fisher, that on a continued basis caused me to think outside my space, have really helped me navigate through this as a leader. So the gift of the Texas Business Hall of Fame never stops giving.

With respect to the scholarship recipients, I was a scholarship student in college and grad school. To the extent that I'm now in a position to give to an organization that gives back and gives that experience to the leaders of the future, again what a win-win.

Director Spotlight: David Huntley



David Huntley

Dallas

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer at AT&T Inc.

The Texas Business Hall of Fame had the pleasure of speaking with David Huntley, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Compliance Office at AT&T. Mr. Huntley, who serves on the TBHF Board of Directors, will be celebrating 27 years with AT&T this September.

We spoke to Mr. Huntley about his career trajectory at AT&T, corporate citizenship, and effective leadership in both business and community.

You have been with AT&T for nearly three decades and held a variety of leadership positions during your tenure. In 2014, you were named Chief Compliance Officer. Can you tell us about your career trajectory within AT&T?

I was practicing law at the time at a large law firm here in Dallas. A neighbor told me that they were looking for lawyers at a small arm of AT&T, at the time it was Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems. You know, they always say that it's better for you to look for a job when you don't need a job, so I was intrigued by this wireless company and what they were doing.

I interviewed for an entry level attorney position, and I was successful at getting the position.

I would also encourage people to do this from time to time, and that is just to see what your worth is. It can help to improve your overall abilities by interviewing and seeing how you stack up against others. In doing so, I learned a lot about the company because, again, this was a small arm of AT&T Mobility, It obviously has grown into this very strategic part of our business, and I just happened to be on the front end of all of this; it was just being in the right place at the right time.

One thing led to another in terms of my exposure and experience, and I did just about every legal job. Then I had an opportunity, about nine years into my tenure here, to move over to the business side. Someone said to me, "David, we think you could do something other than practice law." I said, "that's not been on my agenda, that wasn't on my radar, that's not how I was thinking about this." But I was open to it; after a lot of hard thought, I said, "why not?" So, I left the legal department and ran businesses for the company for seven years.

I was then asked to come back to the legal department at a very senior level. I was an officer of the company at the time, and I continued to do legal work for the company until 2014, when I was asked to be the Chief Compliance Officer for the entire company.

How do you define “excellence” in business?

For me, excellence in business means executing on your mission to the best of your abilities. That requires you to assemble assets, resources, people in such a way that you put services and products into the marketplace, and you do it better than anyone else. It's really the pursuit of excellence that leads to the ultimate value proposition. That's something that I've always been focused on, and it began quite frankly with my father, who said, “Son, I don't care what you become; just be the best that you can be.”

Vince Lombardi once said, “...we shall chase perfection, and we will chase it relentlessly, knowing all the while we can never attain it. But along the way, we shall catch excellence.”

You start to think about it in the context of, whether it's an individual basis or collectively as a business, it's the pursuit of trying to be the best. That's what allows you to achieve excellence in whatever it is you do.

What is the relationship between business leadership and community?

I think it starts with businesses being good corporate citizens, and it means we don't exist in a vacuum.

We do exist in communities, and we want to be a part of the communities where people live, work, and play; and we must encourage our employees to be good corporate citizens. It is important that we make our communities better. We have to make the world a better place, as we don't live in a vacuum. We find ourselves in a place where businesses are called upon more and more to lead on social issues; they're being asked to do so by their employees, shareowners and the communities where they do business.

There are several skills or qualities that can be attributed to effective leaders. In your experience, having been with AT&T for over two decades and having held a variety of leadership positions, what skills have helped you the most?

Communication skills. The ability to communicate effectively allows you to be the kind of leader that you want to be. It is important to have written communication skills as well as verbal. It first starts with being the kind of leader that people want to follow. Underlying all of that is integrity.

The next thing I would say is people want to follow people who have a vision, and so it is important to know where you want to go. You need to be good at what you are doing; if you don't have a certain amount of proficiency at whatever it is you're doing, it's going to be hard for somebody to follow you.

And finally, you need to care about your people. No one person can do anything by themselves, and I think that it is important to demonstrate care and empathy for people. That requires a bit of humility, which I think is fundamentally important as well.

AT&T was recently recognized by Ethisphere as one of 2021 World's Most Ethical Companies. Can you share a little bit about the idea of leading with "intentional integrity" and how that has helped you and AT&T navigate the challenges of the past year?

I think it starts from the value that intentional integrity comes out of. When I think about [AT&T's] value of "Live true. Do the right thing, no compromise," we wanted to help our employees know what that truly means. I say all the time that your integrity is only as good as the last time it was tested. So that implies that there's a process; there's something that you must go through to get to the right decision or to do the right thing. If you're living true, you need to know what that means. People need to know what to do and not do, so that requires you to find out what the rules are. And if there are no rules, go through the process of asking yourself - how does that square with my personal moral core and values. There's isn't always a rule out there that would tell you what to do.

Then the next part of that is probably the most important part, which is, once you figure out what you should and shouldn't do, the question becomes, do you do it? So, to me, this is intentional; this isn't something that you park on a shelf, or you just simply pat yourself on the back and say, I have integrity. What does that mean? What we (AT&T) are trying to promote with "be intentional about your integrity," is to get our employees to really focus on the personal aspect of owning their ethical responsibilities, not just to the corporation, but also to themselves.

Can you talk about your role as an Advisory Council member for the Ethisphere Initiative for Equity and Social Justice? What are your goals for the initiative and how can this help businesses and leaders create positive change?

Following the events of last summer, especially with the killing of George Floyd, there was this need for people to do something. I was contacted by the CEO at Ethisphere, and we had a lengthy conversation about what could we do and what could end this fear. That's when he decided to have this initiative, and he asked me to lead the initiative and to gather my peers, people who are in the compliance and ethics world at various companies, to come together and to talk about what we could do as individual corporations, and more importantly, what we can do collectively.

The first thing that became very apparent was this notion of sharing best practices. Finding out and identifying what other companies were doing to make things better, whether it was law enforcement reform, funding initiatives that would help in education or health care or housing, etc. It was about holding the mirror up to ourselves, and once we took a look at what we were doing in terms of each individual company, it was important to then turn around and talk about what we could do as a group.

We started with best practices and what we found is that in the collaboration, we would call each other, and we would ask each other to participate in our respective initiatives. I was asked to participate with another company to talk to them about my role at AT&T and what we do from a compliance perspective.

I was also asked to participate in an effort to encourage people to get vaccinated. A health care provider shared some of the things they were doing. I took that and did some voice overs to show that this is what others were doing. So, it was really this effort to put points on the board collectively and to do things with other people, because sometimes you are more impactful when it's not just you doing it alone. That's what I think the business community can do more of, to demonstrate the need to weigh in on some of these issues collectively to bring about change.

What has been the most rewarding aspect of your involvement with The Texas Business Hall of Fame as a Director?

I was invited to one of the Texas Business Hall of Fame events honoring and spotlighting the Legends. I was simply blown away by the stories of these individuals, their journeys, what they were able to accomplish, and what they have meant to the business community was so inspiring. It caused me to think and want to know, what else does the Texas Business Hall of Fame do? I found that the scholarship program, providing scholarships for students who are engaged in business in some way, is such a positive and impactful thing to do, especially when you combine the scholarship and recognition piece of it with the Legends. Hopefully they [the students] will be inspired, just as I was inspired, in terms of making that connection. I have been privileged to witness the Texas Business Hall of Fame provide funding for students to continue their pursuit of education and to then witness these same people go on and do things of significance in business. Having the connection to these Legends so that they can see by example what they could ultimately do, I think that's inspiring. Ultimately, this is about motivating people to do big things, do great things, to do things that we can all benefit from.

Alumni Spotlight: Brandon Karam

Brandon Karam

San Antonio

Founder & Owner
Pristine Cleansing
Sprays

What inspired you to start your business?

We, my cousin Jessica and I, had always talked about business together. We were interested in the startup world. We were both attorneys and looking for something more exciting to do; something we could be in control of and build and see the results of. Our conversations about startups had been several years in the making before we met up one night to have dinner and began discussing the idea for Pristine. It snowballed from there. After that night I asked her, “are you really interested?” and she said yes so, we started meeting and experimenting. And that’s how we got started talking about different ingredients and what the product could look like.

Prior to starting the business, you were working as a lawyer. When did Pristine go from being a side project to your full-time job?

2017 for me. Jessica was shortly after that. I had no idea how much time running a business would take. I could see us not being able to commit enough time to get it to go anywhere with us not jumping in 100%.

It felt like a make it or break it point for the business. If this doesn’t go anywhere in the next 6 months to a year, it’s not going to go anywhere.

So, I said, let’s do it. Our finances at the time weren’t great. We weren’t selling that much. We didn’t have enough infrastructure, we hadn’t secured a manufacturer yet, we hadn’t put a lot of time into our website. Ultimately, we are an e-commerce company, but we didn’t fully realize that at the time. We were too busy trying to get into retail and go to shows, that took up a lot of time and money. Our website was sitting there and lacking. In hindsight, we should have done some of those things before I quit, but it seemed like the right time in my life, so I did it.

You went back to school to get an MBA. What inspired you to go back to school?

The business reached a point where we were having to make bigger financial decisions. Neither of us had a finance background. I was starting to get worried because we didn’t have guidance on those decisions that we needed to make.

Some people are good at learning that on their own. I do better with more formal instruction and so going back to school made me comfortable and gave me confidence in our decisions. I also hoped that going to UT would give me opportunities to make relationships, whether it be advice or networking.

How do you define “excellence” in business?

One thing that I found a lot, before I started school, I saw a lot in the business world in general, there seemed to be a lot of deception and ruthlessness and this mentality of looking out for yourself. Going into business school, I wanted to learn from people how to navigate the business world and try to be selfless, help other people, be honest and moral in my decision making. I feel that TBHF is a perfect example of a group of people who operate their businesses with those values intact, and it was inspiring to someone like me who was coming up and trying to make it. It shows you can be successful while being honest and moral and making the best decisions for your customers. That to me is what excellence in business is. Being successful and being able to do it honestly.

How does the idea of community play an important role with your business and approach to entrepreneurship?

Jessica and I are involved with a local high school here called Alamo Heights. They have an incubator program for high school students. They cultivate a business from the ground up. Getting involved in that program was a huge thing for us. We always hoped that we would find a mentor that cared about us and our company, helping us out and showing us the way. We made decisions for a long time by ourselves without input from anyone and it was scary.

We’ve been working this year with a team who has been above and beyond, they are so motivated to cultivate their idea. They made it to the finals for the school’s pitch competition to win \$10,000 to start the business. Being involved with that and being able to see how much they’ve grown over a year has been really great. To pass that along to future entrepreneurs to help.

What inspires you and motivates you as an entrepreneur?

I know that we have created this thing, this business, that doesn’t really function without us. If I don’t do something, it may never get done. We may never see our vision come to life. So having that direct kind of impact has changed my view on work in general. And I believe my partner’s too. As a lawyer, we worked for larger firms, it was hard to see the direct impact we were having. Now, we can see that direct impact and make decisions and know that we are confident in them and our vision for the company.

If we’re not going to do it – it’s not going to happen. We need to do it because it’s how we bring that vision to life.

Can you share a time when you faced a challenge and how you overcame that obstacle?

Before we were going to air on Shark Tank, we had found out that our manufacturer had produced some of our products wrong. It was about a month before. We didn't know what had gone wrong, if they would be able to produce a new batch. This was potentially the biggest moment in our company's history, and we didn't know if we were going to have enough product.

It was right around the holidays and we were spending those days leading up to Christmas on the phone for hours every day trying to piece together what went wrong and if we could order enough ingredients on time. The relationship with this manufacturer was starting to sour and we were thinking "if we don't fix this, everything could be over or us."

I got on a plane, flew to Arizona where our manufacturer was, and drove to their headquarters and we hammered out a plan. I loaded several thousand bottles of Pristine into the back of a truck and drove it from Arizona to San Antonio where we had our fulfillment center. I drove overnight and only stopped two times. My partner has done the same thing many times – I just happened to be one in this story.

But the reason I mention this is because that's what you have to do as a business owner. You know what needs to be done and you make it happen no matter what. We are still extremely hands on – from the most menial tasks to the important decisions. But that's also what makes it special. That's the life of an entrepreneur.

Speaking of Shark Tank, can you tell us about that experience and what you learned from going through the process?

It was a very long, long process. [Laughter]. What I took away from it was, a lot of things may seem like luck, but often times are really the result of a lot of preparation. Yes, we got very lucky in being selected and making it that far in the process. But we also put in a tremendous amount of work and spent so much time preparing. Once we found out we were selected for the show, we prepared by trying to anticipate each Shark's response and find the best strategy, try to figure out what they would and wouldn't like about our product and brand. For example, Mark Cuban has a wet wipe product, so we needed to take that into consideration.

In hindsight, it's those long conversations that get you through the tough decisions and get you through the challenging or scary times. My takeaway was that our preparation helped us a lot once we were there. It was a huge moment for our business, and I don't know if we would be where we are without it, so we are grateful for the opportunity.

What are your goals for Pristine in the future?

Our vision for Pristine - there are wet wipes for everything; body wipes, face wipes, and they are all kind of the same. A lot of them are not biodegradable and contain plastic fibers. We want to provide an option that replace wipes in all facets of life.

So, our next step, which we are launching in mid-July, is our body cleansing spray. This is super exciting because it expands our product offering but also takes us out of the “potty industry” which can be really hard to market.

Our body cleansing spray is going to have the same approach: good ingredients, nice scents, and we are using an all-natural sugar molecule that functions like a deodorizer. This was an interesting challenge for us because a lot of deodorants out there have aluminum in them which isn't good for you. but then many of the deodorants that don't use aluminum contain way too much baking powder which can cause allergic reactions and have unpleasant smells.



We're really excited because our product will have that deodorizer property but still smell great period it will be great for post gym workouts, hikers, campers, really just anytime you feel like you need a shower. We call it a shower in a bottle.

So, that's our next step. We're also interested in exploring more of the beauty space and have some ideas for products that could replace face wipes and makeup removers.

How has being a part of the Texas Business Hall of Fame impacted your entrepreneurial journey so far?

For me, seeing all the different entrepreneurs in our award class is so inspiring. Some of them are already running hugely successful companies. It's amazing to be around people like that who are so motivated and excited to get to know everybody. Also, the speakers and panelists at the virtual events this year have been amazing. They're so humble and honest with their approach to business and success. It's very cool to see the Directors and Legends, who are extremely successful in their own right, donating their time and participating with the organization, because for people like me I learn so much from hearing them speak and having the opportunity to ask them questions. As someone who is still early in my entrepreneurial journey and who's trying to make it, it's very inspiring to see these people and how they act. Again, it's the notion of paying it forward.

Thank you so much Brandon for taking the time to speak with us. Congratulations on the upcoming launch of your new body sprays! We are so proud of all that Pristine has accomplished and can't wait to see what you do in the future. To learn more about Pristine, visit their website and check them out on social media.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

Upcoming Events

We hope you can attend our upcoming virtual and in-person events!

- September 8: San Antonio live networking event at Botanical Garden - more details coming soon
- October 28: 39th Annual TBHF Scholar &. Veteran Award Luncheon
- October 28: 38th Annual TBHF Induction Dinner
- October 29th: 3rd Annual TBHF Alumni Association Breakfast

If you have not yet secured your tickets for the Induction Dinner, please click [here](#) for more information. Questions? Email atenzer@immwow.com.

We Moved

The Texas Business Hall of Fame has moved - into a new office space! Our new mailing address is:

The Texas Business Hall of Fame
675 Bering Dr
Suite #200
Houston, TX 77057

Want to Read More?

Looking for more content to explore?

- Check out our Q1 Newsletter [here](#).
- To watch recordings from our virtual events, click [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for more interviews and articles featuring our TBHF Alumni and Directors.

Get Social With Us

The best way to stay up to date on the latest TBHF news is to follow us on our social media platforms. We share exclusive content, sneak peaks, and interviews on a weekly basis. We love to connect with our members and stay in touch, so give us a follow today!



TBHF is incredibly proud to announce the Scholar & Veteran Class of 2021. After a competitive application and interview process, 35 applicants have been selected as this year's winners. These students and veterans exemplify the passion, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit that makes our State great.

We would also like to extend a thank you to Governor Abbott, Mark Cuban, and the TBHF Alumni who participated in our announcement videos. In case you missed them, you can watch both the Veteran and Scholar announcements [here](#) on our website.

Keisha Riser
Baylor University

Austin Davis
Texas Christian University

Rohit Shenoy
University of Texas at Dallas
The Mitchell Family Foundation Award

Forest Shoults
Dallas Baptist University
The Mitchell Family Foundation Award

Kordel Johnson
Texas Southern University

Alejandra Jimenez
University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley
James and Kathleen Collins Future Texas
Business Legend Award

Grace Elliott
Dallas Baptist University
The Mitchell Family Foundation Award

Joshua Travieso
Texas State University

David Robinson, Jr.
University of Texas at San Antonio
The Harvey Najim Future Texas Business
Legend Award

Zac Funderburk
Dallas Baptist University
The Mitchell Family Foundation Award

Darce Ross
Texas Tech University
The Pefanis Family Award

Devanshi Patel
University of Texas at San Antonio
AT&T Future Legend First in Family Award
(in honor of Richard Fisher)

Chelsea Lester
Houston Baptist University
The Stewart Morris Award

Spencer Hood
Trinity University
The Doug & Martha Hawthorne Family
Fund Award

Dion Tran
Lamar University
The Ben J. Rogers Award

Zara Atiq
University of Dallas
The Mitchell Family Foundation Award

Sophie Fitz Randolph
Rice University
T.T. & W.F. Chao Family "Chairman's"
Award

Garrett Neville
Rice University
T.T. & W.F. Chao Award

John Paul Thomas
University of Dallas
The Mitchell Family Foundation Award

Tokunbo 'TJ' Falohun
Texas A&M University
The Brett Wiggs Innovative Leadership
Award

Ruan J. Meintjes
Southern Methodist University
The Robert H. Dedman Award

Dustin Mathis
University of Dallas
The Mitchell Family Foundation Award

Steve Jimenez
Rice University
Nau Future Texas Legend Marine Corps
Veteran Award

Wole Akande
Southern Methodist University
The Lucy Billingsley Future Texas Business
Award

Anil Gurung
University of Houston
T.T. & W.F. Chao Award

Robert Strong
Bunker Labs
The Greg Armstrong Future Texas Legend
Veteran Award

Tarah Williams
St. Mary's University
The Carlos & Malu Alvarez Award

Luis Aaron Jimenez Guillen
University of the Incarnate Word
The H-E-B Award

Juanika McClendon
University of North Texas

Daniela Duran
St. Mary's University
The William E. "Bill" Greehey Award

Patrice Bartlett
University of Texas
The Mike A. Myers Award

Justin Bradshaw
University of Texas
The Douglas L. Foshee Future Texas
Legend Veteran Award

William "Chase" Kammerer
Texas A&M University

Mercedes Johnson
University of Texas at Dallas
The Mitchell Family Foundation Award

Travis Washington
University of Texas
Future Texas Legend Veteran Award