

## Larry Peterson

*Larry Peterson is Executive Director of the Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities, the state cluster initiative for development of Texas clean tech industry. Mr Peterson has also been a serial entrepreneur and investor, previously building two of the largest IT companies in west Texas and New Mexico, selling the first for seven figures at age 27. He is currently chair of the Mayor's economic development council, the Texas Lyceum Economic Growth Policy Advisory Council, and is a past-chair of the Texas Lyceum, the statewide political leadership organization. He is a cofounder for numerous technology related efforts in Texas and New Mexico, including the Camino Real Angels, the Software and Information Technology Organization (SITO), the Rio Bravo Entrepreneurs Council (RBTEC) and the Camino Real Venture Competition. He has been a founding member of the original New Mexico Technology Research Corridor (TRC) organization, encompassing \$6 billion in annual research expenditures, co-chair of the Texas Software and Wireless Technology Cluster initiative, an original member of the Texas Technology Working Initiatives Group (TWIG) chaired by Dr. George Kozmetsky, and a founding advisory board member to the Sandia Lab-created Bi-National Sustainability Lab (BNSL).*

Mr. Peterson is a Past Chair of the Texas Lyceum Association, the statewide leadership organization that has among its alumni President George Bush, Governor Rick Perry, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, many statewide and local elected officials, Texas university regents, and business leaders.

Mr. Peterson currently chairs the statewide Texas Lyceum Economic Growth Policy Advisory Group, focused on developing state and local policy in support of entrepreneurial growth companies, impactful tech transfer, and sustainable capital formation, and was co-chair of the steering committee for the 2006 Texas Economic Growth Summit, the largest economic development conference in Texas history. This summit showcased leading edge economic development policy and practice, featuring Drs. Michael Porter and Richard Florida, Gov. Rick Perry, Commerce Under Secretary William Jeffrey, Dallas Federal Reserve President Richard Fisher, Texas A&M Chancellor Robert McTeer, Economist Ray Perryman, the Kauffman Foundation, NASVF, SSTI, and many others. The outcomes of that conference have included the formation of the Governor's Council for Competitiveness, the addition of economic development as a mission for Texas university systems and commercialization as an optional tenure track; and the creation of the new Innovate Texas Foundation.

Larry Peterson has also served on the TWIG, the Texas Technologies Initiatives Working Group (founded by Dr. George Kozmetsky and co-chaired by Dr. Jane Armstrong), and the New Mexico analogous organization, the New Mexico Technology Research Corridor (now the Technology Research Collaborative). Mr. Peterson is also a founding and current board member of the statewide Texas Capital Coalition, focused on the development of preseed, seed and early stage capital resources in Texas. Mr. Peterson also chairs the El Paso Lyceum, the City of El Paso economic development advisory council, and chairs the Next Generation Economy Cabinet, one of six cabinets under the Lyceum. This latter cabinet has designed initiatives for entrepreneurial development, a plan for free municipal wireless access, produced the initial plan for the Camino Real Venture Competition, and called for new research centers tied to Future Combat Systems, a regional research science and technology park.

In El Paso, Mr. Peterson has co-founded a number of tech-development organizations, including the Camino Real Angel Network, and the Paso del Norte Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP, now SITO). He has also served on the Steering Committee of the Greater El Paso Chamber Technology Initiatives, and chaired the regional R&D Commercialization Committee. Past projects have also included the White Sands Technology Accelerator, and advocacy for the proposed Texas Equity Fund bill, a state-supported venture "fund of funds" endorsed by Dr. Kozmetsky. He has also been involved with supporting, testifying before the state legislature, and lobbying for the Emerging Technology Fund from its earliest concept.

Mr. Peterson previously founded and financially supported a technology-focused education foundation, The Education Project. An accomplished software engineer, he also developed the software for the Patriot Missile Training System prototype, and a simulation language used for training Desert Storm rotary-wing aircraft pilots. A National Merit Scholar Finalist, he graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, with an extensive minor in molecular biology. He graduated first in his class with an MBA from the University of Texas at El Paso.

He has been active with numerous charitable and civic organizations in the west Texas region, including the boards of the United Way and American Red Cross. Mr. Peterson received several awards in recognition of his work and support as director and Vice-Chair of the El Paso Red Cross, including the **Red Cross Clara Barton Award**. In 1996, Mr. Peterson received the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce's highest honor, the **Star Award**, for his part in bringing the first NFL event to El Paso.

Mr. Peterson was the leader of the successful effort to bring the Dallas Cowboys to play the Houston Oilers before an NFL scrimmage record crowd of 52,000 in the first-ever sellout of the Sun Bowl Stadium, a feat that received national publicity, and raised \$550,000 for charity and UT-El Paso. For his work as Chairman of the community-wide committee that engineered the effort, Mr. Peterson was named the **El Paso Herald-Post 1996 Sportsman of the Year**.