

ARLINGTON CHAMBER

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ARLINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Team Arlington Celebrates 5th Anniversary Promoting Arlington's Economic Development

With our most recent delegation visit to Austin just concluded January 31-February 1, and our 6th Washington, D.C. delegation visit scheduled for March 12-14, we are devoting our monthly report to our community to "Team Arlington," which represents a coalition established by the Chamber in 2002, focused on the state and federal advocacy of our economic development agenda. We trust you'll find it informative!

Coalition Launched in 2002

By way of background, our current efforts in advocating for resources in support of our economic development agenda essentially originated with a trip to Washington, D.C. in March of 2002. Participants included Mayor Elzie Odom, UT Arlington President Bob Witt (who was also Chair-Elect of the Chamber's Board at the time), Chamber Board Chairman John Cartuscio, and newly appointed Chamber President & CEO, Wes Jurey. "It was my pleasure to go on the first Team Arlington trip to Washington," stated John Cartuscio, Division Manager, JPMorgan Chase. "As we greeted the various elected and government officials, they were always surprised we were coming to them as a team. This team was well received in our nation's capital and established an image of cooperation and commitment to our great city. This image has continued to be advanced by the teams following in our footsteps."



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison concouring with Team Arlington in

Mayor Robert Cluck states, "The Team Arlington strategic alliance has fostered stronger relationships between the major institutions in Arlington by opening the lines of communication and encouraging dialog. Together, we are working to improve and protect the quality of life for all our citizens; business and residents alike."

Jim Spaniolo, President of the University of Texas at Arlington states, "Team Arlington is the embodiment of a partnership. I'm proud that UT Arlington is a part of Team Arlington, and we're a better, stronger, more vibrant community because of the collaborative support of our colleagues and partners."

The initial trip to D.C. laid the groundwork for federal support of three new bridges on I-30, ensured UT Arlington's inclusion in the SPRING Consortium (which was and remains focused on nanotechnology research, and has resulted in UT Arlington's receipt of \$8.6 million since inception), and U.S. Department of Commerce support for what is now known as **Innovation Arlington**.

The following year (2003) the partnership expanded to include

Tarrant County College, Tarrant County, and Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. "Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County is a proud partner of Team Arlington, a coalition that has proven to be an invaluable catalyst in facilitating collaboration with congressional and agency leaders," stated Judy McDonald, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County. "This has allowed us to expand our potential to add new connections as well as ensure a quality workforce that supports economic growth while providing jobs for the citizens of Tarrant County. Team Arlington is a Home Run!"

Arlington ISD joined Team Arlington in 2006, under the leadership of Dr. Mac Bernd, Superintendent of the Arlington Independent School District. "I was fortunate enough to join the group in Washington D.C., which resulted in additional federal funds for the Arlington ISD," stated Dr. Bernd. "Our unity is an important force in getting the things we need for all of our citizens."

This year (2007) the Arlington Hispanic and African American Chambers of Commerce, the Tarrant County Asian Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Pan-Asian American Chamber of Commerce, and the Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau all joined the coalition. "Team Arlington is a perfect model of how representative entities come together to work in the best interest of its citizens to maintain and enhance the quality of life in the present and plan for a positive future," stated Robert Phanelson, Chair of the Arlington African American Chamber of Commerce.

Conservatively speaking, the efforts of Team Arlington have largely been responsible for securing in excess of \$300 million in state and federal funds, primarily in support of our identified economic development initiatives. The program, since inception, has been administered by the Chamber, primarily guided through the Chamber's Government Relations Council.

Team Arlington Delegation to Austin January 31-February 1 Another Win for Team Arlington!



Senator Chris Harris (center) presents Team Arlington partners with Senate Resolution No. 57, recognizing January 31, 2007 Team Arlington Day at the State Capitol.

In 2005 Team Arlington began its current emphasis on state advocacy, launching an annual delegation visit to Austin. This year, a delegation of 49 business and community leaders, City elected officials, Chamber of Commerce and City staff, and educational representatives converged on Austin in late January.

"Arlington to Austin represents Team Arlington's advocacy efforts at the state level, highlighted by an annual delegation visit to Austin. Our purpose is to cultivate relationships with Texas state agencies, to present our public policy agenda to state elected officials, and to meet with state agencies to review support for our economic development agenda," stated Chamber Board Chair Moji Haddad.

"It has been a privilege to represent Tarrant County College Southeast Campus in Austin as a Team Arlington partner," stated Dr. Judith Carrier, President of the Southeast Campus. "Building relationships with our legislative representatives and educational agencies is vital for the support of Arlington's initiatives in public and higher education."



State Representative Paula Hightower Pierson and Wes Jurey, Chamber President, visit with Michael Gerber, TX Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs, during reception for state officials, hosted by Team Arlington.

This year's visit began at a luncheon on Wednesday,

January 31, with Michael Gerber, Executive Director of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The day included an afternoon of meetings with various state agencies, and a reception that evening for all members of the Texas Legislature and key leaders of state agencies, co-hosted by Arlington's state elected officials. Thursday began with a breakfast meeting with Secretary of State Roger Williams, followed by meetings with agencies, concluding with a luncheon with UT System Chancellor Mark Yudof.



State Representative Bill Zedler, State Representative Diane Patrick, and Arlington Chamber Board Chair Moji Haddad talk during 2007 visit to Austin.

In order for Team Arlington to maximize visits with key legislators, the delegation divided into three advocacy groups, focused on Economic Development, Workforce Development, and Public Policy. Key issues on the agenda included:

- Development and Redevelopment Projects
- Workforce Initiatives
- Transportation & Road Improvements
- Technology & Research Programs and Initiatives
- Public & Higher Education
- Environmental Quality
- Housing
- Healthcare
- Business & the Arts

The schedule included appointments with Phil Wilson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Rick Perry; Aaron Demerson, Executive Director of Economic Development; Mark Ellison, Director, Texas Emerging Technologies; Ricardo Hernandez, Executive Director, Texas Commission on the Arts; Larry Soward, Commissioner, TX Commission on Environmental Quality; Amadeo Saenz, Jr., Engineering Operations Director, Texas Department of Transportation; Tom Kowalski, President & CEO, Texas Healthcare & Bioscience Institute; Michael Williams, Commissioner, Texas Railroad Commission; and Susan Combs, Texas State Comptroller; just to name a few.

"It was a privilege to be part of 'Team Arlington to Austin' and to meet with policy makers to discuss the future of our community," stated Daryle Perez, Chair of the Arlington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "It's always a good thing when community and business leaders come together to be part of something that improves our City as a whole."

Elzie Odom, former mayor of the City of Arlington, reflects, "When the Arlington Chamber first approached me in 2002 regarding the Team Arlington concept, I didn't realize how far-reaching it could become. It is exciting to experience the results that have followed. Thank you Team Arlington partners for your leadership!"



Gov. Rick Perry addresses Team Arlington during their inaugural visit to Austin in 2005.

TEAM ARLINGTON

The Faces of Team Arlington

 Bob Phanelson Chair, Arlington African American Chamber of Commerce	 Wes Jurey President & CEO, Arlington Chamber of Commerce	 Linda Howell Di Mario President, Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau	 Daryle Perez Chair, Arlington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	 Dr. Mac Bernd Superintendent, Arlington Independent School District	 Dr. Robert Cluck Mayor, City of Arlington
 Glen Whitley County Judge, Tarrant County	 Oscar Macaereg Chair, Tarrant County Asian American Chamber of Commerce	 Dr. Judith Carrier President, Tarrant County College - S.E.	 Grace McDermott President, US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce	 Jim Spaniolo President, UT Arlington	 Judy McDonald Executive Director, Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

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