



Newsletter

Colorado New Mexico Oklahoma Arkansas Texas Kansas Mexico

October 2019

Save The Date For Region 6 Biennial Conference - Fayetteville - April 2020!



SPECTRA, BUDWEISER EVENTS CENTER AT THE RANCH ANNOUNCE ROUND-UP FOR CHARITY INITIATIVE RECIPIENT FOR 2019-2020 SEASON

Spectra, the providers of Venue Management, Food Services and Partnerships for the Budweiser Events Center at The Ranch, announced a brand-new initiative this summer for the upcoming 2019-2020 season. Round-Up for Charity will be a new feature on the venue ticketing website in which patrons will be able to round-up their event ticket orders to the nearest dollar amount as a donation to a local charitable organization.



"The Spectra team at the Budweiser Events Center is committed to giving back to Northern Colorado and we felt this was an opportunity for us to leverage our tens of thousands of ticket transactions annually for the benefit of a local organization," said Keller Taylor, Spectra District General Manager at the Budweiser Events Center. "This new initiative gives ticket purchasers the chance to directly support one of the many great organizations in Northern Colorado."

The process began with the charity submission form. All charitable organizations were reviewed by staff at the Budweiser Events Center, rated, and then selected based upon the results of the review process. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County were selected as the recipient of the proceeds from the initiative. Proceeds from the Round-Up for Charity Initiative will be collected during the 2019-2020 season, which begins in September 2019 and ends on July 1, 2020.

"We are honored to be selected as the recipient for the Round-Up for Charity Initiative at the Budweiser Events Center," said Boys & Girls Club of Larimer County Executive Director Kaycee Headrick. "This partnership will allow us to further our service to young people in Larimer County. We are extremely grateful!"

[Boys & Girls Club of Larimer County Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Cedar Hill, Taj Hospitality Break Ground on Hotel/Convention Center Project



On Thursday, October 3, the City of Cedar Hill broke ground on a Hotel and Convention Center project that will bring 136 hotel rooms, a 23,000 square foot convention center, and enhanced commercial and entertainment amenities to the City.

The project will be constructed on the eastern side of Hillside Village shopping center and will include an approximate 136-room Aloft hotel and adjacent convention facility to include an 8,000 square foot ballroom, 4,000 square feet of flexible meeting space, and various support spaces. The project is being designed to interact closely with existing retail activity and provide a foundation for an enhanced entertainment presence in the area. The anticipated total value of the facility is approximately \$25 million and is projected to open for business in the summer of 2020.

“This is a project that has long been anticipated, and we’re excited to add a hotel/convention center to the high-end retail and entertainment offerings at Hillside Village in Cedar Hill,” says Mayor Stephen Mason.

The project is being developed and operated as a public-private partnership, where partner Taj Hospitality will own and construct the hotel while the City will own and construct the convention facility. The financial contribution of the City for the convention facility is an estimate of \$7.5 million, which would be financed and supported through revenues generated by the facility. During the last legislative session, Cedar Hill sought and received special legislation allowing it eligibility to recapture certain State funds to assist in supporting its contribution to the project.

Dickies Arena to Celebrate Grand Opening with Ribbon Cutting and Community Open House



Trail Drive Management Corp. (TDMC), the not-for-profit operators of Dickies Arena, will host a ribbon cutting ceremony and community open house on Saturday, Oct. 26 to formally welcome the community into the world-class arena.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on the east side of the arena, on Simmons Bank Plaza. Immediately following the ceremony, the arena will be open for self-guided tours that guests can register for in advance. Guests can experience the beautiful architecture and state-of-the-art spaces while trying a variety of food and beverage options that will be available for purchase at a discounted rate.

Throughout the day, guests will be encouraged to enjoy activities on the Simmons Bank Plaza. Performers from popular family shows – including Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live’s BIGFOOT, WWE Smackdown Women’s Champion Bayley, a Harlem Globetrotter, and a special presence from Cirque du Soleil – will be on site to celebrate with the citizens of Fort Worth. Local acts will perform on the Simmons Bank Plaza stage, and Dickies Arena founding partners, including Dickies, Chevrolet, Texas Health Resources, Reliant and Simmons Bank, will also be on site to engage with the community.



The young professionals of today and tomorrow are the future of IAVM, our Region, the Foundation, and of our industry. To support the development of young professionals in the future and on behalf of **#MillennialsEngage: INVEST IN YOUR FOUNDATION TODAY!**

The process is quick and easy, and you can *make a donation in whatever amount you're comfortable giving*. Can you only spare the cost of a coffee purchase? No problem - donate \$5! Are you able to give a larger sum after being paid? Great - drop \$50 or \$100! Aren't able to give right now? That's alright - *share this campaign with your friends, family, and colleagues* who may be able to contribute! If everyone gives a small amount and gets just three more people to do the same, we can meet our goals in **NO TIME!**

We appreciate you investing in young professionals and encourage you to please share this campaign. This campaign runs through the end of October, so be sure to click the link **TODAY** and thank you for all that you do IAVM Region 6!

[CLICK HERE TO INVEST IN YOUR FOUNDATION TODAY!](#)

#MillennialsEngage #T4T #Today4Tomorrow #IAVM

Is Your Venue or City The Next Region 6 Host Site?

Are you looking for an exciting way to showcase your venue and community to your fellow colleagues? If so, then keep reading....

We're looking for the next host sites for the **2021 Future Leaders Conference** and the **2022 Region 6 Biennial Conference**. Two great opportunities to show off your venue, other area venues, and network with colleagues from around the region without having to travel!

Our region leadership will be narrowing down suggested site locations for the 2021 Future Leaders Conference in the coming month and bringing them to the region members for a vote at our business meeting at the Region 6 Conference in Fayetteville this April. If you're interested in being a host venue/city, email me at Jeff.Davis@uta.edu.

When submitting your site/city, keep in mind a few key points: meeting space that can accommodate at least 120, reasonable proximity to an airport and hotel availability for the group. If you have any questions on what it takes to be a host location, let me know. I'll be happy to share details.

Thanks in advance for considering being a host site, and I look forward to seeing you all in Fayetteville for our 2020 conference. Watch for details from the planning committee in the upcoming newsletters!

Sincerely,
Jeff Davis
IAVM Region 6 Director

Hot Springs Convention Center & Bank OZK Arena seeking a Senior Operations Manager



Hot Springs Convention Center & Bank OZK Arena is seeking a Senior Operations Manager with a background in facilities or hotels. Ideal candidate will have at least two years management experience and be able to oversee housekeeping, audio/visual, set-up and maintenance departments. This manager will assist the Director of Operations and serve as manager on duty when the Director is off property. College degree or vocational training in building services or five years experience in a related field is preferred. Advanced computer skills are required. Resumes may be sent to the HR Director at the Hot Springs Convention Center, PO Box 6000, Hot Springs, AR 71901, or emailed to Leysa@hotsprings.org. More information about the facility is available at the Visit Hot Springs website: www.hotsprings.org

IAVM DFW Chapter Meeting to be held on October 16 at College Park Center

College Park Center is excited to host the DFW IAVM Chapter Meeting. Danny Whittington will speak on the application of autism awareness in event venues. Mr. Whittington has spoken to area police and fire departments, as well as, area leadership providing knowledge on how to interact with people who are on the autism spectrum.

We'll finish the meeting with a social serving drinks and hors d'oeuvres. If you haven't had a chance to see the College Park Center, come on out! Meeting begins at 3:30 p.m. and is expected to conclude around 6 p.m. (attendance and parking are complimentary). Contact Courtney Delaware at courtney.delaware@uta.edu or 817-272-9441 if you have any questions or would like to attend.

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Operations Updates from Will Rogers Memorial Center



Pictured from left: Chris Roden, Justin Reid, Belinda Norris and Claude Humphrey

Over the past year, using Lean methodology the Event Services teams have cut janitorial supplies costs by over 20%, by instituting a new inventory program, challenging suppliers to help solve facility problems and challenging employees to be more efficient, and reduce overall waste.

A facility “Lean Team”, comprised of employees from multiple levels of management, are breaking down processes of Barn cleanups, to help in reducing waste, and overall labor costs. The completed project resulted in a measureable 10% reduction in time used for barn turnovers.

Five employees attended The League of Agricultural & Equine Centers, Footing Academy, in Dripping Springs, TX in continuation and expansion of a footing program to provide safer and more consistent results for contestants, and equine athletes. The Will Rogers Memorial Center was the League’s 2018 Facility of the Year.

Chris Stapleton Sells Out Chesapeake Energy Arena on October 4



Pictured with Stapleton are General Manager Chris Semrau (right) and Assistant General Manager Michael Owens (left)

Overland Park Convention Center announced as top 20 convention center in the nation

One of the most successful mid-sized venues in the country, the Overland Park Convention Center was named one of the nation’s top 20 ‘Centers of Excellence’ by EXHIBITOR Magazine and a ‘Best Convention Center in North America’ by Business View Magazine.

The Overland Park Convention Center and General Manager, Brett C. Mitchell today announced it has been named a top 20 convention center in the nation by EXHIBITOR Magazine, a leading industry publication honoring the best in meeting and event venues. It’s second national recognition of the year, the convention center was also named a *Best Convention Center in North America* by Business View Magazine.

“Honoring North America’s best convention centers for trade shows and events, the *Centers of Excellence* awards recognize the best large and small trade show venues,” Travis Stanton, editor of EXHIBITOR Magazine, said. “These facilities have proven their ability to host trade shows and events of all shapes and sizes while providing world-class service and state-of-the-art accommodations.”

The *Centers of Excellence* recognition grades on five main criteria including venue functionality, service execution, upgrades and expansions, and awards, has a rigorous evaluation process that includes a survey of past clients and a review of entrants' selling points, event spaces, and innovations, conducted by a panel of corporate event managers. (Continued, next page...)

Security practices were a key differentiator for the convention center. The venue was selected as one of two pilot venues to review and assess the best practices and safety guidelines developed by the Industry Security Council in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, created to protect the millions of people who work, exhibit at, and attend meetings, conventions, and trade shows each day.

With seven Certified Meeting Professionals on staff, the venue's employees are both experienced and accomplished. Among them are two Certified International Event and Wedding Planners, 10 Specialty Rigging Accredited team members, one Certified Technology Specialist, a Certified Venue Executive and a nationally recognized Connect Association 40 Under 40 recipient.

The convention center's Executive Chef, Tim Freeman brings more than 25 years of culinary experience from around the world. His accolades include working alongside Chef Wolfgang Puck; defeating celebrity Chef Bobby Flay on *Food Network* series, *Beat Bobby Flay*; cooking at the White House for former President Bill Clinton and the Ohio Governor's Mansion.

"The spending that visitors bring to the City of Overland Park saves each of our households \$1,200 in annual taxes," Dana Markel, president & CEO of Visit Overland Park, said. "Our convention center draws thousands of these visitors and is a true asset not only to Overland Park, but to the greater Kansas City area. The convention center serves as a national and regional gathering place that exemplifies our innovative and collaborative community. We are proud of this national recognition."

More about the Overland Park Convention Center's accomplishments visit opconventioncenter.com/awards.

Allen Event Center Adds New State-Of-The-Art LED Marquees



Allen Event Center is welcoming guests to its arena and Community Ice Rink with the help of two brand new LED marquee displays. The state-of-the-art Daktronics messaging boards and accompanying displays were fabricated by Comet Signs and installed in two high-traffic areas next to the facility.

"We're always looking for ways to enhance the experience of our guests," said Bill Herman, general manager of Allen Event Center. "The location of these new displays will allow us the opportunity to engage with our guests and provide important information such as parking tips and bag policies that will help everyone get into the building faster."

The larger of the new displays is located on Andrews Parkway, an access route to the facility's South Parking Garage. The overall display is 22'7" high by 19'2 3/4" wide. It includes a single-sided, full-color 16 mm LED marquee that displays images of 140 pixels high by 300 pixels wide.

The second display is located near the south entrance of the arena and ice rink. It measures approximately 23'2" high by 11'6 3/4" wide and includes a double-sided, full-color 16mm LED marquee that displays images of 80 pixels high by 175 pixels wide.

"We are really excited about the new marquees," said David Angeles, assistant director of the City of Allen Parks and Recreation Department. "From the branding opportunities to the increased awareness of events and the enhanced engagement with guests, the marquees will allow us to take our communication efforts to the next level."

The new displays are in addition to an existing marquee located along US 75.

Natural Bird Abatement at the Walmart AMP

The Walmart AMP has the largest outdoor stage house in the state. That large open shell attracts birds because it provides shelter, and the support grid provides ample roosting areas. Since the AMP opened in 2014, the staff has been trying to manage the issue caused by hundreds of birds, mostly starlings and pigeons, who want to roost under the canopy and in the stage house.

That many birds roosting just over one night can cause a huge mess with their droppings throughout the venue, damaging systems and even spreading diseases through their droppings.

The Walmart AMP had been trying to use netting and sounds (alarm sounds, loud bangs) to deter the birds. They were effective initially, but eventually the birds got used to the noises or tore holes in the netting and the problem continued. During show load ins, load outs and show days, the team at the Walmart AMP had to spend hours cleaning the stage, loading dock and the seats and walkways to make the venue safe for workers and patrons. And as soon as they stopped, the problem would just return the next day.

Last year, the Walmart AMP team turned to a different kind of bird abatement, and it has made a world of difference. Jordan Jones, a licensed and certified falconer, operates Falcon Tactics. He and his team of trained falcons and hawks have helped solve this problem.

Falconry-based bird abatement is the use of trained falcons and hawks to intimidate and scare off nuisance birds. Very often the presence of the raptor is enough to deter and intimidate other bird species. It's a natural predator-and-prey relationship that evolution has programmed the birds to avoid.

Falconry-based bird abatement is quiet, discrete, organic, eco-friendly and very sustainable. The objective is not killing the nuisance birds, but scaring them off the premises. And it's a method that continues to work even over time. Nuisance birds never get acclimated to seeing raptors, like they do to noisemakers or recorded calls.

If you want to learn more about falconry-based bird abatement, and even see some of the birds in action, be sure to attend the 2020 Region 6 Conference, which will held in Northwest Arkansas next April. To view/download photos and view the fact sheet, go here: <http://bit.ly/BirdAbatement>.

The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts Grand Opening



The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK held their Grand Opening Gala on October 11, 2019. The new cutting-edge facility features a 1,098-seat performance space, an intimate 217-seat recital hall and an outdoor plaza with a 32-foot LED wall screen. The Center will be a destination for the students, faculty, and the whole community of Stillwater to experience the cultural arts like none other in the region.

Along with Oklahoma State University, the design team included Beck Design (architect) and Schuler Shook (theatre planners, lighting designers). The collaboration of everyone involved has made this project one to stand out!

McKnight Center's Mission statement "*The McKnight Center for the Performing Arts at Oklahoma State University will be a world-class epicenter for the arts, attracting celebrated national and international programs featuring notable performing arts productions and artists. The center will allow the university and the center's supporters to express — and be recognized for — their passion for the arts on a global stage.*"

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON CONVENTION CENTER DALLAS MAKES EXHIBITOR MAGAZINE'S 2020 CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE



EXHIBITOR Magazine, the leader in trade show and corporate event marketing education, finished its evaluation of all North American convention centers and named the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas (KBHCCD) as a 2020 Center of Excellence.

The recognition as a Center of Excellence places the convention center in the top 20 in North America. Exhibitor Media Group, the producers of EXHIBITOR Magazine and Find It – Marketplace, designated this achievement by evaluating venues in five categories, including venue functionality, service execution, upgrades and expansions, and awards. The evaluation process scored facilities based on high-value variables selected by EXHIBITOR Magazine readers, and included feedback from event planners, show organizers, and managers who recently hosted events within the venues.

“While individual exhibit managers rarely have a say in where their trade shows are held, they are often the ones most impacted by that decision. This is their opportunity to give credit where credit is due and celebrate the exhibitor-friendly venues that do their part to make trade shows and events as smooth, successful, and painless as possible,” said **Travis Stanton, editor of EXHIBITOR Magazine.**

The KBHCCD changed management last April after the Dallas City Council unanimously approved Spectra to be its first-ever private venue management provider. As an industry leader in venue management and hospitality, Spectra manages the day-to-day operations of the facility in collaboration with the City of Dallas and other business partners, such as Centerplate and Smart City Networks.

“This is recognition for all of the hard work and perseverance of our staff and business partners, including the City of Dallas itself,” **Anthony Lopez, General Manager of KBHCCD,** said. “The KBHCCD is thrilled to accept this honor from EXHIBITOR Magazine. We plan to build off this achievement and continue to represent the KBHCCD and Dallas as one of the top event destinations in North America.”

Celebrating 32 Years of Service



Bettye McKinney celebrated 32 years at First National Bank Arena on October 1, 2019. She began her career as athletic support staff on October 1, 1987. This past spring, McKinney was promoted to the special events coordinator. She was born and raised in Jonesboro, Arkansas, is the second youngest of 12 children, and grew up fishing with her younger brother. On her days off the licensed hair dresser enjoys relaxing, working in the yard and spending time with her great niece in California. Bettye truly is an icon at the arena and has a love for unsweet tea, cleanliness and subtle jokes you'd be blessed to catch. We are honored to recognize Bettye and her service to Arkansas State University and the Jonesboro community.

John 3:16 Ministries Community Fest's Crowder Music and the Reid Phifer Project Concert a Hit at First National Bank Arena



Saturday, August 24, 2019, was a big day for First National Bank Arena - more than 8,500 community guests packed the arena to see Crowder Music and the Reid Phifer Project in concert. The concert was just the final portion of the John 3:16 Ministries Community Fest that included bbq plates, a live car auction, supported by guest speakers from local ministries and elected officials leading up to the concert.

Comedian Gabriel “Fluffy” Iglesias Makes a Special Stop in El Paso



Gabriel “Fluffy” Iglesias has always been a favorite comedian in El Paso, Texas. Iglesias made a surprise stop in El Paso on October 5, and his “Beyond The Fluffy World Tour” quickly sold out at the Abraham Chavez Theatre. Fans were touched by his compassion and generosity when he donated \$40,000 dollars to the El Paso Victims’ Fund, to help those who were affected by the shooting tragedy last August.

Iglesias is the one of the most watched comedians on YouTube with more than 380,000,000 views and has over 14 million fans across social media. Iglesias is currently in production as star and Executive Producer of the upcoming multi-cam comedy series for Netflix, Mr. Iglesias. The series has 10 half-hour episodes now streaming globally on Netflix and has been picked up for 12 additional episodes that will air in 2020.

Cesar Ramirez Promoted to Director of Event Services & Facility Sales at Destination El Paso - El Paso Live



Destination El Paso is proud to announce that Cesar Ramirez has been named the Director of Event Services and Facility Sales at El Paso Live. Cesar was previously the Event Operations Manager at El Paso Live. Ramirez now will be supervising the sales department and event services and will also assist with special events.

(Continued, next page...)

Ramirez is a standout leader at 27 years old. He studied music in middle school through college and chose music as his major at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He transferred to the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to pursue a specialized degree in Commercial Music. Cesar realized he also had a passion to learn the business side of the industry, and graduated with an MBA from UTEP.

“I was attracted to live events and entertainment along with operations and the sales side of the business. My work at Destination El Paso allows me to merge these interests together. I enjoy the operations process and how an event flows from booking, customer service, planning, to completion. I am excited for this opportunity to grow individually and with the company,” Ramirez said.

Cesar mainly grew up in El Paso and considered this his home. He is fluent in Spanish, enjoys writing, playing music and performing in bands during his free time. Congratulations Cesar!

Houston First Corporation’s Transformation of Jones Plaza Moves Forward After Donation from Art Patron and Native Houstonian Lynn Wyatt



Architect’s rendering of proposed plan for Lynn Wyatt Square for the Performing Arts.



Photo of Mayor Sylvester Turner, Lynn Wyatt, and Houston First Corporation Board Members, including Chairman David Minberg, at the October 7 announcement.

Jones Plaza, the keystone of Downtown Houston’s Theater District, has long been a go-to outdoor event destination for civic events, private parties, public concerts and more. Plans to reinvigorate the plaza have been in the works for some time, but the final piece of the puzzle- to secure the necessary funding to turn the largely concrete plaza into a verdant mixed-use space for events and leisure- has proven more difficult to put into place until recently.

On October 7, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner announced that art patron and philanthropist Lynn Wyatt contributed \$10 million to help transform Jones Plaza. The generous gift comprises the core of the \$29 million needed for the project. Funds have been raised through a capital campaign- with Houston’s Downtown Redevelopment Authority contributing \$10 million dollars and Houston First Corporation contributing an additional \$5 million. In honor of the generous gift and contribution to art and civic improvement, the plaza area will now be known as the Lynn Wyatt Square for the Performing Arts.

Jones Plaza was named for the family of Jesse H. Jones, noted entrepreneur and philanthropist with deep ties to Houston and the surrounding region. Both his family and the Houston Endowment, the charitable foundation established by Jones and his wife Mary Gibbs Jones, are strong supporters of the renaming of the square. “I have long been devoted to the arts because I believe that the arts, particularly the performing arts, are the soul of any city. This is such a wonderful honor and I am delighted that this beautiful Square for the Performing Arts will be enjoyed by my fellow Houstonians and visitors long after I am gone,” said Lynn Wyatt.

The redevelopment project is slated to begin Summer 2020 and will take approximately one year to complete. The design, from Rios Clementi Hale Studios, took inspiration from the cultural arts when reimagining the space as both a gathering place and a center of movement within downtown Houston. Urban green space combines seamlessly with water features and a variety of spaces suited to host performances and events- thematically linking it to the square’s home in Houston’s Theater District. A restaurant is also planned for the square. Event programming will support and enhance the Theater District’s current performances spaces, offering a new avenue to engage the public with the vibrant world of the performing arts in the city.

(Continued, next page...)

“At Houston First, we take great pride in delivering the best possible experience to our guests, whether they are visiting the city for the first time or exploring their hometown,” said John Gonzalez, Senior Vice President of Operations & General Manager, Houston First Corporation. “We offer programming that is inclusive, accessible, and unique, while encouraging the audience to push their boundaries and explore facets of Houston’s performing arts and entertainment scenes that may have seemed otherwise unapproachable before. The development of the Lynn Wyatt Square for the Performing Arts will expand our reach and allow more visitors to enjoy the best of the arts from Houston and beyond.” For more information, please visit www.houstonfirst.com.

Carrie’s Temporary Home



Toyota Center welcomed Carrie Underwood back to Houston for her *Cry Pretty Tour 360* on September 21. This marked her fourth Toyota Center performance, and first since 2016. The seven-time Grammy winner kicked off a string of five shows in seven days for the venue. Carrie Underwood is seen here with Toyota Center’s Hunter Segesta, Hillary Thomas and Rebecca Traylor.

‘One More Night’ With Phil Collins



Phil Collins made his triumphant return to Toyota Center on September 24th. It was the acclaimed hit maker’s first time back to Houston since 2004. The generational icon was greeted at the venue with a personalized pocket watch for his sold out show. Phil Collins is seen here with Toyota Center’s Ryan Thormaehlen, Hunter Segesta and Hillary Thomas.

Julie Pierce Named Senior Vice President at Henderson Engineers



Veteran Leader and Kansas City Civic Champion Joins Firm’s Executive Leadership Team
[Henderson Engineers](#) announces the promotion of [Julie Pierce](#) to senior vice president. This promotion was a natural next step for Pierce who stepped into a business unit leader role at Henderson last year following her successful tenure as the director of operations for the firm’s Kansas City, Missouri office. Pierce will help guide the firm’s growth along with its executive leadership team.

(Continued, next page...)

Since joining Henderson in 1998, Pierce has risen through the ranks from project manager to team leader to senior leadership. She will continue to operate as a business unit leader for Henderson, overseeing engineering teams that specialize in [K-12 education](#), [sports and recreation](#), [venue](#), [higher education](#), and [workplace](#) projects. Pierce also leads the firm's [architectural lighting](#) design group, which she cofounded in 2002.

“Julie has been a crucial part of our firm’s development since she joined us more than 21 years ago,” President and CEO [Rich Smith](#) said. “Her positive energy, diligence, integrity with clients, passion, and technical skill for her craft is unmatched. Julie has been a mentor and friend to so many during her tenure and has played a huge role in our record growth as a firm.”

“I am incredibly thankful to Rich and the entire leadership team for having the faith in me to grow into this exciting new challenge,” Pierce said. “Throughout my career at Henderson, I’ve been able to connect my passions to provide engineering solutions for our clients, mentoring and professional development to colleagues and students, and contribute to the revitalization and development of Kansas City. I am beyond grateful and can’t wait to see our firm continue to grow and change the industry.”

At Henderson, Pierce is passionate about professional development and cofounded Empow[HER], the firm’s dedicated women’s network. Created for women by women, the Empow[HER] program was designed to help propel women within the company and industry through collaboration and connections. Empow[HER] offers educational sessions, networking, and programs that foster the growth of professional relationships and encourages girls and young women to develop an interest in and eventually pursue careers in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) fields. Since the program was launched in 2014, membership has grown to more than 100 individuals. The group produces more than 15 internal and external programs each year, including the popular [Junior Engineering Day](#).

Pierce also is a member of numerous civic initiatives throughout Kansas City, including serving as the incoming chair of the [Downtown Council of Kansas City](#). After serving as vice chair of the organization and chair of the business retention and attraction committee, Pierce is poised to take over as the chair on Nov. 1 and is looking forward to helping advance key initiatives such as the Downtown KC 2030 Strategic Plan.

She is a member of the KC Chamber’s Executive Women’s Leadership Council, served on the board of directors for the American Institute of Architects (AIA) – Kansas City chapter, participates as a mentor in Lead to Read KC, and was a judge and mentor for Future City. In 2018, she was honored in the [Kansas City Business Journal’s “Women Who Mean Business”](#) class and received the [Groundbreaking Leadership STEMMY Award](#) from Central Exchange.

Also in 2018, Pierce was inducted into the [Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering Academy \(CEAE\)](#) at the University of Kansas. This prestigious recognition honors distinguished alumni and friends in recognition of professional achievements, civic service, advocacy, and support for KU CEAE. Pierce graduated from KU in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in architectural engineering.

Julie Pierce in her own words:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwDrlRKtqptbWvCKjmObckqZHxH?projector=1>

Carlo Sechi Named Director of Houston Operations for Henderson Engineers

Proven Industry Veteran Promoted to Senior Leadership Role



(See Carlo Sechi’s story next page...)

[Henderson Engineers](#) announces the promotion of [Carlo Sechi](#) to director of operations for the firm's [Houston](#) office. Sechi brings more than 24 years of engineering experience to the role, primarily in the Houston market.

“When we hired Carlo last year, we knew he had been a respected leader known for building great relationships in the Houston market for more than two decades,” Henderson President and CEO [Rich Smith](#) said. “His talent, experience, and authenticity have been the perfect fit to lead our growing Houston operation. He brings a ton of positive energy, is technically strong, and has a passion for building talent and culture. I look forward to Carlo’s leadership and vision as we continue to grow our team in the Houston market.”

“I’m thankful to the leaders at Henderson for allowing me the opportunity to step into this incredible position,” Sechi said. “Since joining the company last year, I’ve been amazed by the progressive culture and diversity of the firm. I’ve never seen a company so committed to growing its employees. I’m excited to see this team continue to deliver the innovation and quality Henderson is known for to our clients in Houston and beyond.”

Sechi has vast experience working on [healthcare](#), [higher education](#), [hospitality](#), [venue](#), and [workplace](#) projects.

The Henderson [Houston](#) office opened in 2002 as the first regional expansion of Henderson Engineers, which has now grown to 12 offices and more than 800 employees nationwide. The Houston location has 31 full-time employees, including 12 Professional Engineers.

Supported by Henderson’s national network, clients get the service and attention of a small, local firm powered by the resources of a large firm. The Houston team provides full-service [mechanical](#), [electrical](#), [plumbing](#), [fire and life safety](#), [architectural lighting](#), [refrigeration](#), [security](#), and [telecom](#) design services. Henderson Houston also has employees from [Henderson Building Solutions](#), a wholly-owned [construction management](#) subsidiary of Henderson Engineers, specializing in engineer-led design-build projects and [commissioning](#).

Prior to joining Henderson, Sechi spent 12 years with DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc./Jones DBR where he served as a partner and the director of higher education. Sechi has worked on notable projects such as NRG Stadium, Marriott Marquis Houston, and the entire Corps of Cadets Dorm and Quad renovation at Texas A&M University, his alma mater.

Sechi is a native of Palo Alto, California, and earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M in 1994.

ASM Global -DESTINATION EL PASO Seeks to Fill Facility Sales and Catering Manager

Position Summary: The Facility Sales and Catering Manager is responsible to enhance economic and social growth in El Paso by marketing, promoting and developing new business for Destination El Paso and the City through networking and developing sales in order to obtain goals.

Education and Experience: Bachelor’s degree in Hotel, Marketing and/or Business Administration, or closely related field. Two years of sales experience (preferably in catering sales), Equivalent in directly related work experience may be substituted. Have a proven record of accomplishment of successful meeting and convention selling, as well as a steady progression of increased responsibilities or college education or equivalent combination of education and experience.

For the complete job description or to apply, visit: <http://www.elpasolive.com/contact/jobs> or contact Emilio Velez, Human Resources Manager at: EVelez@destinationelpaso.com

ASM Global is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, and encourages Women, Minorities, Individuals with Disabilities, and protected Veterans to apply. VEVRAA Federal Contractor

B.B.F.N! Bye-bye for now!



Jeff Davis – CVE, CMP

Region 6 Director

Executive Director, College Park Center/Texas Hall
University of Texas at Arlington
jeff.davis@uta.edu

Meredith Imes

Region 6 Assistant Director/Vice-Director

Associate Director
United Supermarkets Arena
meredith.imes@ttu.edu

Sherman Bass, CVE – Past Region 6 Director

General Manager

Amarillo Civic Center Complex
sherman.bass@amarillo.gov

Kyle Baun – Region 6 Treasurer

Vice President of Ticket Sales and Event Sales
Western Stock Show Association
kbaun@nationalwestern.com

Kelly Graham – Region 6 Scholarship Chair

Facilities Operations Coordinator

Denver Performing Arts Complex, Arts and Venues
Kelly.Graham@denvergov.org

Nick Zazal, CVP - Region 6 Secretary

Director, Events & Patron Services

Walton Arts Center/Walmart AMP
nzazal@waltonartscenter.org

Chuck Rogers – Region 6 Allied Representative

Director of Business Development

Staff Pro

crogers@staffpro.com

Tim Seeberg – Region 6 Newsletter

Editor/Distribution ‘Guy’

General Manager

Fort Smith Convention Center

tseeberg@fortsmithar.gov

tseeberg1@gmail.com → Newsletter stuff



Thank you newsletter contributors this month!

Lucy Albers – SMG - Chesapeake Energy Center, Cox Convention Center

Mike Boschert - Budweiser Events Center at The Ranch

Alissa Cunningham – Trail Drive Management Corp. – Dickies Arena

Jeff Davis - Region 6 Director, College Park Center — Texas Hall — UTATickets, The University of Texas at Arlington

Courtney Delaware - College Park Center — Texas Hall, The University of Texas at Arlington

Holly Fields - Destination El Paso – El Paso Live

Alex Gilbert - Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas

Tyler Koonce –Henderson Engineers

Brian Nickerson – Allen Event Center

Katelyn Orenchuk – Houston First Corp. - George R Brown Convention Center

Ashley Peacock – Cox Business Center

Mollie Prince – Schuler Shook

Russell Read - City of Cedar Hill, TX

David Reeves – Will Rogers Memorial Center

Morgan Rhodes – First National Bank Arena

Hunter Segesta – Toyota Center

Emilio Velez - ASM Global -DESTINATION EL PASO

Britaney Wehrmeister – Overland Park Convention Center

Jennifer Wilson - Walton Arts Center & Walmart AMP

Jennifer Wolcott - Hot Springs Convention Center & Bank OZK Arena