



News Release
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Business Leaders, SXSW Founders Recognized at Austin Chamber's 134th Annual Meeting

AUSTIN – Jan. 24, 2011 – The Austin Chamber of Commerce will honor eight business leaders as Volunteers of the Year for 2011. The Volunteers will be honored during the Chamber's 134th Annual Meeting on Feb. 1, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hilton Austin, 500 E. Fourth Street. In addition, [the Chamber will recognize the leaders of South by Southwest \(SXSW\) as the 2011 Austinites of the Year](#), and outline the priorities for 2012.

Austin Chamber 2011 Volunteers of the Year

Regional Infrastructure and Development

Joe Cantalupo, area manager at Parsons Brinckerhoff, was a critical member of the Chamber's transportation leadership in 2011. He served on the Chamber's 2011 Transportation Executive Committee as the Federal Transportation Policy Chair and chaired the Federal Transportation Agenda Task Force. He also guided the Chamber's efforts in mapping regional employee origin and destination to better understand Central Texas commuter trend data.

Government Relations

David Reiter, general counsel at Luminex Corporation, served as the 2011 Austin Chamber Chair of Federal Issues Committee. He led the volunteer organization to develop the annual agenda on priority issue areas including innovation, clean energy, and health care that served as the basis for advocacy efforts for the delegation visit to Washington, D.C.

Marketing/Communications

Tracey Nelson, principal and cofounder of Maven Marketing Solutions, volunteered her time and expertise on the Council for Small Business Marketing. She was instrumental in helping with the Chamber's branding and marketplace reviews.

Education & Talent Development

Mark Curry, community bank president at Wells Fargo, served as the Chamber's representative and chair of the Austin Partners in Education Board of Directors since 2010. Curry led the change in APIE's strategic direction, improved its internal processes and controls, and focused APIE on strategies to build a college- and career-ready workforce.

Small Business

Ray Wolf, CEO and president of Green Integrated Services, led the Chamber's CEO Peer Advisory Program by pushing for promotional strategy, organizing a strong steering committee, and leading the group through its early existence. His persistence and strategic planning skills have been instrumental in the Chamber's 2011 small business development programming.

Membership

Michael Laing, assistant vice president of business development with Wells Fargo, is the 2012 chair of the membership ambassador program. He helps welcome first-year members, helping connect them with Chamber programs that suit their needs. Michael's commitment is exhibited in his having been named the "Ambassador of the Month" for seven out of 12 months in 2011.

Global Technology Strategies

John Price, CEO of Vast.com, is the Entrepreneurial Chair. He previously spent 11 years as vice president of marketing and business development at Trilogy Inc. and has heavily engaged the entrepreneurial community in the [Startup America Partnership](#) and the South by Southwest 2012 initiatives.

Economic Development

Rob Hutton of Lennar Corporation volunteered his time by participating in three of the Chamber's major marketing trips, and chaired the Eighth Annual Showcase Austin event.

In addition to honoring the SXSW leadership and outstanding volunteers for 2011, the Chamber will also review successes and outline priorities for 2012. Registration for this event is limited, but encouraged for both members and nonmembers -- visit austinchamber.com/annual.

MEDIA: Photos are available upon request. Email jgooding@austinchamber.com.

About the Austin Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Austin Chamber of Commerce is to provide leadership that facilitates the creation of a prosperous regional economy and effective advocacy for its members. Visit austinchamber.com

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