

TLMI LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The TLMI Leadership Council is comprised of 10 Texas rural hospital executives, distinguished scholars and industry leaders who share a common passion and vision for leadership development and are true leaders in their respective fields. We are honored to have their expertise, advice and leadership.



Jim Buckner, CEO, MS

Currently in his seventh year as Administrator of Uvalde Memorial Hospital, Jim Buckner has twenty years experience in Hospital Administration and another ten years in public health and education. Before taking the Uvalde position, Jim was at Cuero Community Hospital for eight years. Jim has a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University (1976) and a Master of Science degree from University of Houston – Clear Lake (1989). He enjoys his family, church service, the Rotary Club, fishing, camping, and playing golf. Jim particularly enjoys addressing the challenges of the rural hospital environment. From an EMS volunteer to the boards of TORCH and THA, and stints on the policy councils of AHA and NRHA, Jim has worked hard to be sure his rural community has the best access to quality hospital and physician services.



Nicholas Coppola, MHA, Ph.D., FACHE

Dr. Coppola has over twenty-eight years of executive leadership experience in complex organizations managing up to 1,400 personnel simultaneously with annual budgets up to \$122 million. He has worked in all areas of healthcare administration from managing ambulatory clinics, to being the chief operations officer of a large inpatient facility. Dr Coppola is currently the Program Director of the Master of Science, Clinical Practice Management degree program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC). He is also the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Regent for the West Texas Region. Dr. Coppola retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2008 after more than 26-years of officer and enlisted service. He served his last five years on active duty as an Associate Professor and Program Director of the Army-Baylor Graduate Program in Health & Business Administration - *as well as* - being dual appointed as the Founding Associate Dean for the Army Medical Department's Inaugural Graduate School. He has a Ph.D. in Health Services Organization and Research from the Medical College of Virginia Campus, Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Coppola is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a Fellow of the US Medicine Institute. Dr. Coppola is the author of over 100 articles and/or presentations on hospital administration and operations, and has presented papers and abstracts at conferences worldwide. Dr Coppola's significant awards and honors include the 9A proficiency designator from the Surgeon General (which identifies the top 1% of military personnel), being the immediate past ACHE Regent for Army, and recognition as the 2008 Medical Service Corps Mentor of the Year. In addition to Dr Coppola's academic appointment at TTUHSC, he also serves as a volunteer Chaplain for the University Medical Center, Lubbock, Texas.



Larry Gamm, Ph.D.

Larry Gamm is Professor and Head of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Texas A&M Health Science Center's School of Rural Public Health. He is also Director of the National Science Foundation-funded Center for Health Organization Transformation (CHOT). He also serves on the Board of Directors of the ACHE-Greater Houston Chapter, Chair of its Academic-Practice Interface Committee, and President of the Chapter's Local Program Council serving Bryan/College Station and surrounding 8 counties. He teaches, principally, the MHA capstone course on Health System Leadership and doctoral courses on organizational research and health system change. He is currently engaged in funded research or evaluation projects focused on health organization transformation, electronic medical records, health information exchange, medical homes, multi-project management, and disease management. He has also done recent research and publications on mental health and substance abuse, including a paper to the IOM Committee on the Future of Rural Health Care, and a national study of shortages of nurses and ancillary personnel among rural hospitals. Dr. Gamm serves on the National Advisory Commission and Rural Health and Human Services, advising the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services. He was Director of the Southwest Rural Health Research Center (2004-2007) in the School and was lead investigator and editor for the "Rural Healthy People 2010." He was awarded the 1993-94 Crosby Fellowship by the American Hospital Association and a 1997 Kellogg-funded Community Care Network Faculty Fellowship from Hospital Research and Education Trust to conduct work on community health partnerships. In 2006, he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Education and Mentoring from the Texas A&M Health Science Center. In 2008, he received the ACHE Regents Award. Having earned his PhD from the University of Iowa, he served on the faculty at Penn State University for over 25 years. He joined the faculty of the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health in 1999.



John Henderson, CEO, MBA

Since being named administrator of Childress Regional Medical Center in 2003, John Henderson has worked to ensure residents in the southeastern corner of the Texas panhandle will have access to quality healthcare for years to come. Prior positions include controller at Denton Regional Medical Center and student internships at his hometown hospital - Childress Regional Medical Center. Preparation for a career in healthcare administration includes a bachelors degree in Financial Management from Abilene Christian University and a MBA in Health Organization Management from Texas Tech University. John and his wife, Amber, are the parents of 3 children. John is an avid baseball fan and is known to his friends as "Johnny Baseball" because of his encyclopedic knowledge of baseball history, players and statistics. John is dedicated to improving healthcare for rural Texas residents. He has served on the boards of the Coalition of Health Services and TORCH and has worked with a number of committees for local, state and national healthcare organizations. He believes that rural Texans deserve the same access to high quality healthcare services enjoyed by residents of metropolitan areas.



Wallace Klussmann, Ph.D.

Dr. Wallace Klussmann of Fredericksburg, Texas is a ranch owner, certified wildlife biologist, and retired professor emeritus of Texas A&M University (TAMU). During his 30 years at TAMU he served as Extension Programs Leader, Marine Programs Leader, and Department Head in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. He is past president of the World Aquaculture Society, first president of the organization's United States chapter, and past president of the Texas Wildlife Society. He was named professor of the year twice at TAMU by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Klussmann received a bachelor's degree and doctoral

degree from TAMU and a master's degree from Sam Houston State University. Klussmann recently served as Chairman of the Governing Board of the Texas Department of Rural Affairs and currently serves on the Executive Board of the Texas Wildlife Association and is a Director for the Gillespie County Farm Bureau.



Howard T. Prince, II, Ph.D., Loyd Hackler Endowed Chair in Ethical Leadership

Howard Prince is director of the LBJ School's Center for Ethical Leadership at the University of Texas at Austin. From 1990 to 1996 he served as founding dean and Professor of Leadership Studies in the University of Richmond's Jepson School of Leadership Studies, where he was responsible for the development of the first undergraduate leadership degree program in the world. He also held the George and Virginia Modlin endowed chair in leadership studies in 1996-97. From 1978 to 1990 Dr. Prince was Professor and Head of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. While at West Point, he developed both graduate and undergraduate leadership programs and was instrumental in reshaping leader development throughout the U.S. Army. An honor graduate of West Point, Dr. Prince also holds a Master of Arts degree in international relations from American University; studied economics, history, political science, and sociology at the University of Bonn in Germany as an Olmsted Scholar; and earned a Ph.D. in psychology from The University of Texas at Austin. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College. A clinical psychologist, he is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association. After serving for more than 28 years in the United States Army, Dr. Prince was promoted to Brigadier General upon his retirement in 1990 and presented with the army's highest award for service, the Distinguished Service Medal.



Jan Reed, CEO, BBA, CPA

For over twenty years, Jan Reed has served as the CEO of Electra Memorial Hospital and the Electra Hospital District. During that time, the District has experienced remarkable growth and has expanded its operations several times to address the needs of the community. As CEO, she oversees operations that include a medical clinic, a retail pharmacy, a medical supply and home oxygen business, the local ambulance service and a licensed childcare center as well as the hospital and home health agency. Currently, she is involved in plans for a major renovation and expansion of the hospital building and is clearly dedicated to providing high quality medical services in her community. A graduate of Texas Tech University, Jan is also a certified public accountant. Prior to becoming CEO, she was the Chief Financial Officer for Electra Memorial Hospital. Always a strong advocate for rural and community hospitals, Ms. Reed is a past chair of TORCH and currently serves as a member of the TORCH Board of Directors. Jan also serves as an alternate delegate for the AHA Regional Policy Board 7, served on the THA Board and is actively involved with a number of other professional healthcare organizations. She is busy with her family, active in her church and community, and enjoys playing golf.



James Vanek, CEO, BBA

Since 1987, James Vanek has served as the Chief Executive Officer and Administrator of Lavaca Medical Center in Hallettsville, Texas. Mr. Vanek has overall responsibility for the Hospital District which includes Lavaca Medical Center, Lavaca Family Health Clinic and the Lavaca Medical Center Health & Wellness Center. His leadership and commitment have resulted in the delivery of quality care and increase reputation of delivering advanced services to the community. James has a Bachelor of Business Administration (1978) from University of Texas at Austin. In addition to the many accomplishments at the hospital, Mr. Vanek has held leadership positions with several civic organizations, including the Lions Club (Past President), Pecan Valley Area Health Education Center (Past President), and Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce (Past President). Mr. Vanek also serves on the Board of Directors of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals (TORCH), TORCH Foundation (Chairman), South East Texas Hospital Systems (STHS), Gulf Bend MHMR Center, Texas Golden Crescent Workforce Development, Texas Hospital Insurance Exchange (THIE), and the Victoria College Vocational Nursing Advisory Board.



Jack Walker, Vice President

Mr. Walker, a true healthcare pioneer, currently serves as the VP of the Meditech Practice at maxIT Healthcare and has over 35 years of experience in healthcare, executive leadership, management, consulting and high technology. He has expertise balancing strategic and tactical directions of organizations; innovative systems design and deployment; business planning/development; and health IT management, processing and operations. Mr. Walker possesses a strong leadership and managerial background, adopting a hands-on management style that encourages creativity, innovation and teamwork, yielding high employee motivation, retention and productivity. Leadership and management responsibilities have included creating and staffing vendor implementation organizations, information services departments, and information technology professional services consulting practices. Positions held include Hospital Consulting President/CEO, Senior VP for HIT Practice, Independent HIT Consultant, and proud veteran of the US Marine Corps. He is an avid golfer and active member of several professional organizations and associations. Mr. Walker is a strong advocate of leadership development and organizational performance improvement, and remains committed to improving healthcare quality and delivery in the US.



Tim Wright, President & Founder, MBA

Tim Wright, President of Wright Results, Inc., helps organizations improve performance through Employee Engagement. Tim helps people identify tactics to keep themselves engaged and do what they do well, even better. Tim has learned from his experience as a teacher, a manager, an executive, an entrepreneur, a prayer chaplain, and an older brother. Tim uses this learning to offer his expertise in Employee Engagement and performance improvement to leaders, managers and employees. Since 2000, Tim has worked with just over 250 clients, facilitating retreats, conducting management academies, and offering in-depth employee engagement training. In 2009 alone, Tim's conducted more than 25 teleclasses and webinars, all focusing on some practical aspect of Employee Engagement. Tim knows an organization can derive specifically targeted benefits when it bases its culture on employee engagement. He shows organizations how to build a Culture of Engagement by starting at the top and working down throughout the business population.