



Board2Board™ Austin, Texas - January 12, 2023

## CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOS



**Shawn Callaway** became the President and Owner of FI in August 2022. He started his career in nonprofit management in 1993, and has accrued 30 years of experience in nonprofit management and has been on the FI team since 2015. From religious and education to business and economic development nonprofits, Shawn has served in most roles of non-profits from Board Member all the way to President/CEO. Shawn was named a “Hometown Hero” in 2020 and “Businessperson of the Year” in 2022. Under Shawn’s leadership two different local Chambers have received Five Star Accreditation, the highest rating from the U.S. Chamber. Shawn also currently serves as the first executive director of the award-winning Aledo ISD Education Foundation, which has raised over \$3.5 million dollars since its founding in 2013. Shawn is actively involved in pro-education legislation and activism. After earning his degree from Texas Tech, he achieved certifications in adolescent education from Southern Methodist University and Princeton University.



**Laurie Cromwell, CFRE** was the first woman elected to an at large position on the local school board, the first woman school board president, the first president of the local education foundation, the first woman president of the local Economic Development Commission, and a founding Board member of the local Chamber of Commerce. She was the first person to receive Chamber Citizen of the Year and the first to receive the Outstanding Service Award by the Texas Pioneer Foundation. She started her mission in the nonprofit field in 1984 and in 2003 founded Foundation Innovation, a consulting firm that has guided hundreds of education foundations and school boards to success.



**Michelle Wallis** builds public-private partnerships that accelerate innovation and enhance opportunities for 80,000 students served by 129 schools in Austin ISD, including the revitalization of the Austin Ed Fund, Austin ISD’s public education foundation. Prior to her appointment, she served as the founding Executive Director for the Ann Richards School Foundation and the Senior Director of Community Investments at United Way’s Austin Chapter. Michelle holds a Master’s in Social Work from the University of Texas at Austin. She lives in Austin with her husband and two children where she enjoys running, live music and swimming at Barton Springs.



**Janet Bubert** focuses her practice on representing the boards of numerous independent school districts, charter schools, universities, community colleges and education foundations. She advises clients on all aspects of education law and represents schools in both federal and state courts and before the Texas Commissioner of Education as well as other federal and state agencies. Janet has significant experience advising schools about programs for students with disabilities and authored a book chapter on disability programs.

Janet regularly provides training for boards, school administrators and staff, and she is a frequent speaker at state and national education conferences. She was named a Rising Star by Thomson Reuters from 2007-2012 in Schools and Education Law in Texas Monthly and was included in the List of Top Attorneys from 2011-2015 for Education and School Law in Fort Worth, Texas Magazine.

Following law school, Janet served as a briefing attorney for the Honorable James A. Baker and the Honorable Michael Schneider, Justices of the Supreme Court of Texas.