

FOCUS Board Appointments

from the Office of Governor Bill Haslam



Janet Ayers

Janet Ayers serves as president of the Ayers Foundation, which focuses on increasing education opportunities for students in Tennessee. Mrs. Ayers is a recognized business leader and philanthropist, with over twenty years of experience in health care administration. She is active on a number of boards and previously served on the Tennessee State Board of Education and as a commissioner of the Tennessee Health Facilities Commission. She is a graduate of East Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in health care administration.

Steven DeCarlo

Steven DeCarlo is chief executive officer of AmWINS Group, Inc., a global specialty insurance distributor. Mr. DeCarlo serves on a number of boards in the financial services and insurance industry and has also been a supporting member of the East Tennessee State University Foundation. A resident of Charlotte, North Carolina, Mr. DeCarlo holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from East Tennessee State University.

David A. Golden

David A. Golden is senior vice president, chief legal and sustainability officer, and corporate secretary for Eastman Chemical Company. After working as an attorney in Atlanta, he joined Eastman in 1995. He has a history of service to the Kingsport area and has served on the advisory council for Western Governors University. He holds a bachelor's in accounting as well as a J.D. from Brigham Young University and completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 2012.

Dorothy Grisham

Dorothy Grisham owns and operates an Allstate Insurance agency in Chattanooga. An active citizen, Ms. Grisham has been locally involved with the Boy Scouts of America, the Chattanooga Urban League, and the Hamilton County Foster Care Review Board. She holds a bachelor's degree in social studies from East Tennessee State University.

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Linda Latimer, MD

Dr. Linda S. Latimer is an anatomic and clinical pathologist and the owner of Mountain Regional Pathology in Johnson City. She is also a clinical assistant professor in the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University, where she earned her medical degree.

Scott Niswonger

Scott Niswonger is the chairman and founder of the Niswonger Educational Foundation which he established in 2001 to create opportunities for individual and regional growth through educational programs, scholarships, and other charitable activities. Mr. Niswonger founded two transportation companies in Greene County and continues to serve as executive chairman of Landair Transport, Inc. and chairman emeritus of Forward Air Corporation. He earned a bachelor's degree from Tusculum College, Doctorate of Technology from Purdue University, and was honored with a Doctorate of Human Letters.

James Powell

James J. Powell founded Powell Companies, a diverse company encompassing cranes, steel erection, and design-and-construction for mineral processing facilities. Mr. Powell has served as chair of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, the University of Tennessee Development Council, and the East Tennessee State University Foundation. He graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The Honorable Ron Ramsey

Ron Ramsey is Lieutenant Governor of the State of Tennessee; he will retire from the position in November 2016. He is owner of Ron Ramsey and Associates, a realty company in Upper East Tennessee. Lieutenant Governor Ramsey holds a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from East Tennessee State University. He and his wife live in Blountville.

