

The Arkansas Business & Education Alliance

Heroes in Education Honorees

Bill Fisher

Don Munro

Archie Shaffer

Sherman Tate

Heroes in Education Honoree

Bill Fisher



Paragould City Light, Water and Cable Company considers itself blessed to have the leadership of Bill Fisher. As the General Manager of Paragould's utility company, Fisher is responsible for leading the \$50 million revenue organization into the 21st Century in a rapidly changing and challenging environment. Fisher has a diverse background which includes banking, insurance, hospital administration, education and an entrepreneur.

- He is a past member and chairman of the board of the Arkansas Board of Education.
- Mr. Fisher is president of the North Central Association of Colleges of Schools Board of Directors
- He is a member of several educational and banking boards and associations including Arkansas State University College of Business Advisory, Arkansas AdvanceEd State Council, Paragould School Board, Arkansas State Council of Economic Education, Arkansas Association of Bank Holding Companies and the board of Security Bank of Paragould.

Heroes in Education Honoree

Don Munro



Don Munro got his start in the shoe business in New Hampshire, working for Conners Hoffman Footwear. He came to Arkansas in 1959 to open a southern division of that company and in 1975 purchased the 3 factories that he had started which became Munro & Co., Inc. Since then he has made men's, women's and children's shoes for a large majority of American retailers. The list of honors bestowed on Don over the 50 years he has been in business is lengthy and diverse, though a few of the standouts are the following:

- 1985 - Recipient of the T. Kenyon Holly Award - the highest philanthropic honor in the shoe industry.
- 1992 - First recipient of the American Philanthropy Award from the Columbus Foundation - the 6th largest in the United States.
- 1992 - Recipient of the Arkansas Community Foundation Roots and Wings Award and the Lugean Chilcote Award; He served as President for 10 years for the Foundation.
- 2003 - The first footwear representative to serve as President of the American Apparel and Footwear Association.
- 2004 - Inducted into the Footwear Hall of Fame.
- 2005 - Inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame.

Heroes in Education Honoree

Archie Shaffer



Archie Schaffer, III is a product of Charleston, Arkansas. After graduation from Charleston High School, Archie completed a BS degree at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. After college, he worked for then Governor Dale Bumpers and later moved to Washington, DC and worked as the Administrative Assistant for Senator Bumpers.

He returned to Charleston in 1977 and served as the Administrator for the Greenhurst Nursing Home for approximately eight years. From 1987 until 1991, Archie served as the Executive Director for the Arkansas Business Council, the predecessor to the Arkansas Business & Education Alliance. In 1991 he began his career with Tyson Foods and served in the following positions:

- Director of Media, Public & Governmental Affairs (1991-1999)
- Senior Vice President, External Relations (1999 - 2009)
- Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs (2009 -)
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Nature Conservancy
- Member of University of Arkansas Agricultural Development Council
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute
- Member of the Northwest Arkansas Council
- Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Pryor Center at U of A
- Member of the Board of the University of Arkansas Foundation

Heroes in Education Honoree

Sherman Tate



Sherman E. Tate has established a record of service in communications, energy supply, government, education, and community affairs over the past four decades that has placed him at the highest level of leadership within Arkansas and the Middle South region. He has achieved outstanding performance through his recognized executive skills, energetic drive and willingness to “go the extra mile” in all his endeavors. Sherman has held senior management positions with the State of Arkansas, Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company and Alltel Corporation.

Sherman gained his first utility management experience with ARKLA Gas Company. He completed his ARKLA career as Vice President/Distribution Operations from 1991-1997 with responsibilities for managing over 1,100 professionals within the Arkansas Division (60% of the company revenue base). This was the first time that an African American, in the state of Arkansas, had been assigned the responsibility of managing a major operating unit of a corporation. Following is a portion of his extensive community service involvement:

- Past Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Philander Smith College
- Past chairman of the Greater Little Rock Chamber of Commerce
- The first and only African American to serve as Chairman of the Little Rock Chamber
- Served with distinction as an officer with the Arkansas Army National Guard reaching the rank of Colonel