

# BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION: Kirk Teske

Principal & Executive Vice President, HKS



## How did you become involved with the World Affairs Council?

Many of our board members and leadership are cyclists, including both our current and past presidents. I met Council President Emeritus Jim Falk when we were both asked by Emmitt Smith to help organize a fundraising ride for his charity. It was fortuitous and benefited me in my role as a Global Director.

## What's been your favorite Council event so far?

All the Mallon Award Dinners are monumental events...attended by Dallas' most influential people!

## What do you think "international" means to the DFW economy?

Growth! Dallas is a business centric city and a growing number of the businesses that call Dallas home have international reach. We cannot maintain growth or become the influential city we aspire to be without it.

## Sometimes we see listings of the planet's "global cities" and Dallas is not among them. What kind of things need to happen in DFW for it to achieve its highest global potential?

Past mayors Mike Rawlings and Betsy Price did a nice job of promoting the DFW region internationally. I believe their efforts helped elevate the awareness of the DFW area and one that our future city leaders should build upon.

## Is there a global issue or event that keeps you up at night?

The geopolitical instability caused by the worlds' dependence on fossil fuels is a concern for me. Much of my work is driven by a passionate interest in sustainable design and the transition to renewable energy sources.

## Where would you like to see the Council go in the future, and what kind of projects are you pursuing in your business?

At HKS, we have designed some great architecture internationally, but strategically we believe there is tremendous growth potential in the Middle East North Africa and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation regions. Creating more events that bring business leaders together to share experiences in these regions would be very valuable.

## What is your favorite country to (a) travel in, and (b) do business in?

Having just returned from following the Tour de France in the Alps and the Pyrenees, I must say I greatly enjoyed southern France. Southeast Asia is also a very magical place and one where I am focused on growing our business.

## Do you think it's important for our DFW workforce – and future workforce – to have a global perspective?

Diverse perspectives always improve the quality of our architectural design solutions, so we strive to be as diverse as possible. Such diversity is always helpful in winning new design commissions around the world.

## What has the World Affairs Council meant to you / or to your business?

As a Global Director of an international design firm, the World Affairs Council has provided many opportunities for me to meet influential people from around the world and broaden my understanding of global opportunities.