

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS | Jocelyn Ansley



How did you become involved with the World Affairs Council?

After relocating from Houston to Dallas, I was visiting with one of my trusted professional mentors, Keith Cargill, and asked for his advice on organizations that he thought I might enjoy being a member of in the DFW community. Very emphatically, he suggested World Affairs Council! Little did I know at the time, he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of WAC. Thus, he recruited a Meridian YP that day!

What's been your favorite Council event so far?

It really is hard to choose just one; however, I would have to say it was the event in which we co-hosted His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama at the Bush Center in the summer of 2015. Being part of such a historical event in Dallas and witnessing such a prominent global democratic leader's wisdom and humility on stage was truly a life changing event for me. In fact, this event was the impetus for me traveling to visit His Holiness' monastery in Dharmasala, India in June 2019.

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

I think international means attracting diverse perspectives and business representation. We are fortunate to have business and political leaders over the past ~50 years who were proactive in trying to bring DFW to the forefront of an international audience. Their hard work definitely paid off as evidenced by the unprecedented growth of the DFW economy during this time. One of the major reasons why so many foreign companies have started investing in and transacting business in DFW is that this region has the unique proposition of being an international economic force lead by people who have genuine, Texas spirits.

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?

I think DFW is on the right trajectory to achieving this "status." Over the past decade, I've seen a huge shift in the international scene throughout DFW. I've witnessed more of an assimilation of culture throughout the region in terms of business representation, cultural events, and restaurants, just to name a few. Therefore, I think if we can maintain our pro-business mentality, along with maintaining a relatively lower cost of living, we will keep attracting international diversity to DFW.

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

Human rights issues - Living in such an esteemed and powerful society, it is hard to reconcile how and why so many people throughout our world still struggle with basic human rights, which we are so fortunate to have as part of our freedoms in the U.S.

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

The Council does amazing educational work in high schools throughout the region through the JWAC Program. I would like to see this work expanded and made even more available to students.

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

I have been fortunate to visit many countries in my adult life and my favorite so far has been Japan. The genuine hospitality, culture, and food are in a league of their own! To date, most of my business dealings are domestic in nature; however, I've worked on professional teams with people from around the world as we are all part of such a global workforce. To this point, I appreciate working alongside people from other countries as it gives me opportunities to learn about new customs and cultures.

Do you think it's important for our DFW workforce – and future workforce – to have a global perspective? (You might want to give an example from your business.)

Absolutely, in this day and age, it is hard not to encounter some aspect of ethnic diversity in our day to day lives. Therefore, the sooner we start learning about and are exposed to global perspectives, the sooner we can cultivate a genuine appreciation for how much value can be added by bringing global perspectives to the table.

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

WAC has really become a big part of my life. I love being around intellectually curious, motivated, and caring people – which I am constantly surrounded by within the WAC community.