



BARBARA BUSH
HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2024

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**BARBARA BUSH HOUSTON LITERACY FOUNDATION
ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

*Prairie View A&M Past President and George & Barbara Bush Foundation Retired
CEO to Help Advance Literacy Mission.*

HOUSTON – The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation (Foundation) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new board members – Ruth Simmons, Ph.D., Past President of Prairie View A&M, and David Jones, former CEO of the George and Barbara Bush Foundation – expanding the board to 11 members.

“We are honored that Dr. Simmons will lend her vast knowledge of education and passion for literacy as a board member of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation,” said Neil Bush, Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation Co-Founder and Chairman. “She truly understands firsthand the value of instilling a love of reading and education success as keys to a realizing one’s full potential and living the American Dream.”

Ruth Simmons, Ph.D., served as the eighth president of Prairie View A&M University from 2017 until 2023. From 2001 to 2012, she served as the 18th president of Brown University, where she was the first African American president of an Ivy League institution. In 1995 she led Smith College, our nation’s largest women’s college. Dr. Simmons is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, an honorary fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, and a *Chevalier* of the French Legion of Honor. She currently advises Harvard University regarding relationships with historically Black universities and serves as President’s Distinguished Fellow at Rice University. Dr. Simmons earned her bachelor’s degree on scholarship from Dillard University and a master’s degree and doctorate in romance literature from Harvard University. In 2023, she released a memoir, *Up Home: One Girl’s Journey* about her journey growing up in the segregated South, including Houston’s Greater Fifth Ward, and the people who influenced her on her path to leading some of our nation’s most prestigious institutions.

“I am excited and honored to be a part of the important mission of the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation in expanding access to high-quality literacy programs and resources to children and families across our city,” said Ruth Simmons, Ph.D. “Reading has been a personal passion of mine since childhood and a skill that I have promoted to thousands of students with whom I have engaged during my long academic career.”

“David Jones is a tremendous addition to our Board of Directors,” said Neil Bush. “He has been a personal friend of my family for decades. He was instrumental in working alongside my father, President George H.W. Bush, to fundraise for many efforts, including building an endowment for the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station. His passion for carrying forth my parent’s legacies and his experience in helping position nonprofits for long-term success will be invaluable as we embark on the next decade of difference making through the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation.”

David Jones is the past President and CEO of the George & Barbara Bush Foundation (formerly the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation) where he served from 2016 until he retired in 2021. During his term, David executed a strategic plan over the next five years and led the foundation's fundraising and programming including opening a satellite office in Houston to strengthen relationships throughout the Bush’s hometown. Prior to his post at the foundation, David served as managing principal at Houston-based Dini Spheris, where he was also a longstanding Board member, principal, and consultant. During his 28 years with Dini Spheris and its predecessor, Dini Partners, David helped guide the company's growth into one of the nation's leading fundraising consultancies. Prior to his work at Dini Spheris, David served as vice president and president of the American Productivity and Quality Center in Houston. David is a long-time friend of the Bush family and worked with President George H.W. Bush, fundraising for his presidential library at its founding and then building an endowment. He and his wife, Pat, have served on the host committee of *A Celebration of Reading*, the signature fundraiser for Barbara Bush’s cause of literacy, since its creation 30 years ago.

“The Bush Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation has done an incredible job over the past decade carrying forth Barbara Bush’s legacy interest in literacy by elevating literacy as a priority, cultivating community partnerships, and investing in research-backed programs,” said David Jones. “Mrs. Bush was proud of all that was accomplished before she passed away and proud of everyone involved. I look forward to serving on the board of directors and being a part of its continued success in changing lives through literacy.”

Additional members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors include Neil Bush; Maria Bush; Martha Carnes, retired Pricewaterhouse Coopers Partner; Stephen Maislin, CEO of Greater Houston Community Foundation; Y. Ping Sun, Counsel at Yetterman Coleman LLP; Pam Wells, Ed.D., retired Executive Director for Region 4 Education Service Center; Greg Garland, Executive Chairman of the Board of Phillips 66; Juliet Stipeche, Executive Director of Houston-Galveston Area Council; and Terri Lacy, Partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth.

About the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation

The Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation is a charitable organization formed by Neil and Maria Bush to carry forth First Lady Barbara Bush’s legacy in the literacy cause and to focus deeply on breaking the intergenerational cycle of low literacy in the Bush family’s hometown. Founded on Mrs. Bush’s belief, “If you help a person to read, then their opportunities in life will be endless,” the Barbara Bush

Foundation's mission is to improve lives through the power of literacy. Over the past 10 years, the Foundation has spearheaded innovative literacy programs and expanded access to high-quality services and resources that empower children, families, and adults with the support they need to learn how to read, write, and comprehend. For more information, visit www.barbarabushhouston.org or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bushhoustonliteracy on Twitter @bushhoustonlit and on Instagram @bushhoustonlit.

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