



Aurora Collegiate Academy Board of Directors

Phillip May joined Aurora Collegiate School's board of directors in 2015. Phillip is currently President of Memphis and West TN for Renasant Bank and has 25 years of banking experience. He currently serves on the board and Treasurer of River City Capital, Trustee and Board Member of Collierville Soccer Association, volunteer and character coach for Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Ridgeway High School in Memphis. Previously, Phillip also served on the board of Community LIFT, a graduate of Leadership Memphis and an active volunteer and leader for other community organizations.

Kelly Davis has served on the Aurora Board since 2013. He is the Senior Director of Development for the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and has 10 years of development experience at UT and the University of Memphis. Kelly is a graduate of the New Memphis Institute Fellows program, a member of the UT Martin Alumni Council, and involved locally with Hope Church and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, among other organizations.

Patrick H. Morris is a current member of the Board of Directors for Aurora Collegiate Academy, where he serves a Chair of the Governance Committee. He is an attorney with the law firm Apperson Crump PLC, practicing in the area of civil litigation. He is a member of the Memphis Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, National Bar Association, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Jennie Dill has served on the Aurora Board since 2014. She is currently the Corporate Controller at nexAir, LLC after beginning her career in public accounting as a Senior Manager in the Memphis office of KPMG, LLP. Jennie holds a Bachelor of Accountancy and a Master of Professional Accountancy from Mississippi State University.

Deshundra Davis joined the Aurora Board in April 2018. She is an IT Project Manager at International Paper where she has gained 9 years of IT experience. Deshundra has a passion for the community and is a proud graduate of the NEXUS Leaders and New Memphis Institute Fellows programs. She serves on the Fellows Advisory Board at New Memphis Institute. Deshundra is also an active member in the Junior League of Memphis where she currently serves as the LEAD Chair. She has been slated to serve as the Volunteerism Scholarship Chair for the upcoming year. She is also involved at her church, First Baptist Church – Broad by serving as one of the Children's Ministry Coordinators. Deshundra completed her education at Mississippi State University earning a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Information Systems.



Ashley Morales joined the Aurora Collegiate School's board in September of 2018. Mrs. Morales serves as a bilingual parent liaison and has been volunteering since 2016. She is also a parent of a 3rd grade scholar. Mrs. Morales is a California State University graduate, with a degree in Child Development.

Gabriel (Gabe) McGaha has been an Aurora Collegiate Academy Board Member since February 2016 and currently serves on the Governance Committee. Gabe is an attorney in the Memphis office of Fisher Phillips, LLP law firm, where his practice focuses on litigating and counseling clients on a variety of employment-related matters. In addition to serving on the Aurora Collegiate Academy Board, Gabe is also a member of the Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court. Gabe was also a member of the 2017 Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law (TBALL) Class.

William Ray has been on the Aurora Collegiate Academy board since May of 2018. William is a Senior Manager in the tax practice of BDO USA, LLP. William provides a wide range of tax services to clients ranging from closely held businesses to Fortune 500 corporations, including the management of annual tax engagements and assisting with the tax accounting for mergers and acquisitions. His areas of experience include corporate taxation, consolidated returns, partnerships, and multi-national taxation. William earned a Bachelor of Accountancy and a Master of Taxation from Mississippi State University.

Jessica Reeves has been on the Aurora Board as a member since 2017. She is a Real Estate Attorney at Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis, LLP. She has been practicing law since 2013. Jessica is also on the Management Committee for the Memphis District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI). Jessica is a graduate of the New Memphis Institute Fellows program, and involved locally with Hope Church, among other organizations.

Rachel Woods has been on the Aurora Board since 2016 and is the current fundraising chair. She is a Vice President in Fixed Income Strategies at SunTrust Robinson Humphrey and has 8 years of experience in Fixed Income Capital Markets at STRH. Rachel is a proud graduate of Rhodes College.

Lauren Wittber has served as the Co-Treasurer of the Board of Directors for Aurora Collegiate Academy since joining the Board approximately four years ago. She is the Associate Director of Accounting for GTx, Inc. Lauren is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Accountancy and a Master of Professional Accountancy from Mississippi State University.



Luther Mercer joined Whole Child Strategies in January of 2018 and brings a wealth of background and experience having worked in education, government relations and policy for over 15 years. Previously, Luther was the Memphis Advocacy Director for the Tennessee Charter School Center, working with school operators, the Shelby County School Board, County Commission, and other community partners to advance policy efforts aligned with the needs of Tennessee charter schools. Luther has a diverse education background as well. He holds degrees from Tennessee Technological University and Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Further, he studied International Trade Law, International Criminal Law and the Islamic Legal System at American University in Cairo, as well as, Certificates in TEFL Methodology and Mandarin Chinese and Culture from Beijing University, and an Instructor's License in Entrepreneurship Training from the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri. Furthermore, Luther has been involved in politics in the state for over 20 years.

Reese Hodges joined Aurora Collegiate Academy's board in 2018. He is the President of Lifesigns and HealthyHere, which provide comprehensive physicals and preventative care. Reese sits on a number of boards including the Kemmons Wilson Family Foundation, West Clinic Founders Board and The Chandler School Board of Trustees in Greenville, SC, where he serves as Chairman, among others. He is married to Meg West Hodges, a pediatrician at LeBonheur Children's Hospital. They have baby boy, West, who is the highlight of their life.

Justin Lawhead serves as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the University of Memphis. He has more than 20 years of experience in higher education in the areas of student leadership training, program coordination, advising and assessment. He directs a comprehensive student development program designed to enhance the educational experience for University of Memphis students. His research interests include the impact of social media on identity development and co-curricular contributions to employment competencies. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Education in Educational Counseling from the University of Pittsburgh. He earned his Doctor of Education in Higher Education Administration from the University of Memphis by completing his dissertation studying the effects of fraternity and sorority participation on leadership identity development.