

Wednesday, March 3 – Governor Bill Lee & Commissioner Bob Rolfe: Leadership, Resiliency, and the Economy in a Time of Change

Governor Bill Lee discusses leadership and resiliency during a year of change

Bill Lee is a seventh-generation Tennessean and the 50th Governor of Tennessee. He was raised in Franklin, where he still resides today with his wife, Maria, on his family’s farm. He’s the proud father of four adult children (Jessica, twin sons Jacob and Caleb, and Sarah Kate) and eight grandchildren. After attending Williamson County Schools, Governor Lee attended Auburn University, where he studied Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, he returned home to Franklin to join the family business his grandfather started in 1944, a comprehensive mechanical construction service company. He became president of Lee Company in 1992. Now, Governor Lee is focused on several priorities including supporting Tennessee students, strengthening families and investing in rural Tennessee.

Commissioner Bob Rolfe: Tennessee’s Economic Outlook: The state of the economy pre-post pandemic, and what’s on the horizon for the state’s economic growth.

Bob Rolfe serves as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development: responsible for recruiting business and industry to the state, supporting existing companies, expanding economic opportunities across rural Tennessee and boosting the state’s overall economic prosperity. During Rolfe’s tenure, he has led Tennessee’s efforts in the recruitment and expansion of over 130 international projects, which represent an investment of \$6.5 billion and 21,000 job commitments. Since 2017, TNECD has placed a major focus on job creation and community development in rural Tennessee, providing more than \$380 million in funding to rural communities throughout the state, seeing collaborative corporate investing at \$7 billion, and committing to create 27,500 new jobs in rural communities. Rolfe has served as TNECD commissioner since March 2017 and under his leadership, TNECD has increased Tennessee’s global footprint.

Tuesday, April 6: Marvin Ellison, CEO of Lowe’s Companies Inc.: Fireside Chat: Ethics, Strategy & Giving Back

Marvin Ellison has served as President and CEO of Lowe’s Companies, Inc., since July 2018. Ellison has more than 30 years of leadership and operational experience in the retail industry, including expertise in managing a large network of stores and employees, and global logistics networks. He most recently served as Chairman and CEO of JCPenney Co., where he implemented a turnaround strategy that improved the company’s balance sheet, increased store productivity, optimized operations and grew key categories. He has extensive experience in the home improvement industry, having spent 12 years in senior-level operations roles with Home Depot Inc., where he served as EVP of U.S. stores from 2008 to 2014. He serves on the board of directors for FedEx Corporation, Retail Industry Leaders Association, and he is on the board of trustees for his alma mater, The University of Memphis. Ellison’s professional and civic leadership has earned him many accolades; most notable are “Father of the Year” by the National Father’s Day Council in 2017, Fortune’s “World’s Greatest Leaders” in 2016 and “Corporate Executive of the Year” in 2016 by Black Enterprise. Marvin is committed to serving minority youth through mentoring programs aimed at instilling self-empowerment and excellence and promoting higher education.

Tuesday, May 4: Karen Martin, President of TKMG, Inc.: Clarity First

Clarity: It’s a simple concept, yet strikingly elusive. Lack of clarity collectively costs companies, educational institutions, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations billions of dollars per year, inserts unnecessary risk into every decision or action, drains organizations of the energy needed for productive effort, and causes customers to question whether the organization is capable of delivering value. Drawing on her latest book, *Clarity First*, Martin reveals how to use clarity to unleash potential, innovate at higher levels, and solve problems more effectively. As President of the global consulting firm TKMG, Inc. and President and Founder of TKMG Academy, Inc., Martin is a leading authority on business performance improvement, problem solving, and Lean Management Systems. Her clients have included Fortune 500 companies in nearly every industry and government agencies at local, state, and federal levels. She’s also the multiple award-winning author of *Clarity First* and four other books.

Tuesday, June 22: Ketch Secor, lead singer of the Grammy award winning string band Old Crow Medicine Show

Will the Circle Be Unbroken: A reflection on life, country music, Nashville, and diversity's place "In the Circle."

Join us as we watch Ketch Secor's TEDxNashville presentation, and have one-on-one time with Ketch discussing diversity, equity and "pulling out a chair" of inclusion. Ketch Secor co-authored the Grammy Award Winning song 'Wagon Wheel' with Bob Dylan, and, in 2014, launched Episcopal School of Nashville in the East Nashville Area.

Thursday, August 26: Karen Martin, President of TKMG, Inc: Clarity First Workshop

A lack of clarity costs companies, educational institutions, government agencies, and nonprofits billions of dollars a year. Beyond the red ink, this lack of clarity also inserts unnecessary risk, demotivates team members, and causes customers to question whether the organization can deliver value; lack of clarity creates interpersonal tension and hurts the mission of otherwise well-meaning leaders. In this workshop, Martin will share what clarity is and how a lack of clarity erodes trust and leads to poor performance—both organizationally and personally. She shares powerful ways to operate with greater clarity to unleash the potential of people and organizations alike.

Friday, September 17: Dr. Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins, DE&I STRATEGY: Methodologies that Visualize Organizational Culture that is Driven by Difference

A two-time award-winning national journalist, health disparities activist, and dynamic speaker, Dr. Kevin Ahmaad Jenkins is one of the most electrifying voices in America, dedicated to eliminating racial health disparities. He delivers evidence-based solutions to dismantle the effects of historical and current racist-based decision-making. Dr. Jenkins shares experiences and knowledge through powerful presentations, lasting empathy, and straight-talks to provide strategies focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion-to-action. He has successfully navigated academics, healthcare, and corporate arenas as both a thought-leader and consultant, working with notable clients such as McKesson Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson, McDonald's, Duke University, and Virginia Department of Health and Human Services. Audiences learn how to face and work through racial crisis and societal injustice, how to authentically recruit & retain top talent from underrepresented groups, and develop strategic plans and playbooks that roadmap internal & external equitable best practices.

Tuesday, October 12: Fareed Zakaria: Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World/The Post-American World

Lenin once said, "There are decades when nothing happens and weeks when decades happen."—we are living in a moment in time when history has drastically sped up. CNN host and best-selling author Fareed Zakaria helps us to understand the nature of a post-pandemic world: the political, social, technological, and economic consequences that may take years to unfold.

Wednesday, November 17: Carol Rollie Flynn, President of the Foreign Policy Research Institute: Leadership in Crisis

Carol Rollie Flynn is president of The Foreign Policy Research Institute, a premier think-tank that produces high quality scholarship and nonpartisan policy analysis in the areas of national security and international affairs. Drawing on her experiences as a CIA Chief of Station, Flynn relates fascinating anecdotes from her clandestine career to demonstrate the best practices and pitfalls of crisis leadership. A 30-year veteran of the CIA, Flynn held senior executive positions including Director of CIA's Leadership Academy, Director of the Office of Foreign Intelligence Relationships, Associate Deputy Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Executive Director of the CIA Counterterrorism Center, and Chief of Station in major posts in Southeast Asia and Latin America. Flynn is also the Founder and former Managing Principal of Singa Consulting, a professional services firm that provides security leadership services to the private sector and government.

Friday, December 10: Heather McGowan, Author: The Adaptation Advantage: Let Go, Learn Fast, & Thrive in the Future of Work

Future-of-work strategist Heather E. McGowan helps leaders prepare their people and organizations for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The Third Industrial Revolution, marked by computerization and automation of physical labor, laid the foundation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which will be notable for the rapid advancement of technology tools into the domain of human knowledge work. In this world, humans must continuously learn and adapt, and with this transition comes information overload. McGowan gives lucidity to this topic through her illuminating graphic frameworks and powerful metaphors, all backed by deep research. In 2017, LinkedIn ranked her as its number one global voice for education. Pulitzer Prize-winning NYT columnist Thomas Friedman frequently quotes McGowan in his books and columns and describes her as "the oasis" when it comes to insights into the future of work. McGowan's sessions help employees and leaders alike prepare for and adapt to jobs that do not yet exist. She is a Forbes contributor and the co-editor and author of the book *Disrupt Together: How Teams Consistently Innovate*.