



Jennifer Bartkowski Honored for Leadership Excellence

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas CEO named a finalist for D CEO Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship award

[DALLAS, TX] — Jennifer Bartkowski, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas (GSNETX), has been named a finalist in the Leadership Excellence (Mega) category for D CEO’s 2022 Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship awards, presented in partnership with the Communities Foundation of Texas.

The annual awards honor professionals and organizations in the nonprofit and corporate sectors that make a positive impact on the Dallas-Fort Worth community. The Leadership Excellence category recognizes an exceptional nonprofit organization CEO, executive director, or board chair.

“I’m both thrilled and honored to be named a finalist in the D CEO Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship awards,” Jennifer said. “This recognition could not have been earned without the work of our GSNETX staff, board, and incredible volunteers who continue to propel us forward in our work to foster the leaders of tomorrow. I fervently believe that within each girl, no matter their background, ethnicity, religion, academic pursuits or experience, lies a leader, and that it’s up to us as a community to help youth harvest their leadership abilities.”

Jennifer’s leadership and efforts championed in the Dallas community are shaping the curriculum, leadership program, outdoor experiences, mental health programming, and DEI efforts of Girl Scouts of the USA.

With the need for more girls to be introduced to possibilities and experiences that STEM careers provide and build their confidence in STEM skills at a younger age, Jennifer set her sights on the creation of the STEM Center of Excellence in southwest Dallas. The \$15 million STEM Center of Excellence is the first of its kind—a living laboratory for girls to explore science, technology, engineering, and math.

Even before the implications of the pandemic were made clear, Jennifer’s foresight and leadership had plans in place for programming to address challenges in mental health and social and emotional learning gaps. Years ago, Jennifer began a long-term strategic plan to address the mental health challenges faced by girls. Once the impact of the pandemic on girls was made clear, the mental health programming efforts were fast-tracked so that GSNETX could deliver mental health support to girls, parents, and volunteers, in partnership with experts in the community such as the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, UT Southwestern, UTD Center for BrainHealth and Grant Halliburton, among others.

“In her role at GSNETX, Jennifer is presented with the challenge of keeping Girl Scouts programming relevant and life-changing, while maintaining the integrity and values of the 110-year-old program,” said Donna Epps, board chair at GSNETX. “Today, GSNETX is a vibrant example of 21st century Girl Scouts, thanks to Jennifer’s vision and leadership.”

Jennifer and the other finalists will be recognized at an awards ceremony in July. To read the full list of finalists, click [here](#).

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We Are Girl Scouts

Whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike or advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges. Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas serves girls and adult volunteers across 32 counties. To change the workforce pipeline in STEM and meet the urgent need for female voices, engagement, and leadership in the fastest growing sector of the U.S. economy, Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas opened the STEM Center of Excellence in 2018. The STEM Center is a 92-acre state-of-the-art camp just outside of Dallas where girls can experience programs in astronomy, robotics, coding, computer science and more. Recently, the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Board of Directors was recognized with Dallas Business Journal's Outstanding Directors Award and received the Luminary Award from SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development. Learn more at gsnetx.org or call 972-349-2400.