

Bruce T. Benbrook

Bruce T. Benbrook is a native of Woodward, graduating from high school in 1972. He received his B.S. degree in Finance from Oklahoma State University in 1976, where he served as student body president, was named "Outstanding Male Graduate", was selected "Outstanding Senior in the College of Business" and received the "Outstanding Greek Man" award.

Benbrook is currently the chairman of the board of the Stock Exchange Bank in Woodward, a position he has held since 1981. Since 2006 he has served as chairman of the board of First Oklahoma Life and Casualty Reinsurance Company Ltd. He has been very active in Woodward, serving as president of the Woodward Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Foundation, United Fund, Woodward Education Foundation and Lion's Club. In 1991 he was named Woodward's "Citizen of the Year."

He is a member of the First United Methodist Church where he has served in numerous capacities including chairman of the administrative board, has served three terms on the board of Woodward Hospital and Health Center and as a treasurer for four years, and has served two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the State Chamber of Commerce. He served two terms as a trustee of the Advantage Health Plans Trust.

In 1990, Benbrook served as president of the Oklahoma Bankers Association and represented Oklahoma in numerous capacities at the federal level with the American Bankers Association. He has held numerous positions at OSU including being chairman of the Board of Regents in 1994 and as national president of the OSU Alumni Association in 1990. In addition he has served two terms on the Board of Governors of the O.S.U. Foundation. He also served as chairman of the Woodward Advisory Committee to the President of Northwestern Oklahoma State University. He received O.S.U.'s "Distinguished Alumni" award in 1995 and was named one of the OSU Spears School of Business 100 Outstanding Graduates in 2014. He served as president of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence in 2001-2002 and has served as a member of the Board of Directors for 18 years and several terms on the Executive and Management committees. He served two terms as the District 6 Commissioner for the Oklahoma Transportation Commission and as chairman of the audit committee. He established the first lectureship for the Woodward branch campus of NWOSU.

Benbrook was a founding director of the Woodward Education Foundation and served two terms as president. He served as chairman of Oklahoma Tomorrow, a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, treasurer and vice-chair of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, and was on the board of the Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma, which he served as secretary. He currently serves as chairman-elect of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and the Gaylord-Pickens Museum. He is a member of the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center State Advisory Board. He was a board member of the Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma from 1996-2003 and served as a member of the "Citizens Commission on the Future of Oklahoma Higher Education and served as a committee chair for the "Task Force on the Future of Higher Education".

He served as Chairman of Leadership Oklahoma in 2014-2015 and was a member of Class XIII where he received the "Golden Bull" award. He received the Leadership Oklahoma "Distinguished Leadership" award in 2016. He was selected to receive the "Distinguished Graduate Award" from Leadership Oklahoma in 2019.

In 2000 he started the first "Adopt-A-School program in Northwest Oklahoma when the bank adopted the Westwood Kindergarten Center to assist the school in numerous ways. He has received the Woodward Education Association "Friend of Education" award on three different occasions. In 2011 he received the "Partners in Progress" award from the High Plains Technology Center for his support of the center. He received the first "C.E. Williams" award for his support of the Plains Indians and Pioneer Museum. He was named the "Woodward Boomer Booster of the Year" in 2013 and in 2014 received the American Red Cross "Community Hero Award for Humanitarian Service." In 2015 he was named one of Oklahoma's Most Admired CEOs by the Journal Record.

In 2006, the bank received the Earl Sneed Memorial Business Award from the State Arts Council for support of the arts in our state and in 2010 he was selected for the Barbara Lynch "Community Partner" award from the Oklahoma State School Boards Association for outstanding service to public education in Oklahoma and Woodward Public Schools. He established the first STREAM after school program for Woodward schools.

Bruce and his wife Sheryl have two daughters, Rachel, a graduate of OSU and Leeds University in England, and Julia, a graduate of OSU.