

## **Bio**

### **James L. Williams**

James Williams, a dynamic business executive with international and domestic experience in operations, finance and administration, currently serves as Executive Director of SIRE (Therapeutic Equestrian Centers), which he joined in 2004. This 26-year-old 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization provides horseback riding and related therapeutic activities for children and adults with disabilities. Under William's leadership, SIRE has doubled its fund raising, grown its ridership from 146 to 270 in 2008, expanded locations to better facilitate growth and incorporated common technology practices to manage multiple sites.

Williams has a proven corporate track record as a strong leader and team builder and has been responsible for increasing asset value and producing profits in a variety of economic environments for both companies and non-profit organizations. He began his business career in Houston in 1973 with Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, where he was Vice President and Southwest Regional Manager in Houston. Subsequently, Williams was promoted to Area Vice President, Europe, during which time he lived in London.

Following his time in Europe, Williams worked for Underwood, Neuhaus & Company, Inc. in Houston starting in 1979 as Vice President in the corporate finance department and then at First City Leasing, part of First City Bancorporation of Texas, Inc., where he worked for eight years until 1989. After his stint at First City, Williams conducted a successful turnaround of the financial services division of MPSI, Inc., a worldwide banking software and consulting firm, which generated a profit for the first time in five years.

From 1990-93, Williams was Managing Director for Williams and Associates in Dallas, which specialized in crisis management and financial turnarounds. During this time he served as interim CEO for a hosiery company and a software development firm, in addition to concluding an analysis of management compensation for BancTexas, a publicly-traded bank holding company for The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Williams held key financial positions with technology-related firms in Houston from 1993 to 2001, including Ikon Office Solutions, INSYNC Internet Services, Inc. and Network Technologies, International, LLC. In 2001, he was named as President and Chief Operating Officer of BancLeasing Corporation,

which manages the equipment-leasing portfolio for 187 community banks in 37 states.

As Managing Director for Global Services, LLC from 2002-2004, Williams oversaw the operations of finance, sales, service, information technology and advertising/public relations. Global Services is a 50/50 partnership with Kyocera America, a New York Stock Exchange company headquartered in New Jersey. Williams left the firm in September 2004 to take the helm of SIRE, which is not just his profession but also his passion.

Williams is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. Jimm is married with two sons. Currently Jimm serves as Chairman of Horse Show Announcers Committee at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Special Court Commissioner for Harris County and The City of Houston , and is listed in Who's Who in the World, America and Finance & Business. He enjoys spending time with his family, golf and physical fitness.

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