



FROM THE

PRESIDENT



AUGUST 2021

Welcome!

Let me be the first to welcome all of you, members and sponsors, to a new year of FEI. Although we are in the middle of our Summer Professional Development Series, July launches the planning of the upcoming year's activity.

First, let me thank our Academic Partners for putting on another great series of professional development events. The University of Dallas, University of North Texas, and The University of Texas at Dallas have all come through with interesting and educational events. When this newsletter hits your inbox we will have already enjoyed programs on June 29 (UDallas) and July 19 (UNT), and we still have one remaining for September 28 which will be an in person breakfast meeting at The University of Dallas. I know September seems a little late for a "summer" program. Chalk up the late scheduling as another victim of COVID 19.

While conditions have improved significantly, the COVID 19 virus has not left us. The officers, board and staff keep the news and discussion in the forefront as we move forward with planning for 2021-22 Monthly Chapter Meetings and event schedules. Please make note that Chapter Meetings will be in person this year, and will move back to 2nd Mondays when we have exclusive access to Northwood Club in anticipation of higher attendance than last year. But as you know, we all have to remain flexible in case unforeseen events occur. One caveat to these plans affects monthly Professional Development Sessions and Dinner Programs. A number of our FEI colleagues are still at higher risk when exposed to the virus so, although we will not have full virtual meetings in the coming year, the fall programs – the PD Sessions and Dinner Programs – will be livestreamed and

eligible for CPE credit. Since only the programs will be livestreamed, the Grubhub meal credit for the virtual audience has been discontinued.

I'd like to also ask you to please join me in thanking our staff and committees for doing a phenomenal job of providing programming and events throughout 2020-21, perhaps the most challenging year we've ever experienced. As you can imagine, Jackie Dunn and her team had to work longer and smarter to pull off effective events this past year. And thanks to our sponsors for continuing to support the most active and prestigious professional organization for financial executives in DFW. We went into the year with many unknowns, but the sponsors continued to recognize the value of our network. KPMG, as our Title Sponsor, of course gets the biggest logo on the sign, but our Strategic Partners, Special Events Partner, Platinum Sponsors, and Special Partners also give generously to make our events fun, engaging and educational. Chapter members, pick up your directory and remind yourself who these firms are. Then call them the next time you need their services.

And finally, please thank Deborah Southwell and Ron Rushing, our past two presidents, for leading the organization over the past 24 months. They were handed an extremely difficult situation overnight when the pandemic hit. But neither panicked or faltered. They just assessed the situation and made one difficult decision after another. Not something you look forward to in a volunteer role, but they did it for us. Thank you both!

Welcome to 2021-22! Cheers!

Jim Howe
FEI Dallas Chapter President