



**DRC** | NATIONAL  
DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER | CHAMBER  
OF THE YEAR 

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT



***Together, with our business leaders and community partners, we will help lead the Dallas Region to become the best place in the United States for all people to live, work, and do business.***

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# MEMBERSHIP IN ACTION

When you invest in DRC membership, you join the companies driving the Dallas Region forward. From intimate roundtables to marquee events, you're in the room with decision-makers and on the front lines of the opportunities shaping our future.

## In Good Company



**700+**  
members and  
partners

*representing*



**30**  
industries

*including*



**87**  
Fortune 1000  
companies



## Where Business Gets Done

Serving on our councils and task forces means insider access with regional impact.



**22** councils and task forces

**518** companies engaged



“DRC membership is being able to be in the room where it happens, having a seat at the table and helping drive the direction the region needs to go to continue to be successful.”

■ *Michelle Vopni*  
Ernst & Young LLP

## Bold Stages, Bold Voices.

DRC events bring global leaders to Dallas—and put our members in the room with them. Here are a few of our favorite moments of 2025.

### Tomorrow Summit

LinkedIn's Chief Economist and a rare panel of leaders from all three major stock exchanges revealed the trends reshaping global markets.



**250+**  
attendees

*from*

**100+**  
companies

### Convergence AI Dallas

AI leaders revealed game-changing business transformations in North America's AI powerhouse—where regional leadership and global impact came into full focus.



**750+**  
attendees

*from*

**350+**  
companies

**75+**  
expert speakers



**10K+** attendees at



**100+** events

### State of the State

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick recapped the 89th Legislature and previewed priorities ahead—critical insights for executives shaping business strategy in Texas.



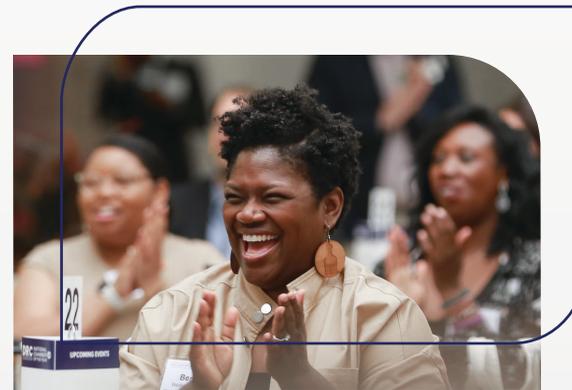
**400**  
attendees

*from*

**200+**  
companies

### Opportunity Summit

Leaders uncovered Southern Dallas County's unmatched assets—location, workforce, and growth potential—cementing it as the region's next frontier for business investment.



**300**  
attendees

*from*

**150+**  
companies

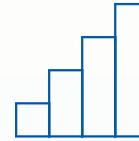
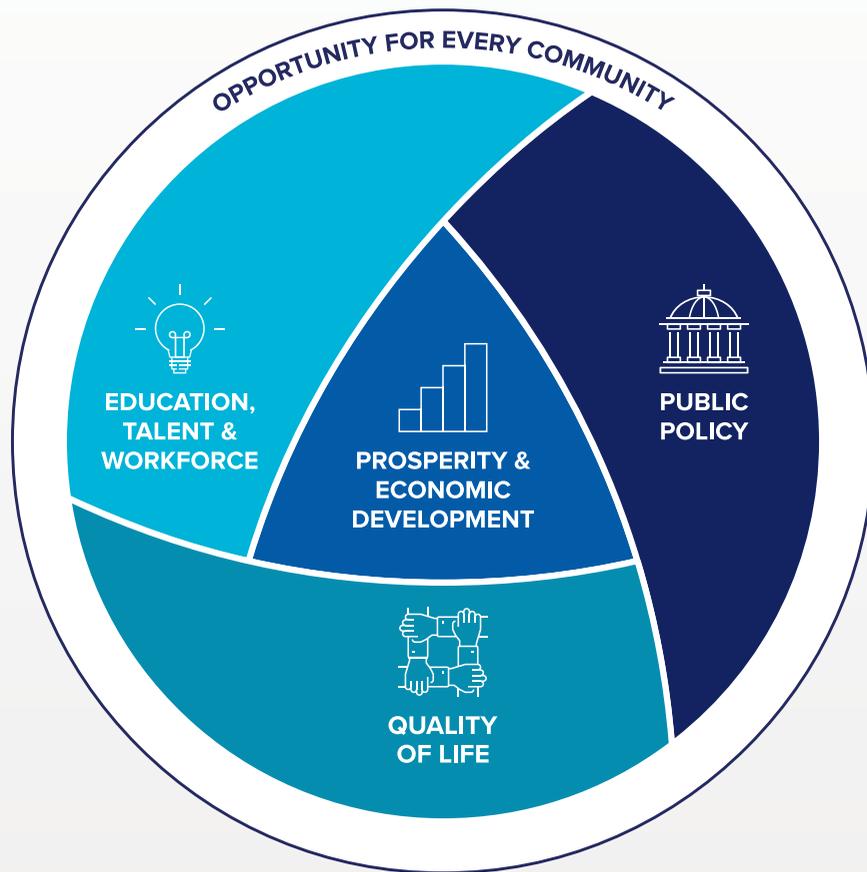
Don't miss the next game-changing event.  
[dallaschamber.org/events](https://dallaschamber.org/events)

# BUILDING TOMORROW—TOGETHER

Every bold step forward for the Dallas Region starts with a plan—and the partners who power it. The DRC's Building Tomorrow Together 2024-2026 Strategic Plan guides our work across four priorities that matter most for business and community success.

## Our Priorities

2024-2026 Strategic Plan



### Prosperity & Economic Development

Driving regional growth and positioning Dallas as a premier destination for business and innovation



### Education, Talent & Workforce

Building a skilled talent pipeline that connects workers to fulfilling careers and meets employer needs



### Public Policy

Advocating for smart policies that preserve Texas' competitive edge and support long-term prosperity



### Quality of Life

Strengthening communities and creating pathways for all people and places to thrive

# THE TOMORROW FUND

Our strategic priorities are powered by the Tomorrow Fund—an investment in the future of Dallas. Tomorrow Fund investors fuel the ideas, advocacy, and initiatives that grow our economy, strengthen communities, and keep the Dallas Region at the forefront of opportunity.

Tomorrow Fund investors go beyond helping their own business to help lift the entire region. Together, we're not just preparing for tomorrow—we're building it.

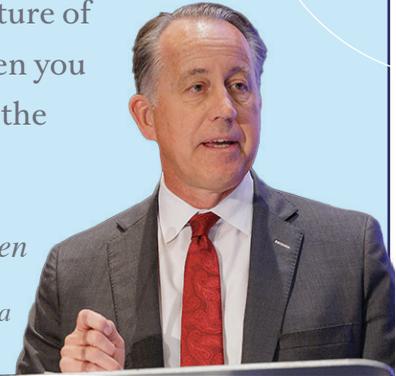
## Investing in tomorrow. Leading today.

Thank you to our top investors of 2025.



“ If you believe in the future of the Dallas Region... then you must be an investor in the Tomorrow Fund. ”

■ *Chris Nielsen*  
Toyota Motor  
North America





# PROSPERITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Driving growth that keeps Dallas–Fort Worth leading the way—from corporate relocations and industry expansions to breakthrough sectors like finance, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing shaping tomorrow’s economy.

## 2025 by the Numbers



**87**  
corporate locations  
or expansions



**26**  
regional cities

**30** headquarters

**17** tech companies

**14** life science  
companies

**9** Southern Dallas  
County locations

**36% of corporate locations in Texas happen in DFW** – more than Houston, Austin, or San Antonio – pushing Texas to win 13 straight Governor’s Cups

## Innovation Lives Here

From hands-on AI support to daily national visibility, the DRC is driving DFW’s status as a hub where businesses innovate, future-proof, and lead the next wave of growth.



And the drumbeat is catching on: Site Selection Magazine ranked DFW as the **No. 1 Tech Hub in the U.S.**



We launched a first-of-its-kind program offering free, personalized sessions with AI experts helping companies unlock competitive advantages.

- 200+ meetings scheduled
- Partnerships with SCORE and the Small Business Development Center expand access for small businesses

[dallaschamber.org/ai](https://dallaschamber.org/ai)



This news platform, incubated by the DRC in 2016, showcases the people and companies fueling Dallas innovation and draws attention from across Texas and around the world.

- 1.6M site visitors in 2025
- Readership: 60% Texas and 40% global
- Top out-of-state markets watching DFW’s innovation ecosystem: San Jose, Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago

[dallasinnovates.com](https://dallasinnovates.com)



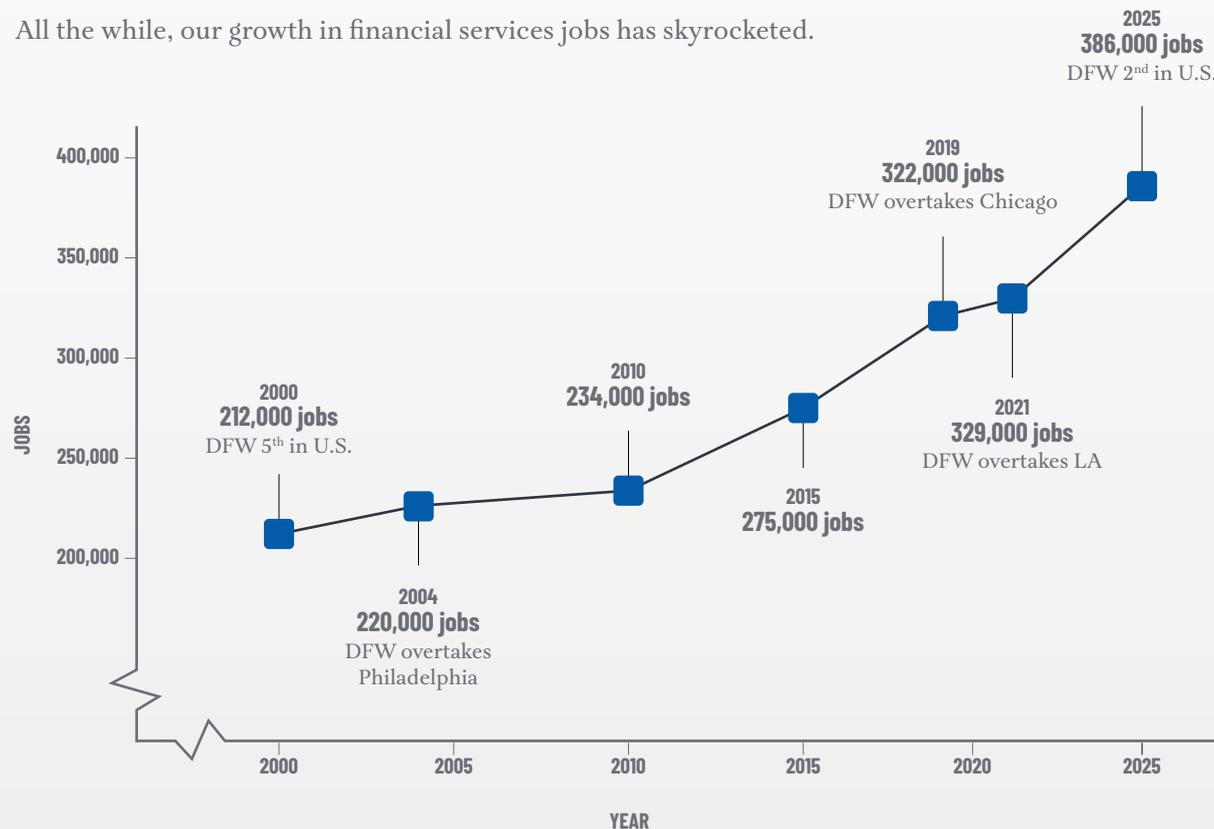
*At the annual BIO Conference, the DRC elevates DFW’s life sciences profile—sparking new leads, building on wins, and strengthening the region’s position as a fast-rising life sciences hub.*

# Paving Y'all Street

2025 was abuzz with news of DFW's booming potential to be a financial capital rivaling New York and London. For the DRC, the momentum comes as no surprise. Since 2000, DFW has seen more than 30 notable corporate announcements in the Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate—or F.I.R.E.—sector.



All the while, our growth in financial services jobs has skyrocketed.



## Trend Lines: What's Next

The DRC's pipeline for active corporate recruitment projects offers a preview of tomorrow's economy. Here's how our pipeline has evolved over the past three years.



**+70%**  
manufacturing projects



**+300%**  
financial HQs and offices



**+600%**  
life science companies



# EDUCATION, TALENT & WORKFORCE

Building a skilled workforce that meets employer needs and creates opportunity for all—from child care and literacy to higher education, innovative employer programs, and historic statewide investments shaping tomorrow’s pipeline.

## Investing in Future-Ready Students



What began in 2024 with Tomorrow Fund commitments is already reshaping opportunity in Southern Dallas County classrooms and careers.

*On DRC Literacy Day, volunteers read to HS Thompson Elementary students—showing our community’s investment in their success.*



### Work-Based Learning Pilot

The DRC’s partnership with the Southern Sector Work-Based Learning Alliance helps expand access to career-connected learning. The program pilot:

- Placed 12 students in work-based learning experiences with 4 employers
- Across 3 Southern Dallas County school districts



### Early Literacy Expansion Pilot

A DRC grant enabled the Dallas Education Foundation’s creation of the Texas Reading Toolkit a high-impact, foundational learning resource serving:

- 102 K-2 and dual-language classrooms
- Across 17 high-needs schools

## Lab-Proven Talent Strategies

In 2025, we launched Talent Labs, convening senior HR and talent leaders from:



**40** regional employers

serving

**485K+** employees

Together, they built strategies tailored to their companies’ unique challenges.

The program earned dual certification from SHRM and HRCI, providing participants with:



**12 credit hours per person**  
toward professional recertification



“Talent Labs fostered open dialogue about current trends, best practices, and real challenges we’re all facing, and I walked away with new ideas and renewed energy for how we approach talent strategy. The peer insights and connections I gained are something I will continue to lean on and learn from.”

■ Sarah Boehland Stephenson  
Vice President, Talent Acquisition, Hillwood, a Perot Company

# Historic State Funding Breakthrough

The DRC advocated for and Texas lawmakers approved more than **\$10 billion** in new state support for education and workforce systems. Key highlights include:



**\$8.58 billion**

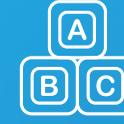
for public schools and teacher pay—the largest single funding increase in Texas history



**\$1.45 billion**

to expand higher education research and infrastructure

*incl. \$150M+ in research matching grants for DFW universities*



**\$100 million**

to support child care access and workforce participation for parents of young children

## Progress on Child Care Solutions

For three years, the DRC has led efforts to make child care more affordable and accessible—a workforce challenge that costs Texas more than \$9 billion annually.

**2025**

Backed creation of the Dallas County Child Care Benefits Program, which provides employers matching funds for child care benefits. Projected to serve:

**400-800** employees at up to **80** businesses

**2024**

Successfully advocated for three jurisdictions to adopt the exemption at 100%, strengthening affordability for parents and caregivers.

**2023**

Through the Good for Texans campaign, we supported passage of Proposition 2, creating property tax relief for child care providers.

## Higher Education in Action

Dallas-Fort Worth is Texas' **#1 region for higher education**, and our new DFW Higher Education Review showcases why—connecting companies and lawmakers to the talent, innovation, and collaboration that fuel business success.



- 40+ original stories from 13 institutions
- New digital platform for greater access and visibility
- Highlights workforce-aligned initiatives and cross-sector collaboration

[dallaschamber.org/highered](https://dallaschamber.org/highered)



# PUBLIC POLICY

Advocating for policies that keep Texas competitive and strengthen the Dallas Region's business climate—from engaging the 89th Texas Legislature to securing billions in funding, advancing key bills, and mobilizing voters statewide.

## Our Playbook

We worked closely with more than 75 DRC member companies to set our state legislative agenda, which establishes our key priorities for advocacy.



### Economic Development & Infrastructure

Promoting a business-friendly Texas by advocating for balanced taxes, diverse energy, investments in infrastructure, and expanded broadband to support growth.



### Education & Workforce

Supporting investments in child care, education, and workforce training to strengthen the Dallas Region's talent pipeline.



### Health Care

Working to improve health care access and drive innovation, supporting biotech growth, life sciences, and flexible employee health care options.



### Tech Policy

Supporting innovation and infrastructure to ensure continued growth and seamless collaboration in the Dallas Region.



### Quality of Life

Advocating for policies that ensure safe communities, accessible housing, and a vibrant region for all residents and businesses.

## Engaged from Day One

In the 89th Texas Legislature, the DRC was an active and engaged voice in the Capitol—guiding policy and ensuring the business community's priorities were heard.



Tracked  
**550+** bills  
to guide advocacy



Submitted  
**34 written testimonies**  
of support or opposition



Held  
**150+**  
lawmakers meetings



Briefed members  
weekly through  
**17 calls**  
on legislative activity



*DRC members met with state legislators during the DRC's 2025 Austin Fly-In.*

## Delivering Results

This work paid off. Together with partners, we helped secure more than **\$62.8 billion** in investments aligned with DRC priorities—strengthening our infrastructure, innovation capacity, and more. Highlights include:

**\$5B**

for the Texas Energy Fund to modernize the grid

**\$4.1B**

in new property tax relief

**\$2.5B**

for the Texas Water Fund to secure long-term supply and infrastructure

**\$466M**

for statewide broadband expansion

**\$60M**

for the Texas Moving Image Fund, boosting film, TV, and media production statewide

## Turning Advocacy Into Law

The DRC’s engagement helped move **28 bills to the Governor’s desk**, advancing critical priorities for business:



### Water Infrastructure (SB 7)

Directs billions of dollars to secure Texas’ long-term water supply and resilience



### Cybersecurity & Tech (HB 150, HB 4751)

Creates state Cyber Command and innovation hubs driving digital leadership



### R&D Tax Credit (SB 2206)

Extends vital incentive keeping Texas competitive in global innovation and investment



### Business Protection (SB 1300, SB 1646)

Cracks down on theft, protecting employers and strengthening community safety

## Playing Defense



Equally important, we stopped harmful bills that would have undermined Texas’ competitiveness—blocking measures that:

- Would have raised costs and compliance burdens on employers
- Risked weakening the state’s favorable business tax environment
- Introduced restrictive regulations that threatened innovation and growth

## Taking it to the Ballot Box

The DRC’s advocacy didn’t end with the sound of the gavel in Austin. Through the Good for Texans campaign, we successfully helped pass five statewide propositions—translating legislative wins into lasting results for Texans.



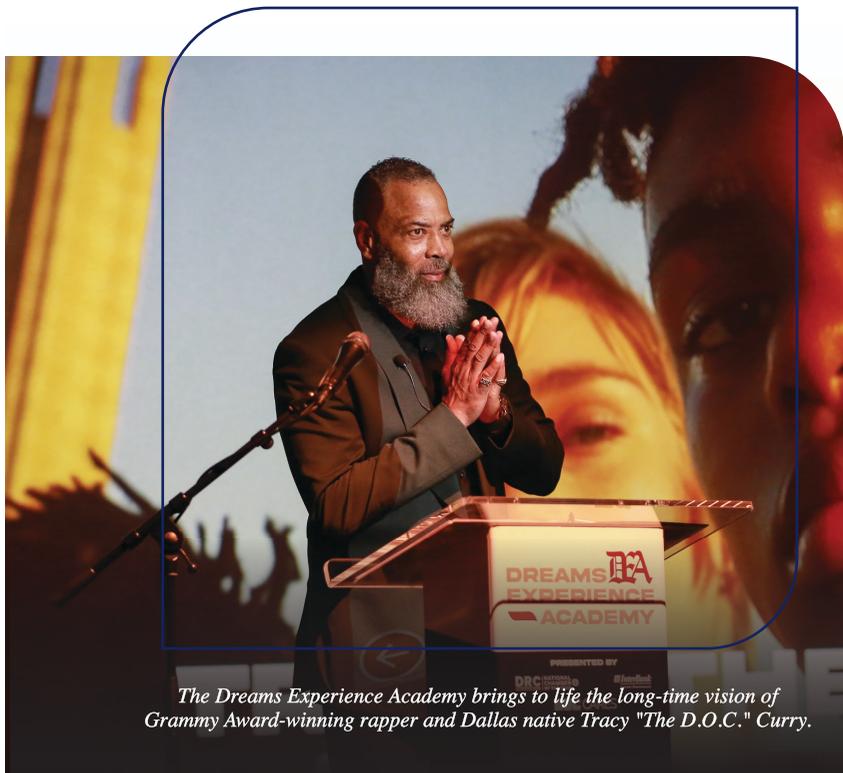
reached **675,000 voters**  
in **4 counties**

- ✓ Modernizing technical colleges to grow Texas’ skilled workforce
- ✓ Securing long-term water supply for communities and businesses
- ✓ Protecting Texans’ savings and strengthening financial stability
- ✓ Cutting business taxes to spur job creation and growth
- ✓ Investing in brain health research to drive innovation and hope



# QUALITY OF LIFE

Championing opportunity that strengthens communities and drives growth region-wide—from inspiring the next generation through highlighting the vibrancy of Southern Dallas County and backing community developers bringing projects to life.



The Dreams Experience Academy brings to life the long-time vision of Grammy Award-winning rapper and Dallas native Tracy "The D.O.C." Curry.

“ Our city thrives when education and industry come together to transform potential and opportunity. ”

**Chris Gannett**  
CEO, Gannett.Partners  
President & Board Member, DOC Cares



## Connecting Big Dreams to Big Industries

With seed funding from the DRC's Tomorrow Fund, the Dreams Experience Academy (DEA) is opening pathways into the \$3 trillion media and tech economy for under-championed Dallas students. Rooted in Southern Dallas but with a vision beyond the region, the DEA connects students in grades 7–12 to industry leaders, creative skills, and high-growth careers.

In a community where chronic absenteeism reaches 47%, participation requires school attendance—linking commitment with opportunity through world-class mentorship and hands-on experiences in media, entertainment, and tech.

The 2025 summer pilot proved the model works:



**25** students earned digital credentials



**100%** previously disengaged students reengaged with school

By blending education, mentorship, and creative industries, the DEA offers a model for narrowing opportunity gaps and fueling tomorrow's economy.

## Investing in Women, Investing in Dallas

At the DRC's Women's Business Conference, local entrepreneurship takes center stage. The largest-ever Frost Marketplace connected attendees with women-owned businesses across Dallas—empowering diverse entrepreneurs, strengthening the local economy, and showcasing the creativity driving our region forward.

**30+** women-owned local businesses featured

**\$20K+** spent with vendors in one day



## Say Yes to Southern Dallas County

We launched a targeted Say Yes to Dallas campaign to get people out to experience—and fall in love with—Southern Dallas County. From buzzing businesses to cultural gems, we're working to reshape how the region is seen.



**33** businesses & destinations featured across

**14** ZIP codes



**156K+**

consumers & next-gen business decision makers reached

By changing how people experience Southern Dallas County today, we're fueling the momentum for new jobs, investment, and a thriving future.



Content creator and campaign spokeswoman Lady Jade visits the National Aviation Center in Southern Dallas County.

## Connecting Builders & Opportunities

Since 2022, the DRC has partnered with the Community Developers Roundtable to back emerging developers bringing new life and investment to under-championed communities. Together, we're helping turn big ideas into real projects.

### Early Wins, Big Impact (2022-2024 pilot program)

The Community Developers Roundtable supported



**20+**

developers advancing community-driven projects



**1300+**

housing units developed



**17**

commercial projects

### The DRC Connection

Investment was championed by showcasing

**5**

developers in DRC Vision Tours

*totaling*

**24**

engagements

*and*

**13**

Dallas Innovates features that platformed projects

## Keeping Our Core Strong

With support from Tomorrow Fund investors, the DRC infused **\$300,000** back into the community to help strengthen safety and vitality in the heart of our region.

The Safe in the City initiative unites public and private partners around a unified safety strategy for Downtown Dallas, supporting long-term solutions like housing, re-entry support, and community court expansion.

These results show what's possible when Dallas works together to keep its center strong—supporting the continued growth, connection, and prosperity of the entire region.



**34%**



aggravated assaults

**30%**



burglaries

Jan. 1-Dec. 29, 2025

# LEADERS AT EVERY LEVEL

From rising professionals to seasoned executives, the DRC builds and connects leaders who shape the Dallas Region. Through programs, roundtables, and curated connections, we equip members to grow, lead, and drive impact.

## Leadership Programs

The DRC's suite of leadership programs helps members expand their networks, sharpen their skills, and step into their role as changemakers for the Dallas Region.

“It’s a tremendous experience that’s hard to completely describe to someone who hasn’t done it. The quality of programming and access to some of the most dynamic and influential leaders in the region are reason enough.”

■ *Monica Latin*  
*Carrington Coleman*



## Leadership Dallas



**55** leaders  
**1K+** hands-on curriculum  
and volunteer hours

The region’s premier executive leadership program—helping top leaders develop and use their expertise to tackle the challenges and opportunities shaping our region.

## Young Professionals



**15** events  
**200+** members  
**900+** potential  
connections

A launchpad where emerging leaders build networks, broaden perspectives, and sharper their leadership skills for what's ahead.

## Leadership Dallas Alumni

A powerful network of changemakers, keeping graduates connected to each other and the issues that matter most.

**2.5K+** alumni  
**70+** industries

## LEAD YP

An intensive, hands-on curriculum that takes young professionals deeper—building confidence and leadership skills to champion our region.

**55** emerging  
leaders  
**1.5K+** cumulative  
hours of training

## Executive Engagement

Through the DRC, executives build lasting relationships and take on the issues that shape Dallas' future—strengthening their companies while fueling regional prosperity.

## Board of Directors

The DRC's most engaged business leaders, representing the region's biggest employers and major industries, guiding strategy, and strengthening our business climate.



**133**  
companies and  
organizations  
represented

## Welcoming New Executives

Helping relocated and promoted executives plug into the Dallas Region faster—building relationships and finding their place in the business community.



**160+**  
new executives  
engaged

“The greatest benefit of the DRC membership for me and my organization has been the opportunity to work alongside other incredible business leaders and learn from them.”

**John Olajide**  
Axxess



## Executive Circle

An exclusive forum where top executives share strategies for confronting today's challenges and securing a bright future.



top executives  
engaged from  
**300+**  
companies

## Executive Women's Roundtable

Where senior women executives connect, share experiences, and grow together—building influence across industries.



engaged  
**115+**  
leaders  
from  
**100+**  
companies

# YOUR DRC ADVANTAGE

The DRC equips our members with data, insights, and tools to help companies grow stronger, lead smarter, and stay ahead—all available anytime at [dallaschamber.org/resources](https://dallaschamber.org/resources).



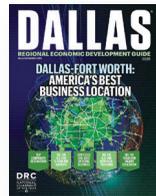
## AI Office Hours

Free, one-on-one sessions with AI experts to help businesses identify use cases, streamline operations, and unlock a competitive edge.



## Say Yes to Dallas

Your recruiting advantage. This DRC campaign helps companies attract, relocate, and retain top talent—by showing professionals why they'll thrive in the Dallas Region.



## DFW Region Facts

Quick, reliable data at your fingertips—powered by the DRC's DALLAS Economic Development Guide. Uncover insights that help companies plan, invest, and compete in the Dallas Region.



## Dallas-Fort Worth Higher Education Review

The region's definitive guide to higher education excellence, giving employers and policymakers insights to plan talent strategies and support Texas' top-performing institutions.



## Economy in Brief

An always up-to-date snapshot of the Dallas-Fort Worth economy with data on jobs, housing, and key trends shaping business decisions.



## Disability Inclusion Toolkit

Make your workplace work for all. Interactive tools, expert partners, and real stories help employers build inclusion strategies that improve retention, compliance, and innovation.



## Best Place for Working Parents® Dallas

Recognizing family-friendly employers that lead with flexibility, benefits, and culture—strengthening DFW's workforce and improving retention.



## Education, Talent & Workforce Dashboard

Live data showing how DFW's education and workforce pipelines align with employer demand—helping companies make smarter hiring and training decisions.

Explore these tools—and more—at [dallaschamber.org/resources](https://dallaschamber.org/resources)

# PUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO WORK

DRC membership is your company's access point to the conversations, connections, and collaboration shaping the Dallas Region's future.

Whether you're here to strengthen your brand, influence policy, or grow your network, our team can help you build a custom engagement plan to make every membership dollar count.

## Shape the Region

Join councils and task forces that bring business and civic leaders together to tackle regional priorities and drive collective impact.



## Engage Your Whole Team

Connect employees at every level to DRC events, programs, and opportunities across the region.



## Make Data-Driven Decisions

Tap into exclusive DRC research and insights—turning information into action for your company and your community.



## Grow Your Visibility

Showcase your company among Dallas' most engaged audiences through events, marketing, and strategic sponsorship opportunities.



## Ready to maximize your membership?

We'll help your team put every DRC benefit to work.

Contact [memberinfo@dallaschamber.org](mailto:memberinfo@dallaschamber.org)

**DRC**  
DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER  
NATIONAL  
CHAMBER  
OF THE YEAR

