

LEADERSHIP LONGVIEW
CLASS OF 2018-2019



Ricardo Baeza

Ricardo Baeza joined Austin Bank in 2018 as a Vice President and Relationship Manager, with more than 20 years of banking experience in lending and other areas of banking. He is a graduate of the Technological University of Mexico in Mexico City where he earned a Bachelor's degree in finance. In addition, he has earned an MBA from Texas A&M University and completed more than 1,000 hours in consumer and commercial lending and underwriting. Ricardo is an active Junior Achievement volunteer.



Amie Bishop

Amie Bishop is a tenacious, compassionate, and selfless Human Resources assistant, mother, and wife. She is a proud Longview native and a 2004 graduate of Longview High School. She began her career with AAON Coil Products in March of 2015 and is currently pursuing Human Resources Certification through the Human Resources Certification Institute. In her spare time, you can find her screaming at son's football games or cheering on her eight year old daughter during her tumbling routines. She also enjoys traveling alongside her husband of 6 years, Logan.



Elroy Brooks

Elroy Brooks was born in San Augustine, Texas and graduated from San Augustine High School. After finishing school, he moved to Fort Worth in 1977 where he worked for the Electric Company (TXU) for 26 years. Elroy has worked for the City of Longview for 13 years and has been streets and drainage manager for 7 years. He is a member of the American Public Works Association.



Jonathan Brown

Jonathan Brown was born in Houston, Texas and raised in Central Florida. Jonathan has called Longview his home for over 5 years. He serves as Administrative Director of Pharmacy at Christus Good Shepherd Medical Center. Jonathan is also an active member in Longview's evening Toastmaster's club. In his free time, Jonathan enjoys reading, sports, and exercising.

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Hollie Bruce

Hollie Bruce was born and raised in Longview, Texas and graduated from Longview High School. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Texas Christian University and then a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington. Hollie has been a Licensed Master Social Worker in the State of Texas since 2011. After graduating from UTA, Hollie moved to Denver, Colorado where she worked with Mayor Michael Hickenlooper's Coalition to End Homelessness. She returned to Longview in 2011 and worked for several years in the mental healthcare field as a social worker. In 2017, she was selected as the Executive Director of Newgate Mission. Hollie's civic involvement includes Junior League, 100 Women Who Care, Bridges Out of Poverty Coalition, Partners in Prevention Steering Committee, PAWS Board of Directors, and the Mayor's Task Force to End Homelessness. Hollie is happily married to her husband, Kirk and enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, and cooking.



Bo Bruyere

Bo Bruyere is a Longview native and attended Trinity School of Texas for the entirety of his primary education. As a fourth generation Aggie, he holds a Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University. After graduation he spent five years in the oil and gas field, but has now been with Citizens National Bank since 2015. Bo's fiancée owns her own dance studio and is a native of Kilgore. He has three dependents - a 9 year old Boxer named Abby, a 5 year old mix-breed named Darla, and a 5 year old MinPin mix named Harley. Bo lives for College football season and enjoys spending time with his fiancée.



Max Cobble

Maxwell Cobble is an accomplished Civil Engineer that graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 2007 and acquired a Professional Engineer License in 2013. Maxwell joined the Eastman team in 2007 directly out of college and has had a variety of assignments including detailed civil design, construction management, project management, and engineering group leader position leading a team of multi-discipline engineers to develop scope of work, estimates, and provides engineering deliverables for capital improvement and maintenance projects. Maxwell resides in Longview, Texas with his loving wife and two wonderful children. Maxwell is focused on family and community involvement including volunteering to lead small construction project teams, tutoring in math and science, and events at his children's daycare.

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Rex Fennell

Rex Fennell is a native of Longview where he graduated from Pine Tree High School. He went on to attend Baylor University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Media Studies. Rex is currently the Volunteer Coordinator for Heart'sWay Hospice. He loves working with people and building relationships and believes our collective experiences shape our beliefs, influence our actions, and ultimately are reflected in results. He hopes to tell good stories and learn from others' stories as well as strive to continually ask the question, "What else can I do?"



Ashley Hernandez

Ashley Hernandez has been in banking for 10 years and has been employed by Texas Bank and Trust since March of 2013. A graduate of the bank's 2016 Leadership Class, she currently assists small businesses and commercial customers as a Business Development Officer of Treasury Management services, and works with the bank's commercial lenders in developing new business and relationships. She was recently honored as the bank's 2016 Employee of the Year and was a "loaned executive" for the Greater Longview United Way, where she now serves as a board member. Ashley is also a board member with Longview Community Ministries and is a volunteer with Junior Achievement. She is a native of Henderson, and her and her husband have lived in Longview since 2013. She has a step-daughter, and two fur babies, Bella and Annie.



Ashia Kelly

Ashia Kelly is a native of Kilgore, Texas and works as a Loan Coordinator at East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG), where she services and processes loans of small businesses and oversees the daily operations of a consumer microloan program. Prior to ETCOG, Ashia worked at Southside Bank for four years which prepared her to process loan applications and educate clients about different financing options. Ashia enjoys being competitive, reading, traveling and being a mother to her daughter.



Hollie Kinler

Hollie Kinler works for Eastman Chemical Company and is a Six Sigma Black Belt. She has served in a variety of capacities including as President of the Eastman Professional Development Club, as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, United Way and Keep Longview Beautiful, as well as served on Eastman's internal United Way Planning Committee. Hollie and her husband have a one year old son and she has a photography business that she runs in her spare time.

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Allison Klewer-Hickman

Allison Klewer-Hickman is a Processing Supervisor for Neiman Marcus. During her tenure with NM, she has led a team through system implementations and change management. Prior to this role, Allison has served as an HR Coordinator with Carter BloodCare, overseeing five East Texas locations. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, jigsaw and soduko puzzles, and sharing her weekday FB thread titled “Lunchtime Laughs”. Allison is currently working on a vision core group with her NM peers, whose goal is to “dare to reach out your hand into darkness, to pull another hand into light”. -Norman B. Rice



Lauren Koos

Lauren Koos was born & raised in East Tx, graduating from White Oak High School in 1999. After attending college and working in the Dallas area, she and her husband, Austin moved back here to raise their family. They currently live in Hallsville and have three children, Remy, 11, Max, 7 and Whitley, 3. Austin is a home builder and realtor and has recently gotten involved in raising & breeding Beefmaster cattle, with which Lauren enjoys helping. Lauren got her real estate license in 2003 and sold real estate for a few years before going to work for GMAC in their mortgage servicing department. After moving back to East Tx in 2010, she went to work for Chase as a mortgage loan originator. In 2014 she started working for Eastman Credit Union, also as a mortgage loan originator. Lauren enjoys utilizing her background in real estate to help her clients navigate the mortgage process. She is very excited to join Leadership Longview and learn more about the community in which she lives and works.



Justin Landrum

Justin Landrum is a native Texan. Receiving schooling from both East Texas Baptist University and Baylor University he was able to receive many credentials in communication. He spends a vast majority of his time working with the ARC of Gregg County as a Job Skills Trainer and an Employment Specialist. Justin also spends a lot of my time serving as a board member for a small recovery church here in Longview called Serenity Church Longview. He also serves there as outreach minister, song leader and small group leader. Being a part of this community silently or with a strong voice are two of the things that he enjoys most. Justin has a zest for life and any time you tag along with him, it will be an adventure as well as blessing.

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Shane McCarter

Shane McCarter is a career law enforcement officer, a full-time family man, and a part-time farmer/rancher. He began his career in Arlington TX in 1995. In 2010 he moved to East Texas with his wife to raise his two daughters in a more rural environment and joined the Longview Police Department. During his time in Longview he has served as a field training officer before promoting to sergeant in 2015. In March of 2017 he was assigned to the Office of Public Relations where he addresses all media concerns and the image of the Longview Police Department. He promoted to lieutenant in May of 2018 and manages the School Resources Unit, Traffic Division, and the Special Investigative and Apprehension Unit. Shane graduated from West Texas A&M University with a BBA in Accounting in 1995 and an Associate's Degree in Applied Science from Kilgore College in 2017. He is a Master Peace Officer with over 3100 hours of continuing education. Over the next seven years he wants to continue to improve the image of the Longview Police Department, enjoying and loving his family, and strengthening his relationship with God.



Susan McDaniel

Susan McDaniel is the Director of Fiscal Services at Community Healthcore. A native of Hallsville, Texas, she earned her accounting degree from the University of Nebraska. She became a Certified Public Accountant and has worked across the country. Prior to her role at Community Healthcore, Susan worked as a hospital controller, assistant financial officer at a health center, and spent time in the financial reporting area of what is now CIGNA Health. She moved back to Longview in 2014 just before losing her husband to a long illness. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her children.



Aaron McFatridge

Aaron McFatridge is a small business owner in Longview, Texas. He is currently the owner/operator of Space Walk of Longview and Space Walk of Tyler. Prior work experience includes 17 years of youth ministry with a focus on missions and co-owner of a lawn and landscaping business. He is a certified coach, speaker and trainer for the John Maxwell leadership group and has 20 years in team-building using initiatives and ROPES activities. Aaron has lived in Longview for the past 11 years with his wife Amy and two sons, Matthew and David. In his free time, Aaron works as a game official for Dixie league baseball, high school football, and both UIL and NCAA basketball. He is an avid sports fan and loves playing basketball and golf.

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William McWhorter

William McWhorter is a native of Longview and attended Longview High School. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Government. His career has spanned political races and offices ranging from a Texas State Representative and Gubernatorial campaign, a Texas House committee in Austin, as well as national experience in the form of congressional offices on Capitol Hill and a United States Senate race in New Hampshire. William currently works for the Longview Chamber of Commerce as Public Affairs and Relationship Specialist and in his spare time he enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing golf, hunting, riding ATV's, and shooting billiards. William is also a firm believer in personal fitness.



Troy Murrain

Troy Murrain is a native of New York City, but got to Texas as fast as he could on the advice of his older brother. He is currently an Employment Specialist with the ARC of Gregg County where he has been since 2016. Troy is passionate about helping folks with disabilities find and keep gainful employment. He follows up with businesses to ensure that expectations are being met and he provides job coaching to his clients when needed.



Dawn North

Dawn North is the Lobby Manager of Prosperity Bank and has been in banking for over 25 years. She serves on the Executive Board for Longview Community Ministries as Treasurer, is a Longview Chamber of Commerce REACH Team member, a member of the Gregg County Crime Stoppers board, is an active member of the Sheriffs Association of Texas, and volunteers for Junior Achievement. Dawn has been married to her husband, Chief Deputy Mark North for 31 years and they have a daughter who currently resides in Pearland Texas with her husband.



John Nustad

John Nustad is an East Texas native and is a Commercial Loan Officer with Southside Bank in Longview, TX. With 8 years of experience in the banking and finance industry ranging from wealth management, mortgage lending to branch manager, he has served with two different banks in three states. His goal remains to provide first-class service to customers with professionalism, the heart of a teacher and transparency. He also serves on the Longview Board of the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Pines, and is an active member of First United Methodist Church of Longview, Longview Chamber of Commerce, Young Professionals of Longview and Longview Kiwanis. Mr. Nustad lives in Longview, TX with his wife of 6 years and two children.

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Olivia Secord

Olivia Secord is very passionate about making a difference in people's lives in a positive way. As a mother, she devotes much of her time to her children and family. She considers teaching and investing in the next generation to be a vital part of making a difference. Born and raised in Ohio, Olivia has been a part of the East Texas community since 2011. She is an agent for Gans & Smith Insurance Agency, but also has a background in criminal justice, the school system, and oil and gas. Olivia has also started a non-profit called Community Just Causes and is co-founder of Fit Productions, which is designed to help the community find and access total health and wellness solutions. Olivia enjoys spending time with her family, running, working out, participating in Spartan races and other physical challenges as well as any kind of outdoor activities.



Reggie Theus

Reginald Theus was born in Dallas Texas. He attended area schools and graduated from Longview High in June 2003. He began his work career at the age of 15 at Chick-Fil-A. Reggie is married to his wife of seven years Tennesa Theus. He has a 6 year old daughter and a 15 year old inherited daughter. After a brief 2.5 year stint with Chili's, Reggie went on to work for Newk's. He currently works for Saltgrass Steakhouse.



Stacey Thompson

Stacey Thompson is new to Longview, but not new to becoming involved in her community. She is the newly hired Executive Director at the LongviewWOW and is excited to work alongside other business professionals to make Longview all it can be. Stacey served as an elected official in Bullard, Texas where she spent six years, three consecutive terms, on the city council. Two of those years were served as the Mayor Pro Tem. Stacey has a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and Social Studies that she earned at UT, graduating with honors. She earned her national certificate in Family & Consumer Sciences through the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences and is a certified teacher in Texas. Stacey is married to Clay Thompson, an executive with Texas Bank & Trust. They have four children and are also proud grandparents.



Emily Wood

Emily Wood is a Human Resources Generalist who helps support almost 400 team members at AAON Coil Products, Inc. With just over 6 years of experience, Emily has achieved success in her career in the healthcare and manufacturing industries with such companies as Good Shepherd Medical Center, Crosby Lebus, and Bemis Milprint. She was born and raised in small-town East Texas and received her Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Development from UT Tyler. Most recently, she became nationally certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources. Emily has an 8-year-old son and a 17-year-old stepdaughter who keep her active when she isn't working out or crafting.