

G. Lee Griffin '56
Distinguished Alumni Award



Lee Griffin '56 was a very active and involved student at Highland Park High School and has carried that energy and enthusiasm throughout his life. While at Highland Park he was a 3 year letterman in football and was named the Texas High School Diving Champion in 1955 and 1956. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and his masters from Louisiana State University where he is still very active today. Lee's career as a banker is a remarkable one. From his start in banking as a management trainee in 1962, he became the President and CEO of Louisiana Bank Shares which was the first state-wide bank holding company in Louisiana. He bought and merged banks in all of Louisiana's major communities into one, large, strong bank. Then, when hard times hit the banking industry and many banks failed, Lee held his enterprise together and ultimately sold this institution to Bank One, now Chase. Lee became Chairman and CEO of Bank One and held that position until his retirement in 1999. Even more remarkable than his career accomplishments have been the service he has given to so many groups. He currently chairs or sits on at least 16 boards, commissions or committees of organizations across the state. In August of 2011, the Board of the LSU Foundation asked Lee to assume the full-time role of President and CEO of the Foundation for an indefinite time. His long-time activities with LSU are legendary. He joined the Board of Directors of the LSU Foundation in 1981, and was named to the LSU Alumni Association Hall of Distinction in 1992. From 1997 to 2001 Lee chaired the second half of the LSU Campaign which exceeded its original goal of \$150 million by over 70%. Lee and his wife, Barrie, have three wonderful children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. For his ethical leadership in the banking industry and his continuing dedication to education and other significant causes, we are pleased to award Lee Griffin with the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award.