SPEAKER BIO
Suzanne Wade

Suzanne Wade’s retail career spans over 40 years. While she started as a sales clerk during her high school and college days, her career culminated with senior executive positions at both Wal-Mart and H-E-B. Suzanne officially began her retail career teaching Fashion Merchandising in Oklahoma with the goal of owning her own retail store. She was quickly recruited to corporate training opportunities, first at TG&Y Stores, and later to Wal-Mart where she launched the Walton Institute of Retailing. Suzanne spent 11 years at Wal-Mart serving as Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Senior Vice President of Membership, Marketing and Administration for Sam’s Club.

Suzanne joined H-E-B in 1997 as Group Vice President of Sales and Advertising and later added H-E-B Own Brand to her responsibilities. She also served as Senior Vice President of Human Resources. However, for most of her career at H-E-B, she led the Company’s largest operating division as President of San Antonio Food/Drug Stores, encompassing over 200 stores and 50,000+ H-E-B Partners. In 2017, she transitioned to a part-time position as Executive Vice President for the H-E-B Partner Stock Plan and Corporate Communications. She continues to serve on H-E-B’s Senior Leadership Team and the H-E-B Board of Directors.

Suzanne has an MBA from the University of Oklahoma and a BS in Business Administration from Oklahoma State University. She completed the Harvard Business School’s Advanced Management Program in 2000. She has served on numerous Retail Advisory Boards and community initiatives during her retail career. She is the past chair of the United Way Women’s Leadership Council, founding chair of the San Antonio American Heart Association Circle of Red Giving Fund and Founding Chair of Teach for America, San Antonio Region. She currently serves on the National Board of Girl Scouts USA and is Board Chair for the Young Women’s Leadership Academy, a Blue Ribbon All Girls School within San Antonio’s inner-city school district.

Suzanne has been recognized for her professional accomplishments and civic contributions by the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Tribute to Women Leadership Award, the North San Antonio Chamber Athena Award, the San Antonio Women’s Hall of Fame, and the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas Trefoil Honoree. She is married to Dick Wade with two daughters and four adorable and smart grandchildren. She and her husband enjoy traveling and fishing in their spare time.

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