



## AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CITIZENSHIP

# A. DALE JENKINS

Growing up in rural western North Carolina, where the best job in town was being the local doctor, Dale Jenkins thought that was exactly what he wanted to be when he grew up.

“When I went to college, that was sort of the goal that I had,” he says. After a couple years, Jenkins realized that what he really enjoyed was business, specifically accounting.

A Rutherford County native and Wake Forest University graduate, Jenkins launched his impressive career at Ernst & Young.

“There are probably five or ten days in your life where something happens that changes the whole direction and the whole course of who you are and where you’re going in life. One of those days was when I was assigned to go work with this insurance company called Medical Mutual,” recalls Jenkins. “It was a small company, struggling a little bit, but there was just something about the vision of that company, the purpose of that company, and the people associated with the company that really intrigued me.”

Medical Mutual Insurance Company was one of Jenkins’ clients for about a decade before its board approached him to lead the company. Knowing so much about the company made it an easy decision.

“I saw how much sacrifice and hard work physicians go through to deliver care for us. The pressure they work under

is tremendous,” he says. “I developed a real passion to help make physicians successful.”

Under Jenkins’ leadership, Medical Mutual converted to a mutual insurance holding company, created MMIC Investment Holdings, which owns various real estate and private investments, and formed Curi Capital, a firm focused on wealth management for health care and other professionals. The company experienced steady growth and became one of the top 50 property and casualty insurance companies in the United States.

Jenkins says he felt pride in “helping physicians in medicine, business, and life. We wanted to create an environment where they could come to us with any issue they had as an individual or a professional and we would be a resource for them.”

His commitment to the field, and North Carolina’s business community at large, has been well recognized. Among his long roster of awards, the *Triangle Business Journal* presented Jenkins with a lifetime achievement award in health care back in 2014. He was conferred the coveted Order of the Long Leaf Pine that same year.

“Awards are a reflection of your team,” Jenkins says humbly.

That reflection is consistent with Jenkins’ people-first approach to leadership.

“It all boils down to the culture,” he explains. “We tried to create that servant heart. You call us, and you will be surrounded by people who care about you, provide you the best service possible, and get the problem solved.”

Jenkins adds that a good attitude and passion are essential to success. “You have to approach business with energy and enthusiasm. You need to smile and laugh every day at work. And you need to have a burning desire to do what you do.”

Describing himself as a curious person, Jenkins is an avid follower of policy and politics, and feels business must play a critical voice in the process of shaping both.

Jenkins brought that perspective to his leadership as board member and chair for the NC Chamber, playing an integral part in the creation of the NC Chamber Foundation’s strategic plan, Vision 2030, which provided a much-needed framework and long-term plan for North Carolina’s business community. He stayed engaged to make sure the organization was resourced to bring it to life.

“One of the things I have learned in business is that ideas are worth about a dollar, execution is worth millions,” says Jenkins.

As we look toward the future, Jenkins says, “We have done a really nice job in this state to create a business-friendly environment. A lot of businesses want to be here, but what we need to focus on now is workforce

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training and education.” As an example, he stated, “We have to have the health care workforce to match our state’s growing population.”

The NC Chamber Foundation that he helped build is working to do just that.

Throughout his career, Jenkins has shown a commendable commitment to public service. He is the past chair of the NC Chamber, UNC

Health, myFutureNC, and Capital Associated Industries. He received Wake Education Partnership’s Vernon Malone Friend of Education Award in 2019 and currently serves on the boards of Investors Management Corporation, Rise Capital, Orlando Health, and OnCall Solutions. Jenkins is a trustee of Wake Forest University and a member of the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center board of directors.

When asked how he felt about being named this year’s winner of the NC Chamber Distinguished Citizenship Award Jenkins says, “To be included among the list of past winners who I consider titans of business—it’s a truly overwhelming honor. And to be recognized for making North Carolina better, well, that’s really humbling.”

Jenkins has certainly made our state, and our state chamber, better.