



Press Release

LONE STAR FURNISHINGS BIDS FAREWELL TO VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES, RHONDA ELLINGTON, AFTER A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DALLAS, TX – January 29, 2025 Lone Star Furnishings, a Texas-based, family-owned leader in educational furniture solutions, announces the retirement of Rhonda Ellington, Vice President of Sales. Rhonda's departure marks the culmination of an illustrious career that has significantly influenced both the company and the educational furniture industry.

"Rhonda's leadership, vision, and dedication have been instrumental to our success," said Ben Herrick, President of Lone Star Furnishings. "Her legacy will continue to inspire us as we build on the foundation she has helped create. As a lasting tribute to her remarkable impact, Brad Jones and I are honored to announce that our showroom will be renamed the 'Rhonda Ellington Showroom.' This is a fitting way to celebrate her contributions and ensure her influence remains a guiding presence in our work for years to come."

Rhonda joined Lone Star Furnishings in March 2014 as a Sales Representative. Her talent and leadership quickly propelled her through the ranks, and in February 2017, she was named Vice President of Sales. For nearly eight years in this role, Rhonda has been pivotal in shaping the company's sales strategies and driving growth, all while upholding the company's core values of honesty, integrity, and exceptional service.

Rhonda is recognized as a trailblazer in creating K-12 turnkey furniture solutions. Her expertise in designing effective student-centered learning environments, space planning, product selection and procurement, and stakeholder engagement has set industry benchmarks.

Her leadership at Lone Star Furnishings is evident through her accomplishments:

- Mentoring and fostering a high-performing sales team.
- Innovating sales strategies to meet the dynamic needs of educational institutions.
- Building strong partnerships with industry leaders and clients.
- Expanding Lone Star Furnishings' presence across Texas.

Beyond her role at Lone Star Furnishings, Rhonda has left an indelible mark on the broader industry through her active involvement with the Education Market Association (EDmarket). A former Chairperson of the Distribution Council and currently serving as

First Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, she has spearheaded initiatives such as organizing impactful EDchannels Symposiums and advocating for policies that promote excellence among EDmarket members. Her commitment to professional growth has not only amplified her impact on the industry but also solidified her reputation as a mentor and thought leader.

Reflecting on her time at Lone Star Furnishings, Rhonda shared, "Leaving Lone Star is so bittersweet. I will never be able to thank CEO Brad Jones sufficiently for giving me the opportunity to spread my wings. Working for a company like Lone Star, founded on principles that aligned so well with my own, afforded me a freedom and sense of responsibility I'd never truly experienced before. As we've grown, it has been a pleasure to work with an ever-expanding team of professionals. What I will miss most is celebrating with them as they reach their next professional and personal milestones.

"Outside Lone Star, I have developed many strong friendships with great people across the industry, and it has been a privilege to brainstorm with and occasionally challenge the way products are designed or the market is evolving."

Rhonda added, "I've been asked why I would consider leaving if I love Lone Star Furnishings as much as I do. The simple answer is family. I look forward to spending more time with my son and daughter-in-law in beautiful North Carolina while enjoying more leisure time with my husband, Paul, who has frequently supported me at conferences, trade shows, and customer sites."

As Rhonda looks ahead, her colleagues, clients, and industry peers celebrate her exceptional career and the profound legacy she leaves behind. Her contributions will resonate within Lone Star Furnishings and the educational furniture industry for years to come.