

2026 Board of Director Elections

Deborah Acosta Conder



Deborah Acosta Conder is a highly-accomplished executive who is a results-oriented, decisive leader with proven success in operating in a variety of dynamic environments. She has more than 38+ years of experience in strategic positioning and execution for multibillion dollar programs and institutions. Career leadership accomplishments include: federal senior executive service rank, financial industry board chair leadership, non-profit board member and committee leadership, and strategy consulting. Leadership competencies: strategic bold leadership, governance, organizational transformation, change-agent, continuous learner.

Conder is a strategic consultant and the founder of ConCor Solutions, LLC, focused on business strategies, governance, executive leadership development, volunteer advisory services. Deborah is retired from the federal Senior Executive Service (SES), with a long and successful career supporting NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Conder's extensive skills and experiences include leadership in accounting, finance, budgeting, public affairs, internal communication, public engagement, STEM student programs, acquisition strategy, human resources and employee morale programs.

With almost three decades of boardroom experience, Conder currently serves as Board Chair for Wellby Financial, a \$2.67 billion credit union, the second largest credit union in Houston, Texas, served previously as Secretary of the Board, and is a tenured board member. Wellby Financial is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative providing a wide-range of financial services and serves 125,000+ members throughout the Greater Houston. As Board Chair, she led the board and team through a significant transformative period, including a brand change, core system conversion, and enhanced digital and mobile tools. She also led the CEO search and compensation processes, strategic governance revamping, and board succession strategy.

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Carla Kantara



Carla Kantara, PhD, MBA is beginning her second term on the Wellby Financial Board, bringing continuity, enterprise-scale leadership, and disciplined strategic oversight to the organization. She is a dynamic business development executive with nearly 20 years of experience driving innovation and growth across diverse healthcare ecosystems. She currently serves as Vice President and Head of Enterprise Partnering at Caris Life Sciences, an approximately \$8 billion market-cap precision medicine company operating at the intersection of healthcare, data, and advanced analytics.

In her role, Dr. Kantara leads the development and execution of complex, multi-year strategic partnerships with global pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and healthcare organizations. She leads cross-functional teams, manages multi-million-dollar portfolios, and builds sustainable, self-supporting business lines that drive long-term institutional value.

Prior to Caris, Dr. Kantara held senior leadership roles across healthcare and life sciences organizations, where she led business development, strategic initiatives, and portfolio growth within highly regulated environments. She has also played a key role in supporting Caris through critical growth milestones, including its successful public offering, helping position the company for durable performance as a publicly traded enterprise.

She holds a PhD in the biomedical sciences with a focus in oncology and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Health Innovations at the University of Texas Medical Branch. She earned an MBA with a concentration in leadership and technologies from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, where she later served as an adjunct professor in the business school. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry and an Associate degree in Mathematics.

She brings a strong member-centric perspective to the board, grounding strategic and financial decision-making in long-term trust, service excellence, and the financial well-being of Wellby's members. Known for her disciplined judgment and collaborative leadership style, Dr. Kantara contributes a strong focus on fiduciary responsibility, operational resilience, and long-term value creation.

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Sid Schmidt



Sid Schmidt is the Deputy Chief Financial Officer (CFO) at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He is also currently serving as the Acting CFO for NASA. Prior to being named to this position, he was the CFO at Johnson Space Center (JSC).

After an internship at JSC, Sid joined NASA full-time in 1987. He started as a resources analyst supporting a wide range of human spaceflight initiatives and has extensive financial and budget experience. Over the course of his career, he has served in progressively more responsible leadership positions, including Manager for the Space Operations Resource Management Office, Resources Manager for the International Space Station, Chief of JSC's Central Budget Office and Associate CFO.

Sid has had several special assignments throughout his career, including:

- Loaned Executive to the Houston Technology Center (1999 - 2000)
- Associate Director of the EVA Management Office (2011 - 2012)
- Dean of the CFO University (2015 – 2019)
- OCFO Resources Management Functional Champion (2018 - 2025)
- NASA Deputy CFO for Center Operations (2025)

Mr. Schmidt graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in finance from Texas A&M University (Class of 1986). He also earned Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from the University of Houston.