

**Name:** Jim Gardner

**Companies:** Hardees  
Gardner's BBQ

**Title:** Co-Founder of Hardees  
Founder Gardner's BBQ

**Education:**

- Attended North Carolina State

**Business Accomplishments:**

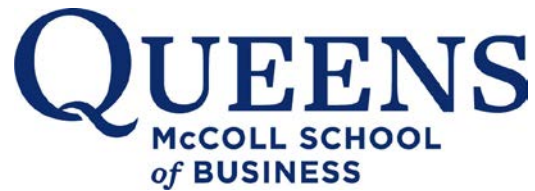
- Vice President of Gardner Dairy Products
- Co-Founder of Hardee's Food Systems
- Founder Gardner's BBQ restaurants (est. 1972)
- President of Carolina Cougars (first professional men's basketball team in NC)

**Awards:**

- 2005 Inductee into Twin County Hall of Fame

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

- Chairman of NC Republican party, 1966
- Member U.S. of Representatives, 1967 – 1969
- Commissioner of the American Basketball Association, 1969
- NC Lt. Governor, 1989 – 1993
- Chairman of the NC Alcoholic Beverage Commission, 2013 – 2017



**Name:** Doug Lebda

**Company:** LendingTree

**Title:** Founder, Chairman & CEO

**Education:**

- Bucknell University, B.S.
- Darden School of Business, MBA

**Business Accomplishments:**

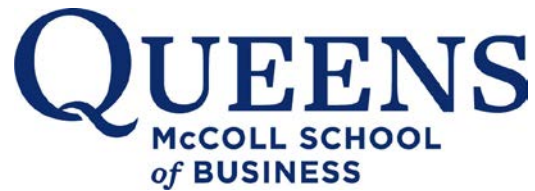
- Founded Credit Score in 1996. Credit Score was rebranded into LendingTree in 1997
- Led LendingTree through successful IPO in 2000
- Facilitated the sale of LendingTree to IAC/InterActiveCorp in 2003. He served as President and COO of IAC from 2005 – 2008.
- In 2008, LendingTree was spun off from IAC/InterActiveCorp and he resumed role as Chairman and CEO
- LendingTree has become the nation's leading online loan marketplace connecting consumers with multiple offers from a nationwide network of over 500 partners
- LendingTree has facilitated more than 65 million loan requests

**Awards:**

- Most admired CEO in 2018
- Recipient of Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2000
- Received Metrolina Entrepreneurial Council Trailblazer Award
- Received Inman Innovator of the Year Award

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

- Served as a Distinguished Speaker at the Darden School of Business in 2001
- Past trustee of the Darden School of Business
- Past board member of the Bucknell Alumni Association



**Name:** Theresa Payton

**Companies:** Fortalice Solutions, LLC  
Dark Cubed

**Title:** President/CEO, Fortalice Solutions  
Co-Founder, Dark Cubed

**Education:**

- Immaculata University, BA, Economics, Business Administration, 1989
- University of Virginia, MS, Management Information Systems, 1990

**Business Accomplishments:**

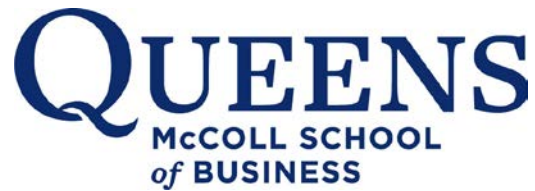
- President/CEO, Fortalice Solutions, LLC., Sept. 2008 – present
- Co-Founder, Dark Cubed, 2014 – present
- Chief Information Officer, Executive Office of the President at the White House, 2006 – 2008
- SVP, Bank of America, Sept. 2004 – April 2006
- SVP, Wachovia, July 1995 – Sept. 2004
- Senior Manager, Barnett Banks, Inc., July 1990 – July 1995

**Awards:**

- Charlotte Women in Business award, 2009, CBJ
- Charlotte's 40 Under 40
- Five Outstanding North Carolinians
- Ten Outstanding Young Charlotteans
- Charlotte's Woman of the Year

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

- Unicredit Advisory Board Member, Jan. 2019 – present
- EM360 Board Member, 2019
- RTP AITP Board Member, 2019
- Association of Information Technology Professionals, Board Member, 2017



**Name:** Mike Praeger

**Company:** AvidXchange

**Title:** CEO and Co-Founder

**Education:**

- Georgetown University, B.S. B.A.
- MIT, Masters, Business, Entrepreneurship

**Business Accomplishments:**

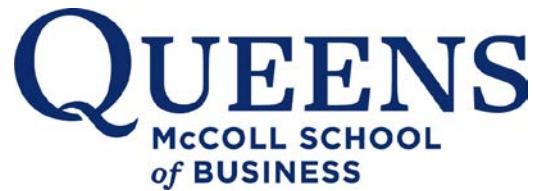
- AvidXchange, CEO & Co-Founder, April 2000 – Present
- PlanetResume.com, Principal & Co-Founder, 1997 – 1999
- InfoVentures L.P., CEO & Co-Founder, 1996 – 1997
- InfoLink Partners L. P., Principal & Co-Founder, 1995 – 1996
- SeaQuest Partners, CEO & Co-Founder, 1993 – 1995
- Summit Partners Venture Capital Partnership, Associate Director, 1990 – 1993
- T.A.S.P. International, District Manager, 1988 – 1990
- United States Air Force R.O.T.C., Detachment 130, Comptroller, 1987 – 1988

**Awards:**

- Most Admired CEOs, 2018, CBJ
- Business Person of the Year award, 2017, CBJ
- Received Global Unicorn award from CB Insights three years in a row

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

- Speaker at The Future of FinTech 2018
- Speaker at Collision 2018
- Active in Young Presidents Organization
- Board member, North Carolina Technology Association
- Board member, Comdata
- Board member, Charlotte City Center Partners
- Board member, Kare Partners
- Board member, E2D



**Name:** O. Bruton Smith

**Companies:** Speedway Motor Sports, Inc.  
Sonic Automotive

**Title:** Founder & Executive Chairman

**Business Accomplishments:**

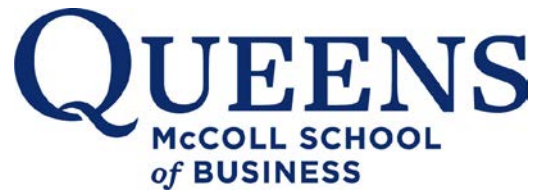
- Built Charlotte Motor Speedway in 1959
- Founded Speedway Motor Sports, Inc. which owns eight tracks across the U.S.
- First owner to take racing to the NYSE when he took the company public in 1995
- Founded Sonic Automotive which is a Fortune 500 company that has become the fifth largest automotive retailer in the U.S.

**Awards:**

- NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee, 2016
- International Motorsports Hall of Fame inductee, 2007
- EY Entrepreneur of the Year in the Carolinas, 2006
- Stock Car Racing Hall of Fame inductee, 2006
- North Carolina Business Hall of Fame inductee, 2006

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

- Founded Speedway Children's Charities which provides funding for organizations that meet the direct needs of children. Nationwide, Speedway Children's Charities distributed over \$2.9 million across its eight chapters in 2019.



**Name:** C.D. "Dick" Spangler, Jr. (posthumously)

**Companies:** Spangler Construction, Golden Eagle Industries, National Gypsum

**Title:** President, Spangler Construction  
Founder, Golden Eagle Industries  
Chairman, National Gypsum

**Education:**

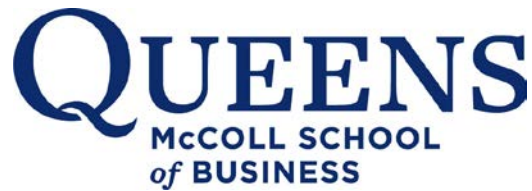
- UNCC, BS
- Harvard University, MBA

**Business Accomplishments:**

- Joined C.D. Spangler construction in 1958. Held the title of President for 28 years.
- Started Golden Eagle Industries, a real estate investment firm, 1968
- Spangler also chaired the Bank of North Carolina during the 1980s, playing a key role in its merger with the North Carolina National Bank Corporation (now Bank of America)
- In 1995, Spangler took over National Gypsum for \$1.2 billion, through Delcor Inc., a private investment company controlled by him.

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

- President, Harvard University Board of Overseers, 2003 – 2004
- President, University of North Carolina, 1986 – 1997
- Member, NC Board of Education, 1982 – 1986



**Name:** WT Harris & Willis Teeter (posthumously)

**Company:** Harris Teeter

**Title:** Co-Owners

**Business Accomplishments:**

Harris Teeter was co-founded in 1960 by North Carolina grocers W.T. Harris and Willis Teeter. Each gentleman had previously opened independent groceries in the mid to late 1930's. In 1969 Harris Teeter was purchased by the Ruddick Corporation. In 2013, the Ruddick Corporation sold the stores to Kroger.

Harris Teeter operates over 230 stores and 14 fuel centers in seven states and the District of Columbia. In addition to its retail stores, Harris Teeter also owns grocery, frozen food, and perishable distribution centers in Greensboro, NC and Indian Trail, NC, as well as a dairy in High Point, NC. Harris Teeter is headquartered in Matthews, NC and has approximately 30,000 associates.

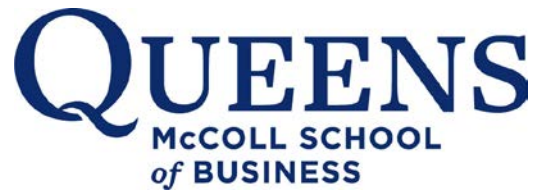
**Other Notable Distinctions:**

**W.T. Harris:**

- As a Mecklenburg County Commissioner, W.T. Harris led the movement for a statewide public kindergarten system, which passed in 1973.
- The *Charlotte News* Man of the Year award, 1966
- The Mayor's Special Citizenship Award, 1967. A boulevard going from north to east Charlotte was named in honor of him.
- He also ran a dairy farm, created a co-op for the dairy farmers.
- President of the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
- Member of Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

**Willis Teeter:**

- Deacon at Prospect Presbyterian Church
- Active member in the Mooresville Kiwanis Club



**Name:** Philip Van Every (posthumously)

**Company:** Lance Packing Company

**Title:** Former President & CEO, 1943 – 1973

**Education:**

- Attended Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and Staunton Military Academy

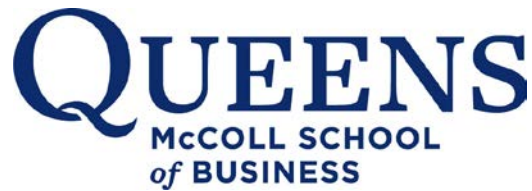
**Business Accomplishments:**

- Instituted successful multiple management program at Lance
- Started a 100 percent company-funded employee pension fund.
- Oversaw the building of a new expansive plant on South Boulevard which is still in use today
- In 1961 he established the Philip Van Every Foundation as a philanthropic organization used to support local non-profit organizations throughout North and South Carolina
- Under his leadership, the company rapidly grew from a small family-owned operation into a nationally recognized public company. At his retirement in 1973, the company had 4,500 employees in 34 states and \$80 million in annual sales.

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

- Served as Charlotte mayor pro-temp 1951 – 1953
- Elected Charlotte mayor serving two terms, 1953 – 1957
- Inducted into NC Business Hall of Fame, 1992
- Honorary statue on Charlotte's Trail of History erected 2019





**Name:** Ed Weisiger Sr. & Ed Weisiger Jr.

**Company:** CTE (Carolina Tractor & Equipment Company)

**Title:** Past President/CEO - Ed Weisiger, Sr., 1965 -- 1988  
Current President/CEO-Ed Weisiger, Jr., 1988 -- present

**Education:**

Ed Weisiger, Sr. - Studied Engineering at NC State  
Ed Weisiger, Jr. - NC State, B.S., Industrial Engineering, 1982  
Harvard Business School, MBA, 1984

**Business Accomplishments:**

**Ed Weisiger, Sr.:** After College, Ed Weisiger, Sr. served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army in the Korean War. Once he completed his active duty in Germany as a supervisor of a heavy equipment maintenance unit, he came back to the states and started work at CTE in 1956. He worked there less than ten years before taking over the Presidency from his father and company founder, Les Weisiger.

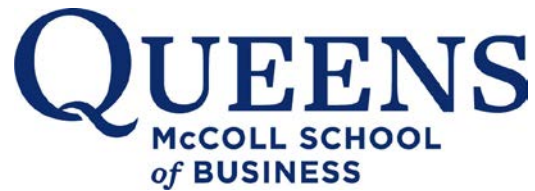
**Ed Weisiger, Jr.:**

- CTE, President/CEO, 1988 – Present
- Beacon Development Company, Partner, 1989 – Present
- WSC & Company, Founding Partner, 7/2012 – Present
- Westchase Development, Partner, 1986 – 1987
- Tompkins Associates, Senior Engineer, 1982 – 1986

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

**Ed Weisiger, Jr.**

- CATO Corporation (Board of Directors)
- CEO Organization (Member and Chair of the annual CEO Harvard Presidents' Seminar)
- Young Presidents' Organization (Member and Past Chapter Chairman)
- Charlotte Chamber of Commerce (Past Chairman)
- Southeast Caterpillar Dealer Association (Past President)
- North Carolina Chamber (Past Director)
- NC State Engineering Foundation (Past Director)
- Central Piedmont Community College President's Council (Member)
- Bechtler Museum (Advisory Board Member)



**Name:** Bob Young

**Companies:** Red Hat  
Lulu.com  
PrecisionHawk  
Needlepoint.com

**Title:** Founder and CEO

**Education:**

- University of Toronto, B.S., 1976

**Business Accomplishments:**

- Former CEO and Co-Founder Red Hat in 1993
- Co-founded Linux Journal in 1994
- Co-founded the Center for Public Domain in 2000
- Owner of the Hamilton Tiger Cats in 2003
- Board of Directors and CEO of PrecisionHawk
- CEO of Needlepoint.com

**Awards:**

- Beacon Award of NC Technology Association in 2018

**Other Notable Distinctions:**

- Named one of the Top 50 Agenda-Setters in the Technology Industry in 2006
- Ranked as the fourth Top Entrepreneurs for 2006 by Silicon.com
- Ranked as one of Business Weeks's Top Entrepreneur in 1999
- Published *Under the Radar*
- Under his leadership, Lulu.com has
  - Empowered creators in more than 225 countries
  - Published nearly two million books
  - Helped over 1,200,000 people publish their books