



From the Deserts of Utah to the Heart of Texas: My Journey to Academy Independent School District

My story begins in an unconventional way- born into a large polygamist family in the rugged, untamed deserts of Utah. I was one of 46 siblings, raised in a world governed by strict rules and unwavering beliefs. But even as a child, I sensed I was destined for something different, something beyond the horizon of that desert or the radical religious philosophy of the church I was raised in.

One week after turning fifteen, I left home, a lost boy with no plan and nowhere to turn. The next few years were a blur of wandering, scraping by, and getting into trouble. I had no formal education, no stability, no direction- just the will to survive. As a young adult, I found myself standing before a judge, who gave me a simple but life-altering choice: find a job by the end of the day or go to jail. Desperate, I knocked on the door of a small restaurant, and a woman named Tracie, who I would later call my wife- took a chance on me. She hired me to remodel the kitchen, wrote a letter to the judge on my behalf, and unknowingly set me on a path I could have never imagined. Six months later, I married her, and together, we built a future.

We didn't just build a marriage- we built businesses. That little restaurant became our first of four. We fought for every dollar, every opportunity, and every bit of stability we could create. In the midst of our struggle, I took a side job fueling airplanes at the Salt Lake Airport. From there, my journey into the energy industry began. I drove gas trucks, worked in refineries, pipelines, and gas plants, and eventually became a roughneck on drilling rigs. I learned the industry from the ground up, and in 2001, I transitioned into safety, making it my mission to protect the hardworking men and women in energy and water management.

Over two decades, I honed my skills, built relationships, and developed an interactive online management system that gained global traction. In 2021, I became a partner in an oil company, and just 19 months later, we sold it to Devon Energy for \$1.8 billion. That was my exit from the energy industry- but not from my mission.

Retirement wasn't in my vocabulary. With a passion for safeguarding America's water supply, I entered the water management industry in 2023. Today, I work with a brilliant team of professionals to develop technology that prevents harmful contaminants from entering our waterways and removes contaminants from drinking water, ensuring clean water access for communities across the country. My mission has remained clear: protect our country, protect our communities, protect our children, and restore the power of education to parents and educators.



That mission has now led me to the Academy Independent School District (AISD). As the grandfather of five granddaughters in Bell County, all of whom are homeschooled, I see firsthand how far our education system has strayed from its core purpose. Parents and teachers have been silenced, replaced by bureaucrats and lawyers with agendas that do not serve our children. My long-term vision is to take the power away from these special interest groups and return it to the people who matter most- our parents, teachers, and community leaders.

My track record proves my dedication to community-driven initiatives. I co-founded Empower Freedom, an offshoot of Truckers Against Trafficking, to educate energy workers on identifying and stopping human trafficking. I was a founding contributor of Energy Strong, an organization that promotes the responsible advancement of America's natural resources. I co-founded the Texas BBQ Bash, which supports youth groups and emergency responders across South and West Texas. And now, I am building the Central Texas BBQ Roundup, a nonprofit committed to strengthening our communities through meaningful charitable contributions to law enforcement, animal welfare services, and community safety efforts.

AISD has the potential to be an institution that truly serves our children, but only if we, as a community, take action. My focus is simple—prioritize the health of our communities, enhance community resources, and create an environment where parents and educators can focus on what matters most: the future of our children.

I am ready to fight for that future, for my granddaughters, for your children, and for generations to come. The road that brought me here was long and unconventional, but every experience, every hardship, and every victory has prepared me to take this next step.

Academy ISD, I'm here to listen, to serve, and to lead. Let's build something better-together.