

Why I want to be a TCA Board Director

Steve Young

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the upcoming election to the TCA Board. My name is Steve Young, and my wife of 20 years and I have 2 students at TCA - a daughter in the 9th grade at CP, and a son in the 7th grade at North.

From a background qualification perspective, I'm a 2002 graduate of the US Air Force Academy where I ranked #29 in my graduating class of over 900. I majored in Aeronautical Engineering and held competitive leadership positions during my junior and senior years, as well as being Standardization & Evaluation instructor pilot (instructor's instructor). One of my favorite and most-valued aspects of my Academy education was the focus on, and real-world application of, leadership development - and I carry those lessons with me to this day.

I spent 7 years on active duty and had the opportunity to work with many people and organizations from all across our country and the world. After my time in the AF, I went on to get my MBA and start and grow a successful business over the last 10 years.

I have also volunteered at our church for the past 9+ years and am currently the head firearms and tactical trainer for our security team of over 80 individuals.

I put a very high priority on data, analysis, and common sense. I make sure decisions are made in accordance with the available information before they're made on feelings or pressure from outside sources. I tend to lead the groups I'm a part of, but know my place if I'm the "new guy," and spend time learning the organization from those who have been around longer than I have. I can get along with just about anybody who's willing to be civil and talk things out when there are disagreements. I don't get emotional, and if someone has better data or ideas, I'm happy to adopt them if they prove to be better than my own.

From a purely business and managerial perspective, my experience, skills, and track record of success make me ideally suited to help champion the TCA vision and mission, oversee management of its overall operations, approve strategic decisions and transactions, and represent the school in the wider community.

Switching gears just a bit to why we love TCA...from the first time we heard about what TCA stands for, we had our kids on the waiting list for Kindergarten! The TCA Core Values are, for us, *exactly* how we want our children to be educated. They mirror what we teach them at home about life and being good, critically-thinking citizens in our great country. We love the encouragement of parental involvement. It creates a bridge between the parents and the kids through the school, allowing parents to truly feel like they are involved in their child's education. Encouraging parents to support teachers and staff gives the teachers and parents a unique opportunity to work together for what's best for our kids.

We love the Titan's Creed, what it stands for, and how practical application is taught to our kids. I've even teared up a few times over the years when I've been at assemblies where they all say it together. It makes me proud of who TCA - as a community of teachers, parents, and students - is training up to lead the next generation. We respect the Core Values for being guiding principles based on the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. We love how TCA teaches our kids to fail forward and that the everyday focus is on learning, education, and character-building.

The last 2 years have shown many parents that abdication of their child's education is no longer an option. TCA already encourages parental involvement, but attempting to get even more parental participation is part of my vision for TCA. I would also like to make sure we continue to operate as autonomously as possible as a charter school with minimal direct or controlling input from any outside organization that does not share our Core Values.

I understand the importance of equipping our young people with the knowledge, skills, and character they need to lead meaningful and successful lives. As a board member, I would be committed to building, defending, and growing an organization that provides them with a solid foundation of knowledge and analytical thinking skills, as well as develops their character and passion for learning.

I believe that every student should be empowered to be the best version of themselves and make the most of their unique potential. I believe a major role for the board is to create and foster an environment of mutual respect, intellectual curiosity, and creative exploration, and to empower our students to lead, innovate, and make positive impacts in the world.

What we have at TCA is special. It's different. It's a light in a world that is becoming increasingly dark and muddled. And in times when the road ahead is uncertain, it takes real leaders committed to the timeless and enduring principles of integrity, character, and service to help protect and guide the organization through the storms and into new chapters of growth.

I think my personal beliefs and standards perfectly align with those of TCA - both for how and what we teach our kids, and for whom we want them to become. I have a great interest in the continued success of TCA as a community and institution and I believe my background, personality, leadership skills, and mindset will be an excellent fit for the TCA board for the next 3 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my application.

V/R,
Steve Young