

Biography for Don Chalmers

Don Chalmers, a Tulsa native, moved to New Mexico fifteen years ago. Don attended Tulane University where he was a Sigma Chi. He earned a B.S. degree in Marketing from Oklahoma State University in 1970, and did graduate work on his MBA.

Don began his business career in Houston, Texas, working for Ford Motor Company. He left Ford after five years to work as a manager in the retail automotive dealership in San Antonio, Texas. Two years later, he became partner in Sound Ford of Seattle, Washington. During the next ten years, Don built a corporation of eight automobile dealerships in the Seattle area including twelve franchises at which he employed seven hundred people. In 1987, Don sold his interests in Seattle and returned to Tulsa where he owned and managed two successful Chevrolet dealerships and Subaru, Suzuki, Hyundai, Kia and Oldsmobile dealerships. In 1996, he sold his dealerships in the Tulsa area and moved to New Mexico.

Don is owner of Don Chalmers Ford in Rio Rancho and Chalmers Capitol Ford Lincoln in Santa Fe. He is very active in the Rio Rancho, Santa Fe and Albuquerque communities. His community involvements are in one of four areas: education, healthcare, economic development and community service.

Currently a board member of the following education board: Vice President of University of New Mexico Board of Regents and current Chair of Finance and Facilities committee. Past board memberships in education include: University of New Mexico Foundation; College of Santa Fe Board of Trustees; Explora Science and Children's Museum; 4-H Foundation; Junior Achievement; and the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education where he was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson in 2003. Don Chalmers Ford also gives several FFA college scholarships annually as well as a UNM Presidential Scholarship.

Currently a board member of the following healthcare boards: Vice President of the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Board of Directors. Past board memberships in healthcare include: Sandoval Regional Medical Group Board; University of New Mexico Health Sciences Board of Regents; St. Joseph Community Health Foundation; University of New Mexico Hospital Clinical Operations Board; St. Joseph Community Health Services; and Central NM Affiliation of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, where he also served as chairman and was instrumental in establishing the local affiliate.

Currently a board member of the following economic development boards: Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce where he served as Chairman for 2008/2009; Sandia Foundation; Lobo Development Corporation; WESST; Better Business Bureau where he has served as President; New Mexico Amigos where he also has served as President for 2008/2009 and was an Albuquerque Area Director; and Economic Forum where he also served as Chairman. Past board memberships in economic development include: Quality New Mexico; Association of Commerce and Industry; Albuquerque Economic Development; Wells Fargo Community Board; Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce where he also served as President; NM First; and Acción New Mexico.

Currently a board member of the following community service boards: Chairman for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes National Board; Capital Campaign Chairman of National

Dance Institute; Rio Rancho Community Foundation where he served as Chairman; United Way of Central New Mexico where he served as Chairman and has served as the 2004 Campaign Chairman, Major Gifts Chair and as Chairman of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society; and Rotary del Sol Club of Albuquerque where he served as President. Past board memberships include the Rotary Foundation where he served as Chairman; United Way of America National Tocqueville Society Council; Albuquerque Community Foundation; and St. John United Methodist Church Foundation.

Vocational Service within the automobile industry includes being elected by his peers to serve as a NADA Director representing New Mexico and Ford National Dealer Council; New Mexico Auto Dealers Association where has served as President; and Albuquerque Auto Dealers Association where he served as President. He is currently President of CARS New Mexico and is a President's Circle member of NADA's DEAC.

Mr. Chalmers' honors include Don Chalmers Ford winning the *President's Award* from Ford Motor Company, the most prestigious customer loyalty and customer service dealer award obtainable from Ford Motor Company, for the past 11 of 12 years. Don received a *Hero of the Planet* award from Ford Motor Company, being one of the first six Ford dealers nationwide to receive this prestigious recognition for his social and community service. Don was one of the top five finalists out of 64 dealers from more than 19,500 nationwide for the 2003 *TIME Magazine Quality Dealer* award. This award recognizes outstanding new car dealers for exceptional performance in their dealership and distinguished community service. Don Chalmers Ford was awarded the 2005 New Mexico Quality Zia Award for having demonstrated, through practices and achievements, the highest level of performance excellence. This makes Don Chalmers Ford the only automobile dealership in the state and the only domestic automobile dealership in the nation to receive the top state quality award. In 2002, Don received the *Leader in Philanthropy* award given by the NM Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professional. This award is given for the financial and leadership contributions the recipient has given to his/her community and the entire state. In January 2002, Don was awarded the *2001 Outstanding Community Champion* by United Way of Central New Mexico for his leadership during the campaign and influencing other organizations in the community to participate. In 2004, Don was awarded the *New Mexico Spirit of Achievement* by the National Jewish Hospital Foundation. Don was honored as the *2005 Outstanding Philanthropist* by United Way of Santa Fe. Don Chalmers Ford was presented with the *2002 Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce Good Neighbor Award* and the *2005 Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Business Award* for the company's commitment and support to the Rio Rancho community, schools and economic development. In 2006, Don was honored with the *Governor's Distinguished Public Service Award* and entered in the *Junior Achievement New Mexico Business Hall of Fame*. Don Chalmers Ford was voted by ARCA's People's Choice Award for the *Favorite Automotive Dealership* in the Albuquerque Metro-area. Don Chalmers Ford was voted by the *New Mexico Business Weekly* as the *Best Company to Work For* in 2006. In 2010, Don was voted as a *Corporate Hero* in the *New Mexico Business Weekly*.
