**Gaurdie E. Banister Jr.**

Gaurdie E. Banister Jr. is a seasoned executive CEO who continues to make a lasting impact across the globe. Gaurdie was former President and CEO of Aera Energy LLC, a recognized industry leader for its innovative approach to lean manufacturing and one of the most successful and largest oil and gas ventures in the US.

Gaurdie has held numerous governance roles and is an active member of both public and private company boards. He was recently appointed as the first independent Chair of Russell Reynolds Associates. He currently serves on the boards of Dow, Inc (NYSE: Dow) and Enbridge (NYSE: ENB). He has formerly served on the boards of Tyson Foods where he was Lead Director for 5 years, Marathon Oil and Bristow. He also served as Chair of Compensation and Governance Committees and been a member of the Audit Committee. Gaurdie serves on the board of trustees of the American University in Washington, DC; the foundation board of South Dakota Mines; and the board of the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation in Bethesda, Md.

His career began in 1980 at Shell Oil as an offshore facilities engineer, where he served in various roles and executive-level positions over 28 years in the business. From 2003 to 2007, he was Technical Vice President: Upstream Asia Pacific, and Technical Vice President: Upstream America at Shell. Gaurdie was Vice President of Business Development and Technology (2001-2003) and President: USA and Executive Vice President: Shell Services EP Gas and Power (1998-2001).

Gaurdie holds a bachelor’s degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where he received his second honorary doctorate degree in 2007. He received his first honorary doctorate degree from the Fort Valley State University in Georgia in 2002.

He is currently the founder and CEO of Different Points of View: a private firm providing advisory services in the areas of leadership and safety. He also mentors and advises startups in the energy and technology space.

His unique ability to excel at multiple positions is a testament to his skillset and his character. He is a leader who values humanity, is uncompromising on profitability and safety, and is dedicated to leaving a legacy. He brings the same commitment to his roles as a husband, and as a father to two adult children.