**Gaurdie E. Banister Jr.**

Gaurdie E. Banister Jr. is a seasoned executive CEO who continues to make an 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 largest and most successful 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.

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 in 2002 from the Fort Valley State University.

He is the founder and CEO of Different Points of View: a private firm that provides advisory services in the areas of leadership and safety. He also mentors and advises startups in the energy and technology space. Gaurdie is a leader dedicated to leaving a legacy. He brings this same commitment to his roles as a husband, and as a father to two adult children.