



Meet our Keynote Speakers



Ray Almgren is the Chairman of FIRST in Texas and the Vice President of National Instruments. Almgren has held positions in applications engineering, marketing, and R&D. Much of his career has concentrated on growing the use of adoption of NI LabVIEW, the company's leading software. Almgren has also pioneered the company's effort in engineering education with a goal of inspiring students to pursue education and careers in technical fields. He has built a worldwide team focused on academic and university relations and initiatives, including the adoption of LabView as the software that powers the LEGO MINDSTORMS NXT robotics system the adoption of the NI CompactRIO platform by FIRST Robotics.



Cecil Bell Jr. is the Texas State Representative for District 3. He serves as the CEO of six active enterprises, providing clients with a variety of services and creating jobs for Texans. Cecil's support for the future of our community and willingness to volunteer his personal time and resources can be seen in his community service. Cecil remains Chairman of the Montgomery County Pct. 5 TCLEOSE Training Facility and has served as the Chairman of the Greater Magnolia Economic Development Partnership and President of the Magnolia ISD School Board of Trustees. Bell is sponsoring HB 395 and HB 842.



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Norman Morgan has been the lead robotics teacher at Westlake High School and helped found FRC 2468 Team Appreciate. He has a BS in education from Wayland Baptist College and an MS in education from Texas State University. During 17 years as a basketball coach, “Coach” learned how to inspire, a skill that was acknowledged when he received the Woodie Flowers Finalist Award at the 2013 Hub City Regional. This is his tenth year as the robotics program lead and he has grown the program from 35 students on one team to 130+ students on eight teams. In addition to his superior teaching and inspiration skills, he’s well known for his expertise in game strategy. In 2014, he was awarded the Eanes Independent School District Teacher of the Year.



Paul Workman is the conservative State Representative for southern and western Travis County, serving District 47 in the Texas House of Representatives since 2011. Paul is Vice Chairman of the House Select Committee on State & Federal Power & Responsibility and he serves as a member on the Insurance Committee and the Natural Resources Committee. Paul also serves by appointment on The Energy Council, which helps facilitate the development of national energy policy matters among the Southwestern states. Paul is sponsoring HB 595, which will offer companies tax credit for employing students in paid internships or similar programs.