



Ronald J. Gidwitz

Mr. Gidwitz is actively using his extensive background in business and education to tackle two of Illinois' most pressing issues — job loss and education needs. As Chairman of the Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity and Founder of Students First Illinois, Ron works at the state level to create an environment for job growth and provide every child with access to equal, high quality public education.

In February 2003 he personally launched Students First Illinois (www.studentsfirst.us), a non-partisan, statewide grassroots coalition of private individuals and community organizations banding together to help put Illinois' 2.2 million children first in state policy. A companion Students First Foundation (www.studentsfirstfoundation.us) encourages public involvement and support in the education of the state's schoolchildren.

Ron also serves as the Chairman of the Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity (www.jobsillinois.us), a coalition of employers representing more than 1 million workers. The non-partisan group's mission is to secure the future of Illinois by educating, informing and activating the public, stakeholders and elected officials to develop, promote and implement a stable pro-job, pro-growth, pro-investment climate in Illinois.

Mr. Gidwitz is a co-founder of GCG Partners, assuming an active role as a partner in September 1998. He shares responsibility for overall management of the partnership.

Prior to becoming active in GCG Partners, Mr. Gidwitz was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Unilever HPC Helene Curtis Business Unit from 1996 to 1998. Previously, Mr. Gidwitz served as President and Chief Executive Officer and as a member of the Board of Directors of Helene Curtis, a Fortune 500 consumer products company. He had served as President since 1979 and assumed the post of Chief Executive Officer in July 1985. Before being appointed President, Mr. Gidwitz held a number of positions within the company, with responsibilities ranging from sales to manufacturing. After Mr. Gidwitz took the helm of Helene Curtis in 1979, revenues increased sevenfold to more than \$1.2 billion before its acquisition by Unilever in 1996.

Prior to joining Helene Curtis in 1968, Mr. Gidwitz was Assistant to the Vice President at Walter E. Heller & Co., a former national financial services company headquartered in Chicago.

Mr. Gidwitz also serves as Director on the Boards of Continental Materials Corporation, Prairie Packaging and SEI Technologies.



Ronald J. Gidwitz

Continued

Mr. Gidwitz is active in the Chicago business and arts communities. He was named *Crain's Chicago Business* Executive of the Year in 1988. He is former Chairman of the Illinois State Board of Education and a member of the Chicago Central Area Committee.

He is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Field Museum of Natural History. He is a member of the Board of Trustees/Directors for Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, the Museum of Science and Industry, Steppenwolf Theatre, and Lyric Opera of Chicago. He also serves as Governor of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Additionally, he has served as Chairman of the Economic Development Commission of the City of Chicago, the Board of Trustees of the City Colleges of Chicago, and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

In 2003 Ron was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE).

Mr. Gidwitz is a graduate of Brown University, with a bachelor's degree in Economics. He is married with two children and resides in Chicago.

Contact:
(312) 541-6239



Ronald J. Gidwitz

NAME: **RONALD J. GIDWITZ**

DATE OF BIRTH: March 28, 1945

EDUCATION:

1961-1963 The Hotchkiss School
Lakeville, Connecticut

1963-1967 Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island
Degree: B.A. - Economics

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

1998 – Present Partner, GCG Partners
Private Investment Firm

1996 – 1998 President & Chief Executive Officer
Helene Curtis Business Unit
Unilever Home & Personal Care USA

1968 - 1996 Helene Curtis Industries, Inc.
President since 1979
Chief Executive Officer since 1985

1970 - 1971 Economy Beauty Supply
Los Angeles, California
(Subsidiary of HCI)
General Manager

1968 - 1970 Helene Curtis Industries, Inc.
Assistant to Vice President -
Manufacturing

1967 Analyst
Walter E. Heller & Company



Ronald J. Gidwitz

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Member of Board of Directors
Continental Materials Corporation

Member of Board of Directors
Prairie Packaging Corporation

President & Founder
Students First Illinois
Students First Foundation

Secretary
Member of Board of Governors
Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Member of Board of Trustees
Rush-Presbyterian Medical Center

Member of Board of Directors
Lyric Opera of Chicago

Chairman of Board of Directors
Field Museum of Natural History

Member Board of Directors
Museum of Science and Industry

Chairman
Midwest Aviation Coalition

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Chicago Central Area Committee

Chairman
Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity



Ronald J. Gidwitz

PAST AFFILIATIONS:

Member of Board of Directors
Helene Curtis Industries, Inc.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees
City Colleges of Chicago

Former Co-Chairman Illinois Jobs
Committee - Illinois Department of
Rehabilitation Services

Chairman
Illinois State Board of Education

Chairman – Government Relations Committee
Member of Board of Governors
Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Member of Board
Chicago Workforce Board

Member of Board
Governors Human Resource Investment Council

Member of the Governing Board
Illinois Council on Economic Education

Founder-Chairman
Illinois Business-Education Coalition

Member of Board of Directors
American National Can Company

Former Illinois Representative
President's Council for the
Handicapped

Chairman of Board of Directors
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce



Ronald J. Gidwitz

PAST AFFILIATIONS
(continued)

Co-Chairman
Mid-West Asia Aviation Coalition

Former Co-Chairman
Productive Chicago
City Colleges of Chicago-Economic Development
Commission

Former Chairman
Governor's Task Force on
Human Resource Development

Former Member - Advisory Council
Small Business Administration

Former Chairman, Board of Governors
Former Chairman, Committee on
Business Development
City Club of Chicago

Former Member of Board of Directors
Grant Hospital of Chicago

Member of Policy Committee
Illinois Business Roundtable

Former Commissioner -
Chicago World's Fair 1992 Authority
Former Member of Board of Directors
Chicago Board of Trade

Former Regent
Lincoln Academy of Illinois

Former Member of Executive Board
The Library Council of Northwestern
University



Ronald J. Gidwitz

PAST AFFILIATIONS
(continued)

Former Member of Board of Directors
March of Dimes-Chicago Chapter

Former Member of Board of Directors
United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Chicago

Small Business Illinois Advisory
Council

Executive Committee
National Committee for Employer
Support of the Guard and Reserve

Former Chairman
Economic Development Commission of
the City of Chicago

Former Republican Committeeman
43rd Ward, City of Chicago

Former Member of the Board
Leadership for Quality Education

**CIVIC/PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS:**

Member – Commercial Club

Member (former Board Member)
Economics Club of Chicago



Ronald J. Gidwitz

**SELECTED AWARDS
& HONORS:**

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1978 | Outstanding Young Chicagoan
Junior Chamber of Commerce |
| 1986 | Man of the Year
Greater North-Pulaski Development Corporation |
| 1988 | Executive of the Year
Crain's Chicago Business |
| | Man of the Year
United Neighborhood Organization |
| 1996 | Outstanding Service Award
Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services |
| 1996 | Civic Leadership Award
American Jewish Committee |
| 1997 | American Enterprise Award
The Prairie Institute for Economic Growth and Freedom |
| 2000 | Service to Youth Award
Boys and Girls Clubs of America |
| 2002 | Community Builder
Casa Central |
| 2003 | Laureate
Lincoln Academy of Illinois |
| 2003 | Distinguished Service Award
National Association of State Boards of Education |