

Dr. Terry Neese, CEO/Founder
Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women

Serial entrepreneur Dr. Terry Neese is a lifelong Oklahoman and has spent over thirty years finding careers for men and women. She is the founder of Terry Neese Personnel Services (TNPS), National Grassroots Network, Women Impacting Public Policy and the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women (IEEW). Terry's daughter, Kim Neese, is now the President/Owner of TNPS.

Under the umbrella of IEEW the PEACE THROUGH BUSINESS® program is offered, which educates and empowers women entrepreneurs in developing countries to achieve their dream of financial independence, community involvement, and political activism. Since its creation in 2006, the program has trained more than 300 women entrepreneurs in Afghanistan and Rwanda.

A member of the U.S. Afghan Women's Council, past national president of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), and founder of Terry Neese Personnel Services, Dr. Neese is known as a small business expert and was recognized by Fortune magazine as one of the "Power 30"—the most influential small businesspersons in Washington, D.C. She has been featured throughout several media outlets including MSNBC, FOX News, CNN, SBTv, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Examiner and the Washington Times.

Terry is an inductee into the National and Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fames; her involvement with women business owners and family issues is well documented through her participation in the following:

- Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP)— WIPP joins together a membership across the nation totaling over half-million women entrepreneurs and executives and serves as a voice for women in business at the United States Capitol.
- National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA); Distinguished Fellow – Terry led the organization's Family Policy Center, where she developed policy ideas that helped women, families, and small businesses keep more of their earned money, and make better financial and health choices. In addition, Terry conducted bipartisan briefings on family issues with congressional leaders and their staffs and has regularly testified before the U.S. House and Senate.

A successful businesswoman, Terry made history in 1990 when she became the first woman nominated by a major political party for the seat of Lt. Governor of Oklahoma. She was named an Outstanding Business Leader by the Northwood University Board of Trustees in 2006, and received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the university in 2008. In 2013 she received the Enterprising Women Legacy Award, the National Women Business Owners Corporation Leadership Award, and the Journal Record's "Oklahoma's Most Admired CEO."

Terry has been appointed to numerous councils and positions with nominations by prominent leaders, such as Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, including:

- Board of Director to the Euro-American Women's Council
- U.S.-Afghanistan Women's Council, through which she traveled to Afghanistan in 2007
- National Advisory Council on Indian Education
- *Les Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales* (FCEM) Regional Commissioner for the Americas
- National Women's Business Council (a bipartisan federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President and Congress)
- Advisory Council for the United States Committee for United Nations Development Fund for Women

Terry is also a pilot and was married to Earl N. Neese for thirty-nine wonderful years. Their daughter, Kim Neese, is CEO of Terry Neese Personnel Services and is the proud mom of Emily and Erin. They all reside in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.