

GUEST SPEAKER BIOS

SKIP PERLEY

Retired CEO, Thompson Solutions Group

After high school Skip Perley planned to attend a college and was accepted into the GM Institute engineering program. However, a family friend was an electrician, and the technical challenge of the work appealed to him. Rather than join the GM Institute, Perley began his career as an apprentice electrician at Thompson Electric in 1976. After a brief stint as a journeyman, he worked in every management role at the company and was named President/CEO in 1998. He was continually buying stock from the company's owner and over time became the majority shareholder. Perley retired at the beginning of 2025.



Perley says his proudest achievement is “developing a team of leaders capable of guiding Thompson long after he’s gone. As exciting as it is to build or fix some system, it is much more rewarding to build a team of talented individuals.” The team was largely built by giving talented people different opportunities to learn, succeed and at times fail.

Perley has been married to his wife Cathy for 32 years. Both Cathy and Skip are involved in the community through various non-profit boards. Perley was the 2023 recipient of the W. Edwards Deming Business Leadership and Entrepreneurial Excellence Award.

CHARESE YANNEY

Managing Partner, Guarantee Roofing, Siding & Insulation

Charese Yanney is a Managing Partner in Guarantee Roofing, Siding and Insulation Company of Sioux City, where she has worked since 1976. The company provides a full range of products and services and holds the prestigious GAF certification as a “Master Elite Contractor.” Prior to joining the company, Yanney was a junior high and high school teacher with the Sioux City Community Schools.



Yanney has an extensive record of civic and public service. Her first opportunity to serve the State of Iowa was with the Iowa Beer and Liquor Commission during Governor Ray's administration, where she later became chair of the board. She has served on the Iowa Transportation Commission and the Vision Iowa Board of Directors and is a past president of the St. Luke's UnityPoint Board of Directors, the Sioux City Symphony Board of Directors, and the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Yanney has held several governor-appointed positions, including service on the Privacy Task Force, Vertical Infrastructure Committee, Governor's Committee on Community Colleges, Governor's Committee on Reformed Spending, and the Iowa Economic Development Board.

In recognition of her leadership and impact, Yanney was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Iowa Business Hall of Fame in November 2015. Yanney was the 2024 recipient of the W. Edwards Deming Business Leadership and Entrepreneurial Excellence Award.

ANTONIO "TONY" GOMEZ

Founder, Gomez Pallets

Tony Gomez is a respected entrepreneur and community leader who has been called the backbone of the Latino community in Siouxland. A first-generation immigrant, he came to the United States in 1965 and settled in Siouxland in 1970. He began his career at Iowa Beef Processors (IBP) before founding Gomez Pallets in the late 1980s, building a successful business through innovation and hard work. Although he retired in 2020, he remains the owner of the company.



Gomez has dedicated decades to public service, serving on the South Sioux City Council and the Dakota County Commission, where he became the first Hispanic commissioner. His leadership includes long-standing service on the Nebraska Commission on Latino-Americans, the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Northeast Community College Foundation Board, and the Board of Trustees for Briar Cliff University. He has also been active with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Recognized for his contributions, Gomez has been listed in *Who's Who Among Spanish Americans*, received the United Way Merit of Achievement Award, and was named Man of the Year in 2021 by the National Republican Congressional Commission. Gomez was the 2025 recipient of the W. Edwards Deming Business Leadership and Entrepreneurial Excellence Award.