

THOMAS B. OXHOLM

Tom Oxholm was educated in public and private schools in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in December 1976 with a BS in Business, concentration in Accounting, and was employed as a CPA by KPMG in Raleigh in January 1977. In January 1986, he joined his client Wake Stone Corporation in Knightdale. Wake Stone is family-owned and in the stone quarrying industry; it owns and operates four stone quarries in eastern North Carolina and one in coastal South Carolina. Since Tom joined the company, Wake Stone has grown from two quarries, 50 employees, and \$10 million in sales to five quarries, 225 employees, and \$110 million in sales. Tom is currently Executive Vice President and oversees many areas including HR and administration, finance, strategic planning, and shareholder matters for this family owned business. Previous titles include Vice President – Planning and Administration (1986-1992) and Vice President Finance & Administration (1992-2021). On November 8, 2024, Wake Stone was sold to Vulcan Materials Corporation. The Purchase Agreement stipulated that Tom serve as the Shareholder Representative following closing.

Beginning in 1992 Tom became very active in the community, primarily in the two areas he believes are the foundation of any great location: public education and healthcare.

For many years Tom has been very active in Wake County Public Schools including:

- The founder of the East Wake High School Business Alliance (1992).
- A founding member and Past Chair of the Business Education Leadership Council and the School-To-Career Council (1995-2005). The Council established Business Alliances at every high school and middle school in Wake County. Tom recruited over 100 businesses to join Alliances, formed and chaired a dozen of them. These Alliances have been copied in other school districts across NC.
- 6 years in the 1990's of serving as a tutor/mentor for Communities-in-Schools at East Wake Middle School and High School.
- In 1997-98 chaired the School Finance Committee for the Wake Education Partnership which published the first ever guide to WCPSS spending - "*Show Me The Money*"; it was distributed by the N&O and presented at an education summit in April 1998.
- Named Knightdale's "1997 Citizen of the Year" for work in public education.
- Named by Wake Education Partnership as "1998 Friend of Education".
- Served on the 1999 \$1.1 Billion School Bond Campaign for the Raleigh Chamber.
- After the defeat of that School Bond, for Wake Education Partnership chaired the first ever guide to WCPSS construction spending "*Nuts and Bolts*".
- Served on the successful 2000 School Bond Campaign (and every one since).
- Seduced into running for the Wake County School Board in 1999 by Harvery Schmitt, Richard Urquhart and Tony Habit, was elected and served 1999-2003, all four years as Finance Committee Chair. Donated his board stipend to the schools in his district.
- With Superintendent Bill McNeal and his "No Child Left Behind" initiative to get students to grade level (Goal 2003: 95% of all kids at grade level in reading and math), recruited hundreds of tutors in eastern Wake County as well as serving as a tutor at Lockhart Elementary, Brooks Elementary, and Carrol Middle School (2000-2003).
- In 2008, co-authored with National Superintendent of the Year Bill McNeal, *A School District's Journey to Excellence, Lessons from Business and Education* (Corwin Press).
- In the years following School Board service, author of numerous Op-Ed articles for the *News & Observer* and frequent speaker.

- In 2022 worked with the CEO of the Triangle YMCA and WCPSS Superintendent to form Wake Together for recruitment of volunteer tutors to help overcome COVID 19 learning loss. Served as a Wake Together tutor at Lockhart Elementary 2022-23.
- Co-chaired the 2022 School Bond Campaign for the Chamber, primarily raising funds.
- Recognized in September 2023 as the recipient of the A.E. Finley Distinguished Service Award by the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.
- Recognized in May 2025 by the Public School Forum of North Carolina with the Jay Robinson Education Leadership Award.

Other education service includes 6 years on the Board and Treasurer of the Public School Forum of North Carolina (2013-2019).

Beginning in 1992, Tom became active in supporting Wake County hospitals including:

- Serving as a corporate fund raiser for the Rex Golf Classic (1992-1995).
- When asked by Ron Doggett, joined WakeMed Foundation's President's Circle (1996) and chaired (1996-99) the Partners' Circle supporting WakeMed.
- Joined the WakeMed Foundation Board in February 1999 and served through December 2010 as Development Chair and as Chairman (2007-09). Major goal was raising \$20 million to build Wake County's first children's hospital (Tom raised \$8 million).
- Joined WakeMed's Hospital Board of Directors in 2003 and served two five-year terms. Served as Finance Committee Chair (2004-2011) and as Board Chair (2011-13).
- Served on the Board of Wake Key Community Care (2013-2019) (an accountable care organization required by the ACA (Obamacare) to cooperatively improve healthcare delivery for Wake County with WakeMed and hundreds of area physicians).

Tom served on the Board of the YMCA of the Triangle Area (2019-2023), which contributes greatly to the health and education needs of Wake County and six more counties. He primarily has served in a fundraising capacity and working on supporting education initiatives.

Other community service includes:

- Served on the 1994-95 County Commissioner Task Force (Luddy Commission) on spending, chairing the Education subcommittee.
- Served on the County Commissioner Blue Ribbon Committee on the Future of Wake County (2006-09).
- Served on the Advisory Board of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Foundation (2021-present) providing guidance to the restart of the Chamber Foundation.
- In January 2025 joined the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain Board of Directors to assist with the capital campaign and fundraising initiatives to allow for growth.

In addition, he has been a member of Hayes Barton United Methodist since 1977 and taught Sunday school to middle school and high school students from 1977-2007. He served on the Board of Directors of Paragon Commercial Bank from 2004-2018. He was President of North Ridge Country Club in 1995. And he remains an active blood donor with over 150 pints in the last 40 years.

Mr. Oxholm resides in Raleigh, NC and Beaufort, NC with his wife, Becky. They have four grown children (38-47) and six grandchildren ages 10 months - 10 years. When he has time, he plays golf.