

Gene Richards

Stern Center Board Member

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So, you're hustling from your car, I-Phone at your ear, "in-coming email" pinging through your phone conversation, but before you can complete the phone conversation two people you're meeting for lunch greet you, only to be joined by someone with a question about the Airport Commission you chair, three guys at the tee wave "hello," and the manager of the restaurant says your table is all set.

If this sounds overwhelming, you're like most of us. If it sounds like a regular noon hour, you're Gene Richards. Family man, CEO of Spruce Mortgage, partner in both Champlain Title and Vermont Standing Seam, Board Member of the Burlington Tennis Club, Burlington Country Club, and the Lund Center, newly named Airport Commission Chair, Act 250 Commissioner, custom home builder, winner of the Burlington Business Association's 2008 Hertz N. Pasackow Award "for significant contribution to the physical or architectural quality of Burlington," and in the midst of all that,
Stern Center Board member, past Board chair and current Development Committee Co-Chair!

Gene's boundless energy, "Internet-like" connections, readiness to help others, and devotion to the Stern Center are legendary. Sit in a meeting with him or just have a private conversation for five minutes and you hear, see and feel all that. Gene is a Jack of all trades and there is nothing he would not do for others. If you need advice about raising bees or making honey, he's your man. Minutes before the benefit tennis tournament he'll be on the court with a squeegee and towel making sure it's ready for players. He'll know 95% of the people at the coming community event, and before it's over that number will be 100%.

The Stern Center benefits from these and all of Gene's gifts. He is unconditional in his commitment to and passion for the Stern Center. As a native Vermonter, born in St. Albans and raised in Pittsford, Gene began his career in banking. Confident, assertive, high energy, knowing it's all about the people, and "ready to go" combined to launch his business career and make possible his instincts for community service, social investment, and giving to others.

Gene is passionate about everything he does. Helping all learners succeed is rooted in his own and his sons' learning to learn and learning to achieve:

Because learning did not come easily to me, I feel compassion for others who will benefit from time spent at the Stern Center. It is the best investment I ever made, both of my time and my money, because the payback is for a lifetime.

**Thanks, Gene, for all you do to support the Stern Center, its people, and its mission!
You are a true inspiration to us all.**

Gene Richards and Bernice Stern at the Silver Anniversary Gala

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