

Thomas Kalb
Director
Center for Midstream Management and Science



Education

MBA (Finance), University of Chicago, 1988
BSc (Petroleum Engineering), The University of Texas at Austin, 1979

Biography

Thomas Kalb became the inaugural Director of the Center for Midstream Management and Science (“CMMS” or the “Midstream Center”) at Lamar University (“LU”) in April 2020. The Midstream Center was established in the fall of 2019 through the foresight of the 86th Texas Legislature. Mr. Kalb will manage and pursue the university’s mandate to develop and build the Midstream Center into a bridge and partnership between LU and the midstream industry, promoting and leading practical research and technology development, knowledge transfer and workforce training relevant to the midstream sector.

Prior to becoming Director of the Midstream Center, Mr. Kalb was an oil and gas executive with 39 years in financial and operating commodity businesses. He spent 32 years serving as an oil and gas focused institutional investor and provider of corporate finance advisory services, and seven years as a petroleum engineer. During his career, he was involved in many upstream and midstream projects and founded, secured funding and managed two oil & gas investment companies. He either started or was a founding member of the oil and gas investment businesses of GE Capital, AIG Financial Products and Freepoint Commodities.

Mr. Kalb’s vision for CMMS leads ultimately to recognition of CMMS and LU as the preeminent center and clearing house for midstream knowledge and technological development. This long-term strategic goal develops from his recognition of LU’s unique position as a long-time contributor to one of the one of the most important petrochemical complexes on earth, centered in Southeast Texas. Initial, emerging Midstream Center initiatives include:

- (i) develop new academic and work force training programs, including new Midstream Certificate Programs within the LU College of Engineering and a work force training partnership with The University of Texas at Austin's PETEX division of the Cockrell School of Engineering and others;
- (ii) increase competition for LU engineering graduates to enhance employer appreciation for LU's value and contribution to the midstream sector through aggressive targeting of internships and graduate recruiting by midstream companies outside the Beaumont area;
- (iii) energize midstream industry and government funding of academic research focused on delivering direct economic benefits to midstream companies;
- (iv) become an active participant with dominant midstream organizations such as the GPA Midstream Association to build Lamar's direct involvement, connections, and brand in the midstream sector;
- (v) make CMMS a thought leader in the digital transformation of the midstream industry via promotion and funding of relevant research projects and partnership building with companies and universities already focused on this arena; and
- (vi) develop physical and virtual showcases for emerging research and technologies from all sources that are impacting the midstream sector.