

# Shawn J. Farr

---

## Experience

Administrative and financial management experience in the areas of higher education, K-12, nonprofit and governmental organizations, economic development, private foundation, and botanical garden.

## Strengths

Development, management and leadership of a team focused on achieving short and long-term goals. Effective use of operating and capital resources for achievement of organization's mission. Development and implementation of policies and procedures to improve the operating effectiveness of an organization.

Analyze problems and implement creative solutions.

## Abilities

Leading and managing educational and nonprofit organizations, organizational development and restructuring, project administration, board and community relations, budget development and administration, financial analysis and reporting.

## Education

M.B.A. from California State University, Bakersfield (1987) and a B.S. in Business Administration with an option in Accounting from California State University, Long Beach (1980).

---

## Accomplishments and Experience

- Over a 15 year period worked in financial and administrative positions in The California State University (CSU) System of higher of education; including Assistant Director for Business Management at CSU, Northridge with an annual operating budget in excess of \$100 million and 4,000 employees, Financial Advisor for system wide auxiliary services at the CSU Office of the Chancellor, and Associate Executive Director and CFO for the Foundation at CSU, Fullerton.
- Served as business advisor to higher education institutions across the country providing management and organizational services for business operations.
- Chief Operating Officer of the Annenberg Foundation, a private foundation in suburban Philadelphia with over \$3 billion in assets and annual grant making of \$200 to \$300 million. Oversaw the \$500 million Annenberg Challenge grant program and monitored the investment of funds.
- Acting Executive Director and Program and Operations Director for the Greater Philadelphia First Foundation (GPF), a nonprofit business leadership organization engaged in regional economic development and improving the quality of life for the Greater Philadelphia region.
- While at GPF, managed the Children Achieving Challenge, a \$50 million five year grant from the Annenberg Foundation, and facilitated the raising of over \$100 million in matching funds from corporations, foundations, government and individuals.
- Served as Chief Operating Officer and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Harrisburg City School District for one year and conducted a search for a new superintendent.
- While at the Harrisburg School District, reduced administrative and operational expenses and improved communication with the public.
- Served as a Special Assistant to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education working with fiscally distressed school districts, including the Chester-Upland School District, and serving as Board of Control Chair and running the Duquesne City School District.
- While at the Duquesne City School District, reduced administrative and operational expenses, closed the High School, and sent students to surrounding high schools on a tuition basis to improve educational outcomes.

- Served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida. Responsible for all aspects of an internationally known botanical gardens with a primary focus on orchids and bromeliads; including horticulture, research, education, development and administration.
- 

## Recent Positions

### **Vice President of Administration and Finance and CFO for Central Penn College from May 2019 to Present**

Serve as Chief Financial Officer and responsible for overseeing operational aspects of College, including finances, facilities, public safety and health, financial aid, food service, and conference center. College has approximately 1,000 students, with 150 employees and an \$18 million operating budget. Served on team that developed five-year strategic plan for 2020 to 2024. Identified and implemented budget reductions in excess of \$1 million for 2021 to account for declining enrollment, tuition revenue, and on campus residential population.

### **Director of Finance and Board Secretary for the Carlisle Area School District from 2012 to May 2019**

Responsible for overseeing the business operations, facilities, and food service of a school district with over 5,200 students, 550 employees, and an \$86 million operating budget. Outsourced all or part of food service, custodial, landscaping, and maintenance operations; responsible for \$39 million project to renovate and expand two middle schools; and refinanced a substantial portion of the outstanding debt of the District.

### **Director of Business and Operations and Board Treasurer for the Capital Area Intermediate Unit in Enola, PA from 2007 to 2012**

Responsible for overseeing the business operations, buildings and grounds, food service and transportation services of the CAIU with 520 employees and \$70 million budget. The CAIU is a regional educational service agency providing services to 24 school districts, 2 career and technical education schools, and charter and private schools.

---

## Boards and Committees

### UPMC Carlisle, Carlisle, PA

Member of the hospital Board of Trustees since 2016.

### Rotary Club of Carlisle, Carlisle, PA

President of the Club in 2016-17. Member of Club since 2012.

### Harrisburg University, Harrisburg, PA

Member of University Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2019. Served as Chair of Finance Committee and Chair of Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Served as non-Board member of Academic and Student Affairs Committee from 2010 to 2013.

### Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, Harrisburg, PA

Member of science center and live performance venue Board of Directors 2012 to 2018.

### Open Stage of Harrisburg, Harrisburg, PA

Member of performing theatre Board of Directors from 2008 to 2009.

# Shawn J. Farr

---

## Employment History

---

### **Vice President of Administration and Finance and CFO for Central Penn College from May 2019 to Present**

Serve as Chief Financial Officer and responsible for overseeing operational aspects of College, including finances, facilities, public safety and health, financial aid, food service, and conference center. College has approximately 1,000 students, with 150 employees and an \$18 million operating budget. Served on team that developed five-year strategic plan for 2020 to 2024. Identified and implemented budget reductions in excess of \$1 million for 2021 to account for declining enrollment, tuition revenue, and on campus residential population.

---

### **Director of Finance and Board Secretary for the Carlisle Area School District from 2012 to May 2019**

Responsible for overseeing the business operations, facilities, and food service of a school district with over 5,200 students, 550 employees, and an \$86 million operating budget. Outsourced all or part of food service, custodial, landscaping, and maintenance operations; responsible for \$39 million project to renovate and expand two middle schools; and refinanced a substantial portion of the outstanding debt of the District.

---

### **Director of Business and Operations and Board Treasurer for the Capital Area Intermediate Unit in Enola, PA from 2007 to 2012**

Responsible for overseeing the business operations, buildings and grounds, food service and transportation services of the CAIU with 520 employees and \$70 million budget. The CAIU is a regional educational service agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania providing services to 24 school districts, 2 career and technical education schools, and charter and private schools.

- Directed the leasing, construction and equipping of a 39,070 sq. ft. special education facility
- Facilitated migration to new financial accounting software
- Directed the leasing, renovation and equipping of 10,400 sq. ft. of new space for the Capital Area School for the Arts
- Obtained long-term financing for facility construction and maintenance projects
- Reorganized business office staff to improve effectiveness and service
- Negotiated 5 year contract with Comcast for computer wide area network for 22 school districts in region

---

### **Chief Operating Officer for the Harrisburg School District in Harrisburg, PA for the 2010-11 School Year**

On assignment from the Capital Area Intermediate Unit reporting to the School District Board of School Directors. Responsible for the day to day operations of the District with 8,000 students, 1,200 employees and \$137 million budget.

- Made staffing and program reductions to help cover budget shortfall
- Facilitated search by the Board for a new Superintendent
- Improved transparency and communication of information to community and media
- Closed vocational school facility and transitioned students to county vocational program
- Worked to clean-up and improve attendance and graduation reporting
- Instituted new agenda process and meeting format for Board of School Directors
- Reduced cost of administrative staffing by 18%
- Addressed and corrected other areas of operational inconsistencies and deficiencies

---

### **Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education for the Pennsylvania Department of Education in Harrisburg, PA from 2004 to 2006**

Worked in a senior level capacity to the Secretary of Education on special projects and assignments. Worked with fiscally distressed school districts, including Chester-Upland School District, and served as Board of Control Chair for the Duquesne City School District with a \$14 million operating budget and 100 employees.

---

### **Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, FL for 2003**

Responsible for all aspects of internationally known botanical gardens with a primary focus on orchids and bromeliads, including horticulture, research, education, development and administration.

---

### **Chief Operating Officer/Consultant for The Annenberg Foundation in St. Davids, PA from 2000 to 2002**

Oversaw all aspects of the operation for a private Foundation with assets of over \$3 billion, including administrative, financial, program, and new office in Los Angeles. Served as a consultant to the Foundation on its \$500 million education reform initiative.

---

### **Acting Executive Director/Program and Operations Director for the Greater Philadelphia First Foundation in Philadelphia, PA from 1995 to 2000**

Directed the activities of a nonprofit business leadership organization engaged in regional economic development and improving the quality of life for the Greater Philadelphia region. Served as the Program and Operations Director for the organization. Managed and raised funds for the Children Achieving Challenge, a five-year \$150 million initiative focused on reforming the School District of Philadelphia.

---

### **Higher Education Business Advisor Based Out of Gwynedd Valley, PA from 1994 to 1995**

Provided management and organizational consulting services for the commercial and retail business operations of higher education institutions across the country.

---

### **The California State University from 1979 to 1994**

Over 15 year period worked in progressively responsible financial and administrative positions in The California State University (CSU) System of higher of education. At CSU, Fullerton, served as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of a multi-purpose nonprofit corporation with over 700 employees. At the CSU Office of the Chancellor, served as financial advisor for auxiliary services at all campuses in the System. At CSU, Northridge managed an annual operating budget in excess of \$100 million with 4,000 employees.

1991-1994	Associate Executive Director	California State University, Fullerton Foundation
1987-1991	Financial Advisor	The California State University Office of the Chancellor, Long Beach, CA
1986-1987	Assistant Director, Business Management	California State University, Northridge
1981-1986	Controller/ Personnel Director	California State University, Bakersfield Foundation
1979-1981	Accounting Supervisor	California State University, Long Beach Associated Students