



## J. Walter Porter

(1900-1965)

A native of Kaufman County, Texas, Mr. Porter graduated from Texas A&M, class of 1922, and earned a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering at Harvard in 1924. In 1931, he helped organize the Gifford-Hill Pipe Company in Grand Prairie, Texas. Mr. Porter saw the need to sell business to the college and to bridge the gap between the college campus and industry. Mr. Porter felt that many people in the academic, professional, governmental, and even in the business world, fail to understand the workings of the competitive system and the motivating force behind it. He was determined to contribute to a better understanding of that system among his own employees, associates, and where he could, on college campuses. His death came on the eve of a scheduled three-day lecture program at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. The J. Walter Porter Forum is a continuation of his efforts to increase this understanding.

Sponsored by the School of Business and made possible by the endowment established by the family and friends of the late J. Walter Porter in recognition of his interest in improving the image of business as a career field for college students and of his concern for moral and ethical standards as expressed in his philosophy of business. The forum is an effort to translate the textbook into practice by bringing capable, successful business executives to the campus to speak on selected topics in their area of expertise.

**Thank you to the Porter family for your commitment to Northwestern State University and the School of Business!**



# *53rd Annual*

## *J. Walter Porter Forum*

*Growing Businesses  
while Sustaining the  
Environment*

*Thursday, October 17, 2019*

*School of Business*

*College of Business and Technology  
Northwestern State University*

*Natchitoches, Louisiana*

## INTRODUCTION

*“A sustainable business is resource efficient, respects the environment and is a good neighbour.”*

*- Phil Harding*

Our students, faculty and staff strive for excellence at the College of Business and Technology at Northwestern State University. We believe that opportunities to demonstrate excellence are endless in the ‘world of business.’ In business, this includes recognizing environmental concerns.

For the 53rd Annual J. Walter Porter Forum, we are focusing on how businesses can grow while simultaneously having a deep respect and reverence for our environment. To that end, we have invited two dynamic speakers to come and discuss this important topic with our business students, our future leaders.

Thank you for joining us for this year's forum. We believe that you will find the presentations particularly relevant and enlightening.

*“We can constantly make new things but we can't make a new world.”*

*- Kentaro Matsuura*



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

—2019—

### J. WALTER PORTER FORUM

Russell Hall, Room 107

**9:40 a.m. - Welcome and Introduction**

**Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dean**  
College of Business and Technology

**10:00 a.m. - Speaker**

**Kevin Guth**

**10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**Break**

**11:10 a.m. - Speaker**

**Whit Rankin**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Lunch – Natchitoches Room**

(Guests, Speakers, Faculty,  
Director’s Executive Advisory Board Members, and  
School of Business Seniors)

## KEVIN GUTH

Kevin Guth is serving as the Principal for KGC, where he oversees all aspects of business and technical operations. For the past 23 years, he has provided senior oversight and management of KGC’s most complex industrial hygiene and hazardous waste management projects. Kevin holds a Master of Science in Public Health (Industrial Hygiene) from Tulane University and is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Public Health (Emphasis: Assessing Chemical Toxicity and Public Health Risks). He is a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

## WHIT RANKIN

Whit Rankin is a Professional Civil Engineer with over 16 years of experience in structural design, geotechnical design, and heavy construction processes. He is the Principal for Rankin, LLC Consulting Engineers and serves as the Engineer of Record for this firm. Since its creation in 2014 Rankin, LLC has participated in many structural and geotechnical design projects ranging from commercial buildings, road and bridges, bulkheads, and construction processes along the Gulf Coast; many projects include environmental containment system design for cleaning and painting steel structures. Whit has a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Louisiana Lafayette and is currently licensed in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas.