



# TAKING THE LEAD ...



## **Meet Terry Owens, Leadership Premier 2015** Senior Director of Communications, Pulsar Advertising

Terry joined the Leadership Howard County Board in July, 2021 and Chairs LHC's Communications & Marketing Committee.

### ***How do you define leadership?***

Leadership is about pouring into people, understanding their wants and desires and providing the resources for them to grow.

### ***What leader inspires you and why?***

I am inspired by servant leaders, people who give of themselves to help others. One such individual is Joe Jones, Founder and CEO, of the Center for Urban Families. His life mission is to support men and women so they can join the workforce and contribute to their families as wage earners with a special emphasis on fathers that are so critical to the family unit.

### ***What is your favorite thing about being a leader?***

What I enjoy most about being a leader is helping people realize their potential. Nothing is more rewarding than encouraging someone to do more than they thought they were capable of and then watching them walk into their greatness, whether it's learning a new skill, developing a product, building the next great transportation system or being a good parent. And you know your job is truly done when that person in turn pours into someone else to help them along the way on their journey through life.

### ***In your opinion, what is the best trait a successful leader should have?***

A successful leader must have vision, compassion and the ability to listen. I believe leaders should often be the most quiet people in the room.

### ***What is your favorite leadership quote?***

I have admired the speeches and writings of many leaders over my life. Picking one quote is a tough, so I'll give you two...

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."  
- Langston Hughes

"The time is always right to do what is right."  
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### ***What are your go-to hobbies or pastimes?***

That's an easy one. I love golf, music and the Baltimore Ravens. All three allow me to travel and enjoy some of the best life has to offer.

***What would you say to someone considering getting involved with LHC?***

Leaders are not born, they are made. That means they need a training ground. It certainly starts long before they get to LHC, but the organization is a finishing school of sorts. I lived in Howard County for years, worked here as a journalist, and was amazed just how much I didn't know about the county. LHC provided that opportunity and access to leaders that most never get. I would encourage anyone that would like to take their place as a leader in the county, state or nation to consider this program and don't miss the opportunity for the kind of growth LHC offers. It was without question one of the best decisions I ever made.

***What leadership advice would you give a new emerging professional?***

Dream big. Act small. Never stop learning and don't be afraid to ask questions. Explore new things . Don't limit yourself in any way.

My mother would always tell me growing up that if I got a good education, and kept God in front of me that I could do anything in life I wanted to do. That advice has taken this kid from the "Black Bottom" of Detroit around the world and back and I still feel like I am just getting started.

***What is your most memorable vacation?***

My most memorable vacation to date was a trip to Hawaii. It was a wedding anniversary trip and my wife insisted I play the best golf courses available. Besides the golf, there was parasailing with my wife, cruising in a convertible, amazing food and enjoying some of the most spectacular views on the planet.

***If you were not in your current role, what would your dream career/job be and why?***

My dream job growing up was working as a correspondent for 60 Minutes. I love solid journalism, whether it's sharing the story of some famed artist or uncovering activity that needs to be exposed to the light of day. It was a role that allowed you to travel the world and work with some of the best talent in broadcast journalism. But most of all, it allowed you to tell the stories of people. I was blessed to do that on a smaller scale as a reporter in local television news markets but 60 Minutes was the dream. I am working on the next dream as I write this.