



HOUSTON'S 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN OF 2020-21

Kathi Dantley Warren

Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations
Rice University

“Under Kathi Warren’s leadership, Rice achieved its largest-ever annual fundraising total in fiscal year 2021 and secured its first-ever \$100 million gifts.”

Kathi Dantley Warren is the vice president for development and alumni relations at Rice University. Prior to assuming this position in July 2019, she served as associate vice president for development at Rice, a role in which she was responsible for the day-to-day operations of individual fundraising programs and also oversaw various departments within the Development and Alumni Relations Division, including gift planning, major gifts, school-based fundraising and the Rice Annual Fund.

Under Warren’s leadership, Rice achieved its largest annual fundraising total ever in fiscal year 2021 and secured its first-ever \$100

million gifts. The Welch Foundation committed \$100 million to establish the Welch Institute for Advancement Materials in September 2020. In September 2021, the Moody Foundation announced a gift of \$100 million to build a transformative new student center and create endowments supporting student opportunity and success.

Prior to coming to Rice in July 2017, Warren served as the senior executive director of development for Duke University’s Duke Cancer Institute. In this role, she transformed the fundraising program from a yearly \$18 million enterprise to a \$30 million enterprise and successfully completed a \$200 million campaign.

From 2010-2014, Warren served as assistant dean for alumni affairs and development at Cornell University’s College of Engineering, where she developed and implemented its first alumni affairs and development strategic plan and alumni engagement plan. During her tenure, she increased annual revenues from \$22.7 million to more than \$56 million and led the college to its second-best fundraising year. These efforts also enabled the college to create and endow several new signature initiatives, including an engineering leadership program and teaching

excellence institute.

Prior to her tenure at Cornell, Warren served as campaign director and director of corporate relations at the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business and as a major gift officer for the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences at Johns Hopkins University.

Warren currently serves as a member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) 50 Steering Committee, which represents the higher education institutions that have raised the most funds annually as reported via CASE surveys. Warren also serves on the board of the Rice’s Houston Education Research Consortium.

She is a sought-after speaker in the advancement field on leadership, organizational development and DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion).

Warren earned a master’s degree in cell and molecular biology and microbiology from Duke University and a bachelor’s degree in biology from Hampton University.

Originally from Alexandria, VA, Warren, her husband Stephen, son Bennett and dogs Pearl and Tyson, have enjoyed making their home in Texas since coming to Rice. She is an avid sports enthusiast and dog-rescue advocate who also enjoys travel, cooking and painting.