

NETWORKING OVER NASHVILLE

SPEAKER BIOS

RODNEY CHESTER

Rodney Chester has served on Gresham Smith's Board of Directors since 2015 and as Board Chair Since January 2023. He also serves as the firm's Chief Executive Officer—a role he has held since 2022. As CEO, Rodney is responsible for the alignment of Gresham Smith's leadership in order to execute the overall strategy and operations of the firm in pursuit of smart, sustainable growth that provides opportunities for employees and value to its clients.

Through a servant leadership approach—leading with empathy, fairness and respect—Rodney has focused on building a strong company culture while promoting teamwork and collaboration across Gresham Smith's markets and offices to ensure a “one-firm” perspective. He also promotes the firm's Core Purpose of planning, designing and consulting to create healthy and thriving communities.

Rodney has spent his entire 29+ year career at Gresham Smith. Prior to his role as CEO, he served in a variety of leadership positions at the firm, including Chief Operating Officer, Senior Vice President of Firmwide Operations, Division Vice President, Office Leader, Principal, Project Manager and Engineer of Record in the firm's Transportation business.

Rodney takes an active role in making an impact on the industry through his involvement in the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), where he currently serves as National Board Director and Vice Chair of the Planning Cabinet. Rodney is also committed to improving the local community through his service as an active board member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Greater Nashville, and as a past board chair for GraceWorks Ministries, a local nonprofit charitable organization.

Rodney is a licensed Professional Engineer in multiple states and is an alumni of Leadership Brentwood. He earned his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Civil Engineering degrees



NETWORKING OVER NASHVILLE

SPEAKER BIOS

from the University of Alabama, where he remains actively engaged as an Advisory Board member for the College of Engineering. He has been recognized as an Engineering Fellow of the College of Engineering, the highest commendation awarded to graduates who have strengthened the reputation of the college through career achievements.