

Outstanding Alumnus 1991

Philip D. Griffith



Philip D. Griffith, a Neodesha native, attended Independence Community College from 1963 to 1965, before earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Wichita State University in 1967. Upon graduation, Griffith worked for Southwestern Bell and Deloitte & Touche as a certified public accountant in St. Louis, MO. In 1970, he transferred to the Deloitte & Touche office in Las Vegas, NV. From 1973 to 1984, Mr. Griffith held several executive positions including President of Harold's Club Casino in Reno and the Sands Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. He founded his own company in 1984 with the purchase of Fitzgeralds Casino and Hotel in Reno, NV. During the next 10 years he was involved in various acquisitions and start-ups of new casino developments and by 1994 combined his various gaming interests to become Fitzgeralds Gaming Corporation. He is the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer and majority shareholder of the company, a diversified multi-jurisdictional gaming holding Company that currently owns and operates four Fitzgeralds-brand casino-hotels, in Las Vegas and Reno, NV, Tunica, MS, and Black Hawk, CO. Mr. Griffith has continued his dedication to Neodesha by providing scholarships and other community assistance through the Lewis, Philip, and Andrew Griffith Foundation.