

Tom Luce '58

2017 Distinguished Alumna

Tom Luce has accomplished many things in his life and could be honored for any one of them. He was the founder of one of the most successful law firms in the country, Hughes and Luce. His commitment to education is unequalled. He is the co-founder of the National Center for Education Accountability, former CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative and served as Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Education. His kindness and integrity have made him a mentor and role model to countless people in the state and across the country. A 1958 alumnus of Highland Park High School, Tom was extremely active as co-captain of the baseball team, member of the basketball team, "H" Association and the Bagpipe staff. He graduated from SMU with a BBA and from SMU School of Law with a Bachelor of Law and JD in 1966.

His professional awards and accolades are numerous including being named 2001 CASA Child Champion of the Year, receiving the J. Erik Jonsson Ethics Award in 2004, as well as receiving both the SMU Law School Distinguished Alumnus Award and SMU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. He authored *Now or Never – How We Can Save Our Public Schools*, a book that outlined a plan for education reform and *Do What Works: How Proven Practices Can Improve America's Public Schools*. Tom has served on numerous, very significant boards and committees. He was a founding trustee of the Episcopal School of Dallas, was appointed by the Governor to chair the Texas National Research Laboratory Commission and as Chief Justice pro tempore of the Texas Supreme Court. Most recently he served as the founding CEO of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. Tom continued his very active life of service as a Fellow and Teacher at Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and the LBJ School of Public Affairs and was also an adjunct professor at the Simmons School of Education at SMU.

According to many of his friends from high school, the challenges he faced as a child helped to mold him into a man of character and citizenship who has directly impacted thousands of lives for the better.

Tom and his wife of 57 years, Pam, who is also a graduate of Highland Park High School, are the proud parents of three children and of 7 grandsons – referred to as the Magnificent Seven!