

The company now operates 44 shopping centers in 22 states. In 2013, he pledged \$7.5 million to help fund a performing-arts center in downtown Greensboro, expected to open in 2020.

ANDERSON "ANDY" WARLICK, 60
CEO, PARKDALE INC.
GASTONIA

When Warlick's father-in-law, Duke Kimbrell, joined Parkdale in 1949, it had one mill and 150 employees. It is now the world's largest seller of spun yarns with 29 plants in North, Central and South America. The Citadel graduate joined the private company in 1984 and succeeded Kimbrell as CEO in 2000. A newly opened YMCA in Gastonia is named after Warlick's family.

JIM WHITEHURST, 49
CEO, RED HAT
RALEIGH

The open-source software company shows no signs of slowing toward Whitehurst's ambitious revenue goal of \$5 billion. It posted a 22% increase in the most recent quarter and is projecting \$2.9 billion for the current fiscal year. Whitehurst, a former Delta Air Lines chief operating officer who joined Red Hat in 2008, is vice chairman of the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

JENNIFER APPLEBY, 54
PRESIDENT, WRAY WARD
CHARLOTTE

The Penn State University graduate joined the 40-year-old agency as chief creative officer in 1993 and became chief executive officer in 2001. The marketing agency's staff of more than 100 makes it one of the largest woman-owned companies in the state. She was named Charlotte Business Woman of the Year by Queens University in 2008 and now chairs the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library board of trustees.

JIM COONEY, 60
PARTNER,
WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON
CHARLOTTE

Part of a firm with more than 1,000 lawyers, Cooney's influence is reflected in his clientele: The criminal defense lawyer is helping defend Carolinas Health-Care System against federal antitrust allegations and aiding Duke Energy in coal-ash-related litigation. A native of the Chicago area with a law degree from the University of Virginia, Cooney chairs Womble's litigation department.

JILL WELLS HEATH, 53
CEO, CALYX
CARY

The Goldsboro native joined what started as Mulkey Engineers & Consultants in 1993 and rose to CFO in 2003, president in 2006 and CEO in 2008. She leads 165 employees at Calyx, one of the Southeast's largest civil and environmental engineering firms. Heath chaired the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce in 2015-16 and is a director of the Wake Technical Community College Foundation.



JAMES HOLMES, 48
MANAGING PARTNER,
SENTINEL RISK ADVISORS
RALEIGH

Since 2012, the N.C. State University graduate has built a commercial insurance agency whose employees include two prominent state lawmakers, John Bell and David Lewis. Holmes, who grew up in Johnston County, is a Republican Party donor and member

of the UNC System Board of Governors, one of North Carolina's most influential posts.



PHIL KUTTNER, 58
CEO, LITTLE DIVERSIFIED
ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTING
CHARLOTTE

The head of the state's largest architecture and design firm leads about 400 employees, including more than 200 in Charlotte, with four other U.S. offices and one in Beijing. A 30-year veteran at Little with a master's degree in architecture from Clemson University, Kuttner is moving the headquarters from its longtime suburban offices to a downtown Charlotte office tower in 2019.

BONNIE MCELVEEN-HUNTER, 67
CEO, PACE COMMUNICATIONS
GREENSBORO

McElveen-Hunter has built the 45-year-old magazine publisher into one of the world's largest content-marketing agencies, with more than 370 employees helping businesses tell their stories through many channels. A former Miss Nebraska, she was U.S. ambassador to Finland from 2001-03. Since 2004, she has chaired the American Red Cross.

MIKE MCGUIRE, 58
CEO, GRANT THORNTON
CHARLOTTE

One of the world's largest accounting firms, Grant Thornton named McGuire CEO in 2015, leading 56 U.S. offices. Prior to becoming CEO, McGuire was Caroli-