



2025

SAM HOUSTON AWARD RECIPIENT



L.C. "CHAZ" NEELY

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L.C. “Chaz” Neely began his working life in his father’s service station in San Antonio, pumping gas and fixing flat tires. But that wasn’t enough; he was determined to become the first in his family to go to college. And his sights were set on Texas A&M. He knew it wasn’t going to be easy.

“I came to A&M in 1958 and flunked out twice,” Chaz says. “But I kept coming back. I joined the Corps, which had a great effect on me.”

He earned his business degree in marketing and went to work for Sinclair Refining in 1963. He worked for other large companies, including Hertz and Knowlton’s Creamery. In 1979, Chaz purchased San Antonio Steel Co. Through his leadership, San Antonio Steel grew into the largest wholesale distributor of agricultural fencing in the United States. During Chaz’s tenure as president, the company was named one of the Top 500 Fastest Growing Private Companies by Inc. Magazine and one of the Top 50 Private Companies in San Antonio by the San Antonio Business Journal.

Chaz received the Association of Former Students’ Distinguished Alumnus Award as well as Mays Business School’s Outstanding Alumnus Award. He was also inducted into the Corps of Cadets Hall of Honor, and was an inaugural member of the “Aggie 100,” which recognizes the 100 fastest growing Aggie-led businesses in the world.

Knowing that their success comes from God, the Neelys have faithfully given back to their church, to their community, to Texas A&M and of course to the Texas Public Policy Foundation, where he has served on the board for more than 30 years.

They have strong ties to Mays Business School, including a commitment for the Trisha and L.C. “Chaz” Neely ’62 Chair in Marketing. And his dedication to the Corps of Cadets is highlighted through the creation of numerous Corps 21, General Rudder and Sul Ross scholarships.

Chaz and his wife Trisha continue to live in San Antonio. His three children and a granddaughter, so far, have followed him to Texas A&M.