



GARY L. SPRINGER
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As an executive in large professional services firms and as a private consultant, Mr. Springer has advised governments (Federal, state and local) and private corporations on trade and investment promotion, strategic communications, image-building, trade policy, trade negotiations, government affairs, business and trade strategies, corporate market expansion, and crisis management. He is an authority on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the trade liberalization process in the Western Hemisphere, US-Latin American affairs, and the Mexican market.

Mr. Springer has represented or held senior executive positions with KPMG Peat Marwick, Fleishman-Hillard, Shearman & Sterling, the Council of the Americas, the Mexico-US Business Committee, Business International Corporation, and Enterprise Florida. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Gulf of Mexico States Partnership, Inc. Mr. Springer is a former member of the advisory board for the Trade Project of the Democratic Leadership Council/Progressive Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. He was actively involved in the preparation of "Florida and the FTAA", an annual position paper for state business. He is a past member of the Council of the Americas Advisory Board, and of the Public Policy Subcommittee of the Mexico-US Business Committee, as well as an advisor to the Venezuela-US Business Council/CEVEU, an organization which he helped to establish in 1990 (New York and Caracas). He is a former advisor to the National Foreign Trade Council (Washington) and a former fellow of the American Center for International Leadership (Denver).

In 1999, Mr. Springer, acting as Enterprise Florida's representative in Mexico, organized the largest trade mission in Florida's history, led by Governor Jeb Bush. The mission trade show netted in excess of \$200 million in new business for Florida companies. In 2004, he completed the international economic development strategy for the Florida Chamber Foundation's "New Cornerstone" project, a 10-year strategic planning tool for state business and government.

In February 2000, Gary L. Springer was unanimously elected the first Secretary-General of the Gulf of Mexico States Accord, an international cooperative agreement between the six Mexican and five US states located on the Gulf of Mexico littoral. He continues to serve in that capacity. Mr. Springer and Ms. Upton created the Gulf of Mexico States Partnership, the business association counterpart to the official Accord, which he serves as President. Mr. Springer represents the Partnership on the USDOT Maritime Transportation System National Advisory Council. The Partnership was instrumental in the formation of a Gulf of Mexico Congressional Caucus, and launched the "Gulf of Mexico Trade Corridor Transportation Study" in August 2005.

Mr. Springer holds a Master of Arts in Government from Georgetown University, and a B.A. in Political Science from West Virginia University.