

**Mission**

BiGAUSTIN assists small businesses to successfully grow by providing comprehensive education, tailored business counseling and flexible loans.

**Vision**

BiGAUSTIN strives to be the leader as a self-sustained small business development organization by providing innovative growth strategies to underserved entrepreneurs in Central Texas.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Jeannette Peten**

President and CEO

**Brian J. Anderson,**

Chair of the Board

**John Fleming**

President  
Meridian Asset Management

**Peggy Hubble**

Executive Vice President/GM  
Vollmer Public Relations

**Donna Myers**

Financial Center Mgr/VP  
Citibank Texas, N.A.

**Dr. Joseph Parker**

Senior Pastor  
David Chapel Missionary  
Baptist Church

**Bill Peterson**

President  
Peterson Strategy Group

**ADVISORY BOARD**

**Dr. John Sibley Butler**

IC2 Institute Director  
University of Texas at Austin

**George Cortez-Aguirre**

Community Development  
Specialist  
Guaranty Bank

**Beverly Kearney**

Head Coach  
University of Texas at Austin

**Matt Mathias**

Real Estate Developer  
Matt Mathias & Co.

**BiGAUSTIN**

1050 East 11th Street  
Suite 350  
Austin, TX 78702  
512-928-8010 TEL  
512-926-2997 FAX

News Release

Contact: D'Andra Ulmer, grand beginnings  
512-689-2203

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2009

**BiGAUSTIN'S FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT**

(AUSTIN) - On April 17th, 2009, at the BiG Idea luncheon, Jeannette Peten will pass the baton to a capable person to lead the organization she founded in 1995. As founder and President of Business Investment Growth (BiGAUSTIN), a not-for-profit micro-lender, Peten has directed the spectacular growth of this organization which has served over 6,000 entrepreneurs in Central Texas.

After two decades in the financial sector, Peten left a lucrative career and founded BiGAustin. She has dedicated her life to inspiring individuals to start, expand, and grow small business vehicles strategically, and to move them toward self-empowerment and economic stability. The entire community – not just BiGAUSTIN – has reaped the benefits of Peten's vision and determination. Her focus on job creation and economic development resulted in the creation of over 1700 jobs in Central Texas and the distribution of \$6M in loan or leveraged capital. Small Businesses served by BiG have generated over \$18M in sales revenue. Peten says, "Empowering individuals to become economically self-sufficient through business ownership is the most rewarding way to serve my community."

One of the lessons Jeannette Peten learned from her mother's death in October, 2007, was that life can change in a moment. Peten says her mother was the biggest influence on her life. From an early age, she saw her mother fight battles from demanding quality education to later demanding fair treatment for all races in business lending. Upon hearing of her mom's devastating cancer diagnosis, Peten says she learned yet another vital lesson -- that every moment is precious and certain life goals could no longer be put off. As a result, Peten made a major decision: To pass the baton to a new leader for BiGAUSTIN.

Peten wants to use initial time away from BiGAUSTIN to reflect, to regroup, and to rejuvenate. One thing she knows for sure is that she will continue to connect businesses with communities and to promote social enterprise, which she calls the "double bottom line."

A nationwide search to fill Peten's position is in progress. Reverend Joseph Parker, a Board member who is also on the selection committee, said, "We are not seeking someone to fill Jeannette's shoes; we are seeking someone to stand on her shoulders." Thanks to Peten, BiGAUSTIN will continue to thrive with a new baton holder. She leaves us her legacy as she moves on to create new legacies.

--www.bigaustin.org--