

The following article was posted on the Houston Chronicle's website on Thursday, January 19, 2012:

### Greater Houston Partnership Switches Chairs

<http://www.chron.com/business/article/Greater-Houston-Partnership-Switches-Chairs-2639667.php>

By Travis Alford

Tony Chase stepped to the podium Thursday at The Hilton Americas Hotel downtown, took a long pause over a big smile, then pledged to get Houston the recognition it deserves as a world-class city.

"We are the future force of America," Chase said during a pep rally of a meeting in which he was introduced as the new chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership.

Several speakers boasted about a new Brookings Institution report that ranks Houston as the fastest-growing metro economy in the nation. Chase followed up with more effusive praise of the city's economic potential and his plans to help realize it. Many in attendance cheered to the ring of his tone.

"I'll pay extra attention to the city's crown jewels - its modern airport system, port, energy, medical, NASA and most of all education," Chase said.

Chase said that during his one-year-term as chairman he intends to "double-down" in support of policies that promote and protect these industries.

Chase, a Third Ward native, Harvard-educated lawyer and University of Houston law professor, emphasized the importance of an educated metropolis.

"Houston has a brilliant future," Chase said, "provided we have an educated work force to sustain our economic growth. Consequences of having a poorly educated work force are dire."

He called on political leaders, progressive and conservative alike, to put aside differences to achieve these common goals.

"Let's all work together," Chase said, "without political bickering, to ensure the Houston region has the educated work force we need for our city."

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