

Lou Kennedy

Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation President/CEO



Lou Kennedy is **President, Chief Executive Officer and Owner** of **Nephron Pharmaceuticals Corporation** – a pharmaceutical manufacturer specializing in Blow-Fill-Seal technology, along with an industry-leading 503B Outsourcing Facility. Kennedy joined Nephron Pharmaceuticals in 2001, and accepted the position of President and Chief Executive Officer in September 2007. Having held a variety of marketing and operational roles during her career; one notable achievement at Nephron was **creating a national sales force**, supplying products to all 50 states and Puerto Rico. This helped Nephron Pharmaceuticals **grow by 300%** and increased shipped product to **one billion doses** each year. Kennedy is committed to **innovation, quality and service**, which have been the core mission areas of her company for **over 20 years**.

Originating in Orlando, Florida, Nephron Pharmaceuticals moved its headquarters to West Columbia, South Carolina in early June 2014. Kennedy was at the forefront of this expansion, building a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility valued over 325 million dollars, and creating over 850 jobs. Under Kennedy's leadership, Nephron received an honorable mention award for **Global Facility of the Year** in 2017 from the **International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE)**.

Kennedy is a graduate of the **University of South Carolina** (1984) where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in public relations in less than 4 years. She also became the first-ever recipient of an Honorary Associate Degree in Humane Letters from **Midlands Technical College** (2017), recognizing her service and philanthropy within the community.

Education and community development are two areas where Kennedy is actively involved. Together with her husband Bill, she helped establish the **Kennedy Pharmacy Innovation Center** (2010) in conjunction with the USC School of Pharmacy. Additionally, the couple funded the **Kennedy Greenhouse Studio** (2015) at the USC School of Journalism and Mass Communications, as well as the **William Jerry Wood Life Skills Center** (2014) at Midlands Technical College, preparing students to become valuable in the workplace.

Kennedy serves on a variety of business and civic boards, including but not limited to, **SCBIO** (South Carolina Biotechnology Industry Organization) as the 2018 and 2019 **Board Chair**, the **South Carolina Chamber of Commerce Chairman** in fall 2018, the **Synovus South Carolina Bank Board**, **Palmetto Business Forum**, as well as various boards associated with the **University of South Carolina**.

Kennedy received the **Order of the Palmetto** from SC Governor Nikki Haley in 2011 (SC's highest civilian honor). She was also named **Citizen of the Year** by Greater Cayce West Columbia Chamber of Commerce (2016), **Lexington County Ambassador for Economic Development** by SC Department of Commerce (2014), and **Ambassador of the Year** by the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce (2013). Kennedy is on the list of **50 Most Influential** by Columbia Business Monthly. She was a recipient of the **Inspiring Women Award** from Coastal Carolina University (2017). Kennedy received the first ever **Woman of the Year Award** from the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance.