



## **Bill Leaverton – Regional Director America’s SBDC at Tarleton State University**

Bill Leaverton (pronounced “Leverton”) is the Regional Director for America’s Small Business Development Center at Tarleton State University (SBDC) in Stephenville, Texas.

A native Texan, Bill is proud to represent Tarleton State University and the SBDC in assisting rural entrepreneurs. He represents Congressman Roger Williams’s 25<sup>th</sup> District.

A founding member of The Texas A&M University System, Tarleton State University is located in rural North Central Texas. Robust enrollment comparable to pre-pandemic growth tops more than 14,000 students, with an annual steady 3 percent climb anticipated through 2032. A prime destination for anyone seeking a higher education, especially first-generation students (52 percent), Tarleton is quickly becoming *the* premier regional comprehensive university in the nation.

Bill started his career in Fortune 300 manufacturing, quickly working his way to operations manager in Dallas, Texas. After gaining valuable experience and expertise in large-scale manufacturing operations, he transitioned to the small business arena. He began his small business career by purchasing, owning, and operating a restaurant and then co-owning a telecommunications manufacturing company serving first-responders, which included relocating that company from California to Texas.

Returning to his rural roots, Bill relocated to Stephenville, Texas, where he purchased a home building manufacturing company, reviving and ultimately selling it to take up his true passion of teaching and consulting. Prior to joining America’s SBDC at Tarleton State University, Bill taught the Capstone Strategy class to graduating Business students at Tarleton as an adjunct instructor.

Bill has been Regional Director for the SBDC at Tarleton State University since 2019. During his time with the SBDC, Bill has witnessed many firsts. Namely, \$107M in capital formation in 2021 (a record for their mostly rural network) and a \$1 to \$6.01 return on investment in terms of dollars invested into SBDCs versus dollars generated for the economy.

A graduate of The University of North Texas with a Master’s degree in Finance, and Texas Tech University with a marketing degree, Bill focuses on assisting small businesses organize and interpret their finances.

**Bill’s favorite quote** “As ever, the accountant in me saw the risk, the entrepreneur saw the possibility. So, I split the difference and kept moving forward.” – Phil Knight

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**America’s SBDC at Tarleton State University**

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