



Ambassador Barbara M. Barrett

Chairman, Board of Trustees
The Aerospace Corporation

Ambassador Barbara M. Barrett is chairman of The Aerospace Corporation's Board of Trustees. She served as vice chairman of the board from December 2012 to December 2013, when she was elected chairman. She was originally elected to the board in 2006 and served until her confirmation as the U.S. Ambassador to Finland in 2008. She was reelected to the board on June 10, 2010.

Ambassador Barrett is president and chief executive officer of Triple Creek Guest Ranch, a Montana hideaway. In January 2013 she was appointed by President Obama to the Smithsonian's Board of Regents, the governing body of the Smithsonian Institution. During 2012 she served as the interim president of Thunderbird School of Global Management.

In addition to Aerospace she serves on the boards of the RAND Corporation, Caltech, Sally Ride Science, and the Lasker Foundation. Her career has focused on aviation, trade and technology.

Before her service as ambassador she was a senior advisor to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, a fellow who taught leadership at Harvard, CEO of the American Management Association, deputy administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and vice chairman of the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board. She has served on the Smithsonian's National Board and also on the boards of the Space Foundation, National Air and Space Museum, Hershey, Mayo Clinic, Exponent, Raytheon, Piper Aircraft, and the Center for International Private Enterprise. Ambassador Barrett was the founding chairman of Valley Bank of Arizona and chaired the State Department's Women's Economic Empowerment Working Group, the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce's Export Conference. She was a partner in a large Phoenix law firm, and before she was 30 she was an executive of two global Fortune 500 companies. She advised four American presidents on trade and defense policy.

In other roles, Ambassador Barrett was president of the International Women's Forum, and from 2001 to 2003 she chaired the Thunderbird Board of Trustees. She chaired the Economic Club of Phoenix, Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation, Arizona World Affairs Council, and Arizona District Export Council. As a member of the U.S.-Afghan Women's Council she founded Project Artemis, a program to train and mentor Afghan women entrepreneurs at Thunderbird.

Ambassador Barrett earned bachelor's, master's, and law degrees at Arizona State University. Honorary doctorates have been conferred by ASU, Thunderbird, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the University of South Carolina, Pepperdine University, and Finlandia University. She has been recognized with the Horatio Alger Award, the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate Citizenship, and the Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award.

An instrument-rated pilot, she was reportedly the first civilian woman to land an F/A-18 on an aircraft carrier. In 2009 she trained at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia, and Kazakhstan, culminating in certification as an astronaut.