

Ron Samuels is Vice Chairman of Pinnacle Financial Partners, Nashville's leading financial institution and a top 50 banking franchise in the United States.

Ron was born in Oxford, MS, and grew up in Memphis, TN. He attended Whitehaven High School, received his BS in banking and finance from the University of Mississippi and his MBA from Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Management. He met his wife Lynn in Memphis, and they married in 1972. They have a daughter, Whitney Musser and her husband Matthew, a son, Cooper, and two grandchildren, Walker and Hunter Musser.

Ron is a career banker and started 51 years ago at First National Bank of Memphis. He moved to Nashville in 1975 and spent 30 years at various banks like FTNB, Nashville City Bank, Dominion Bank, First Union and Union Planters, which eventually became Regions Bank.

In 2006, Ron struck out on his own and founded Avenue Bank as Nashville's signature boutique bank. He served as chairman, president and CEO and led and mentored a new generation who are now some of Nashville's top financial professionals. Together they took Avenue public in 2015 and then successfully sold the bank to Pinnacle Financial Partners in 2016.

Ron and Lynn have always shared a passion for public service and have taken on dozens of civic leadership roles in the city they love. Their focus is on improving K12 education, economic development, athletics and music. Ron serves on the board of CEO Champions for the Academies of Nashville through Metro Schools and of Belmont University's Massey Graduate School of Business. He is also a lifetime member of the Boys and Girls Club.

Among his numerous career achievements, Ron was recently inducted into the Entrepreneurs Hall of Fame at the Nashville Entrepreneur Center, is in the Junior Achievement Nashville Business Hall of Fame and is one of the Tennessee Bankers Association's Leaders in Banking Excellence. He has also been an Ole Miss Alumni of the Year and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the *Nashville Business Journal's* Most Admired CEOs program, as well as the Visionary of Hope award from the American Cancer Society.

Ron serves on the Board of Trustees for Leadership Nashville, the Steering Committee for Nashville's Agenda, the boards of the CMA Foundation and the Nashville Predators Foundation. His leadership has helped win our city's biggest sports victories as co-chair of the Just Build It Committee that brought the Tennessee Titans to Nashville, selling suites and permanent seat licenses to local business leaders. He was also captain of the Our Team Nashville group that saved the Nashville Predators from moving to Canada and served on the NHL All-Star Board. Ron currently serves on the NFL Draft Host Committee to raise funds for free Draft events downtown. He was also a founding member of the Music City Bowl and the Bellsouth Senior Classic and chaired the coalition that supported funding construction of the \$550 million Music City Center.