Access to Experts

Peter C. Browning , Lead Director , Nucor Corporation

Peter Browning, founder and Managing Director of Peter Browning & Associates, LLC, a board advisory service, has a wide range of experience in business. Beginning as a sales trainee, he spent 24 years with the Continental Can Company, including President of two different divisions, last serving as Executive Vice President – Operating Officer. He joined National Gypsum Company in 1989, and in September 1990, was elected Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of National Gypsum Company, seeing the company through and out of bankruptcy.

He joined Sonoco Products Company, (a $4 billion global packaging company) in November 1993 where he last served as President and Chief Executive Officer, before retiring in July 2000. In September 2000, he was elected to the position of non-executive Chairman, Nucor Corporation, until May 2006 when he became Lead Director. In March 2002, he was appointed Dean of the McColl School of Business at Queens University of Charlotte where he served until May 2005.

Browning is a native of Boston, MA. A 1963 graduate of Colgate University with an AB in history, he earned his MBA from the University of Chicago in 1976. The Harvard Business School prepared a case study regarding his success in effecting changes at Continental's White Cap Division. A case study has also been written on his experience at National Gypsum for use at the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Since 1989, he has served on the board of directors of eleven publicly traded companies, two as CEO. In that time, he has also been non-executive chair, lead director, and chair of governance/nominating and compensation committees. In addition to Nucor Corporation, Browning is a member of the Board of Directors of Acuity Brands, Inc.; EnPro Industries, Inc.; and Lowe's Companies, Inc. In the fall of 2004 Board Alert Magazine selected Peter as one of eight "Outstanding Directors of the Year" for his role in the successful CEO transitions at Lowe's and Nucor. He is also the 2009 recipient of Boston University's "Gislason Award for Leadership in Executive Development."

In April 2010, his chapter "Leadership in the Corner Office: The Board's Most Important Responsibility" was published in the Jossey-Bass and Center for Creative Leadership book titled "Extraordinary Leadership: Addressing the Gaps in Senior Executive Development".

In addition, Peter is a founding member of the Lead Director Network, a member of the faculty for The Conference Board's Directors' Institute and a frequent participant in governance seminars, serving on panels addressing a wide variety of corporate governance and compensation issues.

He is a lifetime member of The University of Chicago, Council on the Booth Graduate School of Business; and served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Browning and his wife, Kathy, have four children and five grandchildren. His interests remain in outdoor activities, including climbing, scuba diving and sea kayaking, and reading, particularly history.

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