



## **Gary F. Ballard – DeLaSalle Interim Chief Financial Officer**

Gary Ballard has had very successful career leading companies to successful outcomes. He is a results-oriented leader with a proven record of accomplishments, known for leading startups and turning struggling companies around. He spent the majority of his career in the wireless industry, where he ran large sales organizations and overall operations for major corporations. He was President of YourTel America and prior to that he held senior executive positions with Aerial Communication, Nextel, McCaw Joint Venture (Hong Kong) and Cellular One. He began his early career in Omaha, Nebraska, with Xerox Corporation, where he worked for 14 years and held numerous management positions in sales and sales management.

Gary always found time to give back to the community. He has been a role model and mentor to many. He is passionate about helping young people. He is a long-time advocate and board member for DeLaSalle Education Center (Past Chair), and he currently serves on the board of ACLU, Mind Drive, and Belton Regional Medical Center/HCA Midwest Health System. Previously, he served on the boards of Junior Achievement of Middle America, KU Surgery Association, Palestine Senior Citizens Community Center, Science City, The Kansas City Rep Theatre, and Girl Scouts. His most notable community/civic accomplishment was being Chair of the building project for his church, where he oversaw the fundraising and actual building of a new edifice.

He was recognized by Kansas City Globe's 100 Most influential and Kansas City's Who's Who in Black America. He was recent honorary chair of Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey and he chaired DeLaSalle Movie Night and Jazzoo. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity, and Sigma Pi Phi (Theta Boule).

He is proud of his military service 1966-1970 where he served his country in the Air Force (Vietnam Veteran). He graduated from University of Nebraska, Omaha with a B.S. in Business Administration. He and Debby are the proud parents of 4 adult children.

*This school is a mirror, for me, of when I was as a youth, probably a mirror for a lot of us. We all had troubles, we all made trouble, and some of us got through our troubles without getting caught. We survived, without suffering the consequences, and we made it out the other side.*

*But these kids here, they are the ones suffering consequences right now, some not of their making. They're suffering from absent parents, from poverty, from urban living – they didn't ask for these troubles and they also don't have tools for handling these troubles. DeLaSalle offers an opportunity for promise to take hold and grow. Our work with these young people today means they, and we, have the promise of a future community. These young people are worth it.*