



## **BIOGRAPHY: LARRY KELLNER**

As part of the management team credited with engineering the remarkable turnaround of Continental Airlines, Chairman and CEO Larry Kellner has fostered the company's unique culture, putting emphasis on strong internal communication and giving employees the tools necessary to provide outstanding customer service. His formula for success is a mix of solid financial insight, willingness to try new approaches and ability to persuade others to believe in the company and product.

The "Worst to First" turnaround of Continental, now the world's fifth-largest airline, was in its early stages with President Gordon Bethune when Kellner, then 36 years old, joined the extraordinary leadership team as senior vice president and chief financial officer. Since joining the company in 1995, Kellner has held a number of executive positions, including executive vice president, president, chief operating officer, before becoming chairman of the board and chief executive officer in December 2004.

Over the past 12 years, the carrier has won more awards for customer satisfaction than any other airline. In 2008, *Fortune* magazine placed Continental on top of its "Most Admired Global Airline" list for the fifth consecutive year and, in 2007, "America's Most Admired Airline" list for the second consecutive year.

In addition to strengthening internal communications and creating a focus on customer service, Kellner has promoted international growth at the airline. Continental began its international service in 1998 and now Continental serves more international destinations than any other U.S. carrier.

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Prior to joining Continental, Kellner was executive vice president and chief financial officer of American Savings Bank, with approximately \$20 billion in assets, where he was responsible for all financial operations and strategic planning.

Active in civic and community organizations, Kellner serves on the Board of Directors of Marriott International, Air Transport Association, Greater Houston Partnership, Methodist Hospital, Central Houston, Inc. and Spring Branch Education Foundation. He is a member of the Boy Scouts of America National Executive Board and the March of Dimes advisory board. Kellner graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of South Carolina, where he served as Student Body President. His alma mater presented him with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1998.

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