

Carol Lavin Bernick
Chief Executive Officer
Polished Nickel Capital Management

CAROL LAVIN BERNICK is CEO of Polished Nickel Capital Management, a privately held company that manages diversified investments and owned operating companies ranging from retail sales and consumer products to thoroughbred racing.

During Carol's 37-year career with Alberto Culver Company, a global manufacturer of beauty and personal care products – including *TRESemmé*, *Alberto VO5*, *Nexus*, *St. Ives*, *Motions* and more, and national retailer of beauty products via The Sally Beauty Company, she directed the company's new product development, including her own invention of iconic brands such as *Static Guard* and *Mrs. Dash*, among others. She went on to lead its consumer products business for ten years and was elected Executive Chairman in 2004. While dramatically growing the company, Carol instituted a nationally-recognized cultural overhaul profiled in the June 2001 *Harvard Business Review* and in numerous other books and articles.

In 2011 she initiated and oversaw the company's sale to Unilever.

Carol serves as chairman of the board of Tulane University, is a board member, and past board chair, of Northwestern Memorial Healthcare, and currently serves as board chair of the newly formed Northwestern Health Network, a nationally ranked healthcare system comprised of 11 hospitals, hundreds of medical clinics, and over 4,400 aligned physicians. She has also served on the Chicago Community Trust's Executive Committee, among many others.

Carol's charitable work includes her founding of The Friends of Prentice, a support group for Prentice Women's Hospital, which has raised tens of millions of dollars to benefit infant and women's health. In 2017, she and her family founded Enchanted Backpack, a nonprofit dedicated to the support of under-resourced elementary and middle schools. Enchanted Backpack reaches over 20,000 students annually in Illinois and Florida. Carol created CC's Wish List in 2019, maximizing community impact through incredible gifts in-kind to 150 nonprofits, large and small.

Carol authored *Gather As You Go: Lessons Learned Along the Way*, a book featuring over 300 stories that share wisdoms gleaned from her professional, philanthropic and personal life experiences. In addition to books sold, thousands of copies have been distributed at their request to universities, nonprofits, corporations, and education-based organizations across the country. Net profits from the sale of her book benefit Enchanted Backpack.

Her enduring leadership, generosity and innovative philanthropy in making Chicago a better and more vibrant city was recognized by the Chicago History Museum in 2020 when Carol was presented with *The Bertha Honoré Palmer Making History Award for Distinction in Civic Leadership* and more recently in 2022 when Junior Achievement Chicago inducted her into the Chicago Business Hall of Fame.

Carol has three married children and eight grandchildren ages nine and under.