

About Martin J. (Mike) Koldyke

Martin J. (Mike) Koldyke is the retired chairman of Frontenac Company, Chicago, a venture capital firm that he founded in 1971. He was raised in Northville, Michigan, and graduated from Purdue University, after which he served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps. Prior to forming Frontenac Company in 1971, he was a Vice President and voting stockholder of Dean Witter & Company, Inc. Mike is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Academy for Urban School Leadership as well as the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching in Chicago. Mike is a Life Trustee of Northwestern University and an Honorary Life Director of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. He is a Trustee Emeritus and Past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Window to the World Communications, Inc. (WTTW-Channel 11, WFMT Radio). He has served on many diverse Boards over the years including but not limited to: After School Matters, Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico, the Chicago News Cooperative, and the New Mexico Highlands University Foundation. He chaired the Chicago School Finance Authority, jointly appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley and Gov. Jim Edgar in 1992 until June of 2010.

Mike and his late wife Patricia Koldyke have given substantial and generous gifts to many non-profit causes in education and civic engagement for decades. Their legacy is a mix of uncharacteristically successful entrepreneurship coupled with a philanthropically-minded legacy of giving and community engagement. Through education non-profits that he founded and led, more than five thousand diverse, highly effective teachers have been well-prepared to teach in some of the highest need schools -- enabling more than 100,000 K-12 students to reach their full potential in the Chicagoland area and throughout the State of Illinois.