

Walter Isaacson

University Professor at Tulane University

New Orleans, LA, US

Walter Isaacson is the chair emeritus of Teach for America and has been the chairman and CEO of CNN and the editor of TIME magazine.

Biography

Walter Isaacson is a Professor of History at Tulane and an advisory partner at Perella Weinberg, a financial services firm based in New York City. He is the past CEO of the Aspen Institute, where he is now a Distinguished Fellow, and has been the chairman of CNN and the editor of TIME magazine. Isaacson's most recent biography, "Leonardo da Vinci" (2017), offers new discoveries about Leonardo's life and work, weaving a narrative that connects his art to his science. He is also the author of "The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution" (2014), "Steve Jobs" (2011), "Einstein: His Life and Universe" (2007), "Benjamin Franklin: An American Life" (2003) and "Kissinger: A Biography" (1992), and coauthor of "The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made" (1986). Isaacson is a host of the show "Amanpour and Company" on PBS and CNN, a contributor to CNBC and host of the podcast "Trailblazers, from Dell Technologies." Isaacson was born on May 20, 1952, in New Orleans. He is a graduate of Harvard College and of Pembroke College of Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He began his career at The Sunday Times of London and then the New Orleans Times-Picayune. He joined TIME in 1978 and served as a political correspondent, national editor and editor of digital media before becoming the magazine's 14th editor in 1996. He became chairman and CEO of CNN in 2001, and then president and CEO of the Aspen Institute in 2003. Isaacson is chair emeritus of Teach for America. From 2005-2007 he was the vice-chair of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, which oversaw the rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. He was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which runs Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and other international broadcasts of the United States, a position he held from 2009 to 2012. Isaacson is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Society of the Arts and the American Philosophical Society. He serves on the board of United Airlines, the New Orleans City Planning Commission, the New Orleans Tricentennial Commission, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Society of American Historians, the U.S. Defense Department Innovation Board, the Carnegie Institution for Science and My Brother's Keeper Alliance.

Areas of Expertise

News Media, American History, History

Affiliations

Perella Weinberg : Advisory Partner, American Academy of Arts and Sciences : Member, Royal Society of the Arts : Member, American Philosophical Society : Member, United Airlines : Board Member, New Orleans City Planning Commission : Board Member, New Orleans Tricentennial Commission : Board Member, Bloomberg Philanthropies : Board Member, Rockefeller Foundation : Board Member, Society of American Historians : Board Member, U.S. Defense Department Innovation Board : Board Member, Carnegie Institution for Science : Board Member, My Brother?s Keeper Alliance : Board Member

Education

Pembroke College

M.A.

Harvard University

B.A.

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