

TRANSCRIPT: JOE PENNINGTON INTERVIEW

Joe Pennington · Board Member of the Rio Grande River Authority

TRANSCRIPT

An interview with Mr. Joe Pennington, Board Member of the Rio Grande River Authority. Pennington is a 1971 graduate from Texas A&M and an inducted member of the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry.

This video was posted October 5, 2015 on the Tyrus R. Timm Registry YouTube Channel.

Can you please introduce yourself and tell us a little about your career?

I'm Joe Pennington from Raymondville, Texas. I'm an Ag producer in the Raymondville or Willacy County area, farming operation that pretty much cotton, grain sorghum, sugarcane, sesame, and cattle. I've been farming in that area since about 1972. And I have, it's a family operation and all our family members are part of that operation.

Could you tell us a little about your experiences at Texas A&M?

I arrived at Texas A&M in the fall of 1967, enrolled in Agricultural Economics and became a member of the Corps of Cadets. I was active in all the Corps activities, in AgEco, and was a member of the Ross volunteers and had some other leadership roles in the Corps of Cadets.

What experiences at Texas A&M do you value most?

I think my time at A&M helped to develop a can-do attitude with me. I was fortunate to gain some leadership skills that I've used throughout my career and learned that, that, never say quit. That if you work hard enough, you can work through your, your difficulties and try to solve the problems. And I think that the training I got in AgEco help me make stronger financial decisions. And, in essence, I was able to thrive in a pretty tough industry.

In your opinion, what does it take to achieve success?

I think the key to success is hard work. I think the only place that success comes before work is in the dictionary. And you get, you got to be smart, make good decisions, and delegate your, your tasks to those who do the best job at that, and oversee it and try to – make sure that you're headed and still headed in the right direction at all times.

What advice do you have for students of Agricultural Economics?

Well, once again I, I'm going to go back to, I'm a firm believer in hard work. You know, the staff in the AgEco Department are talented. If you pay attention, and, and you learn from them, they can give you the background to go out into the industry or any, any industry you decided to go into and help you to, just to be successful. And also, don't be afraid to, to go back to those same professors when you have an issue. Just a few years ago, I had a little bit of a problem, and I went back to the professor in the AgEco Department that that was his area of expertise and he helped me work through it. And, and I really, I think it's a lifelong arrangement that you can have with the Department if you look to them for help in any areas that you're having problems with.

What are your thoughts on being selected to the Tyrus R. Timm Honor Registry?

I'm terribly honored. And that I knew Dr. Timm, he was the head of the Department the four years I was here at A&M, and he was really a, someone to be looked up to, and someone that

Mr. Joe Pennington | Transcript

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was – I held in the highest respect. I think he was a real role model for everyone in the Department, whether it be students or other professors. And he, he had some, some character values that I've tried to live by also. He was quite an honorable individual.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Well, I, I think everyone knows that about Texas A&M, but the fact that, that after you graduate, you really, you're always an Aggie, and you can always come back and visit with those that helped you to get your degree. And you can utilize the knowledge that they have and the new knowledge that comes about you, you can always access that. And I guess I would say is don't break any ties with anyone, use – try to stay connected as much as you possibly can.

Thanks for watching!

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