

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**April 24, 2025**

- Item D.1.**     **Grambling State University's** request for approval to award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Alana Ward Robinson at the Spring 2025 Commencement Exercises.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Grambling State University (GSU) is requesting approval to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Alana Ward Robinson at the Spring 2025 commencement exercises. Mrs. Robinson is a trailblazing technology executive who has redefined how enterprise transformation is driven through technology across industries. As the founder of Robinson Group Consulting (RGC) and a former Fortune 500 CIO, she brings decades of expertise in building strategic, inclusive, and future-ready technology organizations. Her corporate and entrepreneurial journey—spanning IBM, Coors, Sara Lee, and RR Donnelley—reflects a legacy of impact at the intersection of technology, equity, and leadership.

Recognized for leading high-stakes digital transformations, Mrs. Robinson has advised boards and executive teams navigating disruption, growth, and digital reinvention. She is a trusted advisor on technology governance, risk, and innovation, fostering cross-functional collaboration and inclusive leadership within complex organizations. Her influence extends across generations of technology professionals, particularly through her mentorship and advocacy for diverse leadership pipelines.

Mrs. Robinson is also a proud alumna of Grambling State University, where she was among the first graduates of the Computer Science program. Her pioneering journey in technology serves as an inspiration to current and future students, particularly those pursuing careers in STEM fields. She has remained deeply connected to the University, actively supporting scholarships and initiatives that expand access to education.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to technology, leadership, and education, as well as her lifelong dedication to fostering meaningful change, Grambling State University wishes to bestow upon Mrs. Alana Ward Robinson an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby approves Grambling State University's request to award an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Mrs. Alana Ward Robinson at the Spring 2025 Commencement Exercises.



Office of the President

March 31, 2025

**MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO CONFER THE HONORARY DEGREE,  
*DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS ON MRS. ALANA WARD ROBINSON***

Grambling State University respectfully requests approval to confer the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, on Mrs. Alana Ward Robinson at our upcoming commencement ceremony on May 9, 2025.

Mrs. Robinson is a trailblazing technology executive who has redefined how enterprise transformation is driven through technology across industries. As the founder of Robinson Group Consulting (RGC) and a former Fortune 500 CIO, she brings decades of expertise in building strategic, inclusive, and future-ready technology organizations. Her corporate and entrepreneurial journey—spanning IBM, Coors, Sara Lee, and RR Donnelley—reflects a legacy of impact at the intersection of technology, equity, and leadership.

Recognized for leading high-stakes digital transformations, Mrs. Robinson has advised boards and executive teams navigating disruption, growth, and digital reinvention. She is a trusted advisor on technology governance, risk, and innovation, fostering cross-functional collaboration and inclusive leadership within complex organizations. Her influence extends across generations of technology professionals, particularly through her mentorship and advocacy for diverse leadership pipelines.

Mrs. Robinson is also a proud alumna of Grambling State University, where she was among the first graduates of the Computer Science program. Her pioneering journey in technology serves as an inspiration to current and future students, particularly those pursuing careers in STEM fields. She has remained deeply connected to the university, actively supporting scholarships and initiatives that expand access to education.

Through her philanthropic efforts, Mrs. Robinson and her family have established scholarships for underrepresented students, ensuring they have the resources to excel at Grambling State University. Beyond Grambling, she has been a driving force in charitable initiatives focused on education, economic empowerment, and social justice. Her commitment to service and equity has left an enduring impact on communities across the nation.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to technology, leadership, and education, as well as her lifelong dedication to fostering meaningful change, Grambling State University wishes to bestow upon Mrs. Alana Ward Robinson the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.

Your thoughtful and favorable consideration of this request would be greatly appreciated as we seek to honor a truly visionary leader whose values and impact align with the mission and vision of Grambling State University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Lemelle, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Lemelle, Jr., D.B.A.  
President

ML:jsc

# ALANA WARD ROBINSON

President & CEO, Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.  
Irving, TX | 312.867.7147 | [awrobinson@one-rgc.com](mailto:awrobinson@one-rgc.com) | [www.one-rgc.com](http://www.one-rgc.com)  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanawrobinson/>

## Executive Summary



Alana Ward Robinson is a trailblazing executive who has redefined how technology drives enterprise transformation across industries. As founder of Robinson Group Consulting (RGC) and a former Fortune 500 CIO, she brings decades of insight into building strategic, inclusive, and future-ready technology organizations. Her corporate and entrepreneurial journey—spanning IBM, Coors, Sara Lee, and RR Donnelley—reflects a legacy of impact at the intersection of technology, equity, and leadership. Known for leading high-stakes transformations and fostering cross-functional innovation, Alana is a trusted advisor to boards and executive teams navigating disruption, growth, and digital reinvention. Her influence extends across generations of tech leaders, particularly through her mentorship and her championing of inclusive leadership pipelines.

## Core Competencies

- CIO Leadership
- Digital Transformation
- Enterprise IT Strategy
- Inclusive Leadership
- Technology Governance
- Risk & Compliance
- Oversight
- Organizational Change
- Strategic IT Board Advisory
- Data & Cloud Innovation

## Career Highlights

- Co-founded Robinson Group Consulting, delivering Interim CIO Leadership and multimillion-dollar digital transformation strategies across healthcare, education, nonprofit, and logistics sectors.
- Led a \$100M transformation at RR Donnelley, resulting in \$82M in cost savings across six business units.
- Among the first African American women to hold CIO roles at Coors Brewing and Sara Lee Hosiery, implementing ERP systems and transforming enterprise IT.
- Advised the World Food Program's global IT strategy as a long-standing member of the IT Advisory Council in Rome.
- Designed the national curriculum framework for the Black Wealth Summit to promote intergenerational economic empowerment.
- Delivered keynote addresses and served as an expert panelist on inclusive leadership, technology innovation, and organizational transformation.

## Education

**Harvard University** Business School – Advanced Executive Management Program, Class President (2001)

**Grambling State University** – B.A. in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science (1972)

# ALANA WARD ROBINSON

---

President & CEO, Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.  
Irving, TX | 312.867.7147 | [awrobinson@one-rgc.com](mailto:awrobinson@one-rgc.com) | [www.one-rgc.com](http://www.one-rgc.com)  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanawrobinson/>

## Current Board Service

- **World Food Program**, IT Advisory Board (2014–present)
- **Brighter Horizon Foundation**, Board Chair (2019–2024)
- **Girls Inc. of Chicago**, Board Secretary (2018–2024)
- **Information Technology Senior Management Forum** (Founder, Executive Board Member, Mentor) since 1996
- **Grambling State University**, Lifetime Alumni Member, Co-Founder of Friends of Technology Advisory Board and Ward-Robinson Finishing Scholarship Sponsor
- **Black Wealth Summit**, Curriculum and Program Architect (2020 – 2023)

## Professional Experience

- Founder & CEO, **Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.** (2004–Present)
- SVP, Manufacturing Business Process Redesign, **RR Donnelley** (1999–2004)
- CIO, **Sara Lee Hosiery** (1995–1999)
- CIO, **Coors Brewing Company** (1994–1995)
- VP, Information Systems, **PACE Membership Warehouse** (1992–1994)
- Division Manager - Sales and Marketing, **Public Service Co. of Colorado** (1990 – 1992)
- Public Sector Branch Manager & other Leadership Roles, **IBM Corporation** (1972–1990)

## Awards & Recognition

- 2025 – Girls Inc. of Chicago She Shines Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2023 – HBCU ‘Paying It Forward’ Distinguished Alum Award
- 2021 – ITSMF President’s Award
- 2017 – GSU Alumni Beacon Award for Business
- CIO Review: Top 20 Tech Consulting Providers in Public Sector
- Financial Times: Agenda 100 Selection
- Top 50 African Americans in Technology

## Personal Note

Alana was initiated in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Delta Iota Chapter on November 20, 1970. She resides in Irving, TX with her husband, E. O’Neal Robinson. They worship at St. Luke United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX.

# Alana Ward Robinson, President and CEO

## Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.

Irving, TX 75038 • 312.867.7147 (Work) • 630.772.8698 (Cell)

[awrobinson@one-rgc.com](mailto:awrobinson@one-rgc.com) Web Site: [www.one-rgc.com](http://www.one-rgc.com) LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanawrobinson/>

## Curriculum Vitae



Alana Ward Robinson is a transformative technology executive and founder of Robinson Group Consulting (RGC), a firm she established in 2004 to deliver strategic interim CIO leadership, enterprise IT assessments, and business transformation initiatives. With over 30 years of corporate cross-industry experience—including Fortune 500 giants IBM, Coors, Sara Lee, and RR Donnelley—Alana is widely regarded for driving measurable results through innovation, digital strategy, and operational excellence.

She has led multimillion-dollar transformations, advised C-suites and boards on technology governance and risk, and is a sought-after voice on inclusive leadership and digital innovation. Her clients span global manufacturing, higher education, healthcare, logistics, and nonprofits.

### EDUCATION BACKGROUND:

2001	Harvard University Business School Advanced Executive Management Program	Class President Graduation Class Speaker
May, 1972	Grambling State University Grambling, LA	Bachelor of Arts - Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Magna Cum Laude; Miss Senior; Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society; Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. – Delta Iota Chapter President
Fall, 1970	College of St. Catherine and College of St. Thomas	GSU Domestic Exchange Student, St. Paul, MN
Summer, 1968	University of Louisiana at Lafayette Lafayette, LA	Early Admissions Student – Computer Science

### PROFESSIONAL EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT:

2005	Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL	Minority Director Development Program,
June 2002	Strategic Leadership: The Changing Reality for Women Executives,	University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
1997	Sara Lee Corporation Executive Development Center Chicago, IL	Executive General Management Development
1996	Center of Creative Leadership Leadership at the Peak	Executive General Management Development Colorado Springs, CO
1998	Society of Information Management	Executive Exchange Graduate
1996 – 1997	Leadership Winston-Salem, Winston-Salem, NC	Civic and Community Executive Development
1988 – 1989	Influence of Denver Denver, CO	Executive Development for Women
1994	Seibel Institute of Brewing Chicago, IL	Brewing Industry Executive Development
1993	Institute of International Connections Moscow, Russia	Joint USA/Russia Management Seminar <a href="http://www.fgispirit.org">www.fgispirit.org</a>
1991	Public Utility Executive Course	Utility Industry Executive Development

# Alana Ward Robinson, President and CEO

## Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.

Irving, TX 75038 • 312.867.7147 (Work) • 630.772.8698 (Cell)

[awrobinson@one-rgc.com](mailto:awrobinson@one-rgc.com) Web Site: [www.one-rgc.com](http://www.one-rgc.com) LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanawrobinson/>

## Curriculum Vitae

1991	University of Idaho, Moscow, ID Economic Development Research and Training Center	Graduate, Penn State University, PA
2002 – present	Board Development Courses:	National Association of Corporate Directors

### PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD:

2004 - present	<b>Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.</b> Founder, President and CEO	Strategic IT Management Consulting, Chicago, IL <a href="http://www.one-rgc.com">www.one-rgc.com</a>
1999 – 2004	<b>R R Donnelley and Sons Company</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Senior Vice President, Manufacturing Business Process Redesign</li><li>• Vice President, Corporate Application Solution Delivery</li></ul>	Chicago, IL <a href="http://www.rrd.com">www.rrd.com</a>
1995 – 1999	<b>Sara Lee Hosiery, a division of Sara Lee Corporation (now Hanes Brands)</b> Vice President and Chief Information Officer	Winston-Salem, NC
1994 – 1995	<b>Coors Brewing Company (now MillerCoors)</b> Vice President and Chief Information Officer	Golden, CO
1992 – 1994	<b>PACE Membership Warehouse, a division of Kmart Corporation (now Sams Club)</b> Vice President, Information Systems	Denver, CO
1972 – 1990	<b>IBM Corporation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Sector Branch Manager</li><li>• Manager, Marketing Training</li><li>• Product Development Administrator</li><li>• Sales Manager (Oil and Gas Industry)</li><li>• Systems Engineering Manager</li><li>• Instructor, Customer Education Center</li><li>• Systems Engineer/Programmer</li></ul>	Denver, CO Atlanta, GA Houston, TX Dallas, TX Shreveport, LA

### RECENT NONPROFIT/CIVIC BOARD AFFILIATIONS:

2014 - present	IT Advisory Council: World Food Program Rome, Italy	Board Member <a href="http://www.wfp.org">www.wfp.org</a>
2019 – present	Brighter Horizon Foundation	Board Chair (2019 – 2024), Board Member <a href="http://www.brighterhorizonfoundation.org">www.brighterhorizonfoundation.org</a>
2015 – present	Grambling State University Alumni Association Ward-Robinson Finishing Scholarship Sponsor	Lifetime Member
1996 – present	Information Technology Senior Management Forum	Founder, Executive Board. Member, Mentor, Volunteer <a href="http://www.itsmfonline.org">www.itsmfonline.org</a>
2018 – 2024 2021 – 2023	Girls Inc of Chicago Black Wealth Summit	Board Secretary – <a href="http://www.girlsinccicago.org">www.girlsinccicago.org</a> Curriculum/Program Architect <a href="http://www.blackwealthsummit.com">www.blackwealthsummit.com</a>
2019 – 2022	Metropolitan Planning Council of Chicago	Board Member, <a href="http://www.metroplanning.org">www.metroplanning.org</a> Effective Government Committee Co-Chair
2020 – 2021	GSU Friends of Technology Advisory Board	Co-Founder, Grambling State University, Grambling, LA



# Alana Ward Robinson, President and CEO

## Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.

Irving, TX 75038 • 312.867.7147 (Work) • 630.772.8698 (Cell)

[awrobinson@one-rgc.com](mailto:awrobinson@one-rgc.com) Web Site: [www.one-rgc.com](http://www.one-rgc.com) LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanawrobinson/>

## Curriculum Vitae

### HONORS AND AWARDS:

2025	She Shines Lifetime Achievement Award	<a href="#">Girls Inc. of Chicago</a> , Chicago, IL
2023	HBCU "Paying it Forward" Distinguished Alum Award	<a href="#">Friends United for HBCUs</a> , Houston, TX
2021	ITSMF President's Award	<a href="#">Information Technology Senior Manager Forum</a> , Atlanta, GA
2017	Grambling State University Beacon Award for Business	Grambling, LA
2014	"Top 20 Technology Consulting Providers in Public Sector"	<i>CIO Review Magazine</i>
2012	<i>Financial Times</i> – Agenda 100 Selection	
2012	New York Stock Exchange <b>Moving the Needle</b> Recognition	
2012	Independence Blue Cross Supplier Excellence Award	
2011	The <a href="#">RoadTrip Nation</a> Episode 8 Entrepreneur Interview	
2011	Entrepreneur Spotlight, March Magazine	
2010	25 Influential Women in Business	
2010	Top 50 African-Americans in Technology	
2003	Top Women in Corporate America <i>Black MBA Magazine</i>	<a href="http://www.blackmbamagazine.net">www.blackmbamagazine.net</a>
2003	Black Women in Finance	US Chamber of Commerce, DC
2002-2003	Top Achiever <i>Successguide Worldwide</i>	<i>The Networking Guide to Black Resources</i> <a href="http://www.frasernet.com">www.frasernet.com</a>
2000	US National Guard Civic Leader Tour of Europe	(Germany, Hungary, Belgium)
1998	Women of Courage II Awards	Nestle Corporation
1997	Regional Business Person of the Year Northwest Region, FBLA	Winston-Salem, NC

### FORMER NONPROFIT/CIVIC/INDUSTRY BOARD EXPERIENCE:

2007 – 2009	The Executive Leadership Council Board	Audit, Performance Management (Chair), Technology (Chair), Community Impact Committees <a href="http://www.elcinfo.com">www.elcinfo.com</a>
2015 - 2018	National Small Business Technology Council	<a href="http://www.nsba.biz">www.nsba.biz</a>
2006 - 2008	The Marathon Club Advisory Board	Member, <a href="http://www.themarathonclub.org">www.themarathonclub.org</a>
2001 – 2004	The Executive Leadership Council Foundation Board	Board Secretary <a href="http://www.elcinfo.org">www.elcinfo.org</a>
2002 – 2011	African American Experience Fund Trustee HQ - Washington, DC	Board Treasurer, Chair – Finance Committee Member, Development Committee <a href="http://www.aalexperience.org">www.aalexperience.org</a>
2002 – 2004	After School Matters City of Chicago, IL	Board Member, <a href="http://www.afterschoolmatters.org">www.afterschoolmatters.org</a>
2002 – 2004	RR Donnelley Good Government Fund Political Action Committee	Appointed by RRD CEO
2002 – 2004	RR Donnelley Foundation	Appointed by RRD CEO
2000 – 2001	Society of Information Management	Member, <a href="http://www.simnet.org">www.simnet.org</a>
1994 – 1998	International Women's Forum	North Carolina Chapter – Board Member Colorado Chapter - Member
1995 – 1998	Global Executive SAP CIO Apparel/Footwear Industry Consortium	Sara Lee Hosiery CIO teamed with CIOs from VF Corporation and Reebok



# Alana Ward Robinson, President and CEO

## Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.

Irving, TX 75038 • 312.867.7147 (Work) • 630.772.8698 (Cell)

[awrobinson@one-rgc.com](mailto:awrobinson@one-rgc.com) Web Site: [www.one-rgc.com](http://www.one-rgc.com) LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanawrobinson/>

### Curriculum Vitae

1997 – 1998	The Conference Board – Committee on SAP Implementation	Member
1995	Denver Airport Opening Celebration Commission - Denver, Colorado	Commission Corporate Member
1990 – 1992	Commission of Information Management State of Colorado	Appointed by Gov. Roy Romer
1990 – 1992	Denver Workforce Development Board, formerly Denver Private Industry Council	Appointed by Mayor Federico Pena
1990 – 1991	Colorado Commission on Low Income Energy Assistance	Appointed by Gov. Roy Romer
1988 – 1994	Public Education and Business Coalition Denver, CO	Vice Chair & Nominating Committee Chair <a href="http://www.pebc.org">www.pebc.org</a>
1990 – 1994	Girls Incorporated of Metro Denver	Board Member, <a href="http://www.girlsincedenver.org">www.girlsincedenver.org</a>
1991 – 1992	Douglas County Education Foundation	Founder and Board Chair
1992 – 1994	Young American Center for Financial Education	Adult Board <a href="http://www.yacenter.org">www.yacenter.org</a>
1990 – 1992	Curtis Park Consumer Resource Center	Board Vice President
1991 – 1994	Douglas County Women's Crisis Center	Board Member <a href="http://www.thewomenscrisiscenter.org">www.thewomenscrisiscenter.org</a>

### **OTHER CIVIC AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:**

1997 – 1998	Forsyth County United Way Campaign Forsyth County Training Committee	Sara Lee Hosiery Company Chairperson (2 years)
1996	Sara Lee Hosiery Habitat for Humanity Winston-Salem, NC	Company Project Leader and Executive Sponsor
1996 – 1997	Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Career Center	Business Liaison
1996 – 1997	Winston-Salem State University Corporate Partner Program	Chair
1989	Denver Public Schools Public Private Coalition Denver, CO	Technology Strategy Team Leader
1989 – 1990	Douglas County School District Castle Rock, CO	Citizens Budget Committee, Chair

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING/PANEL EXPERIENCE:**

2022	<a href="https://blackcomputeHER.com">blackcomputeHER</a> Annual Conference Keynote Speaker	
April 2007	Executive Leadership Council Strengthening the Leadership Pipeline	"Effective Technology Leadership" Speech
July 2006	The Dealmaker's Summit	"Life after Corporate America" Panel The Marathon Club <a href="http://www.themarathonclub.org">www.themarathonclub.org</a>
2002 - 2004	The Dooley Group Leadership Counsel Keller Graduate School Chicago, IL	"Maximizing Your Career Opportunities" Speech
February 2003	PRIMEX Conference – Panel Moderator	"Building the Prepress-Printer-Publisher-Paper Infrastructure" <a href="http://www.idealiance.org">www.idealiance.org</a>

## Alana Ward Robinson, President and CEO

Robinson Group Consulting, Inc.

Irving, TX 75038 • 312.867.7147 (Work) • 630.772.8698 (Cell)

[awrobinson@one-rgc.com](mailto:awrobinson@one-rgc.com) Web Site: [www.one-rgc.com](http://www.one-rgc.com) LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/alanawrobinson/>

### Curriculum Vitae

July 2003	Women in Graphic Media & Technology	"Optimizing the Print Manufacturing Platform: The R.R. Donnelley Story" <a href="http://www.printondemand.com">www.printondemand.com</a>
July 2003	Luncheon Speaker	"Maximizing Your Career Opportunities"
April 2002	Executive Leadership Council Symposium ELC/Goldman Sachs	<a href="http://www.unityfirst.com">www.unityfirst.com</a> Competition Judge
March 2002	2002 Business Case Competition Digital Smart Factory Forum	"Optimizing the Print Supply Chain" <a href="http://www.smartfactory.org">www.smartfactory.org</a>
1998 – 1999	Morehouse College – Business Association Executive Lecture Series, Atlanta, GA	"Maximizing Career Opportunities – Achieving Work/Life Balance"
1995 - 1998	Lecturer at Winston Salem State University and Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC	"Corporate I/T Strategies"
April 1997	Grambling State University Honors Day Convocation Speaker Grambling, LA	"Preparing for the New Millennium Through Technology Innovation"
November 1990	Jefferson County Public Schools, Colorado North Area Principals Conference	"The Marketplace: Understand Your Consumer"
August 1990	Apartment Association of Metro Denver Denver, CO	"Selling Yourself and Your Organization"

### PUBLICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

2021	<i>PIVOT: How the pandemic pushed Women to their passion</i>	"A Fearful Night of Terror" by Alana Ward Robinson
March 2006	"Building the Business Case for Long-Term Return from Enterprise Resource Planning Implementation"	National Association of Corporate Directors March "Director's Monthly" Newsletter
February 2006	"Applied Leadership and Change Management for Successful Enterprise Resource Planning"	National Association of Corporate Directors February "Director's Monthly" Newsletter
2002	"All-Female B-School Team Designs Best Plan for AOL"	<a href="http://www.womensenews.org">www.womensenews.org</a>
2002	Foster, Due North – Strengthen Your Leadership Assets	
2000	Cobbs and Turnock, Cracking the Corporate Code – from Survival to Mastery	
February 1998	Real Stories of African American Success "Enterprise Value Awards", CIO Magazine	