



Class of 2025 Inductee

Robert (Bob) L. Shoptaw, BA, MBA

Robert Shoptaw retired as President and CEO of Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield (ABCBS) insurance company in 2008 after completing a 39-year career with the company. During the 1970s and 1980s, he served in various management and executive capacities with a primary focus on medical services management, professional relations, and government programs administration (e.g., Medicare and Medicaid administrative operations).

In 1987, Robert was named Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. With the retirement of Dr. George K. Mitchell as the company's President and CEO in late 1994, Robert was elected to succeed Dr. Mitchell in this position. After retiring as President and CEO in 2008, Robert continued to serve on the Board of Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield as its Chairman from 2009 to 2016. Thereafter he remained on the Board of Directors and served as the Chair of the Audit Committee until he retired from the Board in March of 2022.

Robert received a B.A. in Economics from Arkansas Tech University in 1968, an MBA from Webster University with a dual concentration in business administration and health services management (1982), and is a graduate of the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program (1991).

Robert currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Little Rock Metrocentre Improvement District. He is also a member of the Simmons Bank Board and serves as the Chair of the company's Audit Committee. Prior to his retirement from Arkansas Blue Cross in 2008, he served a two-year term as Chairman of the National Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association which has, as its members, 37 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans serving the health insurance needs of over one hundred million Americans. In the recent past, Robert has served as a founding member of the Arkansas Research Alliance, Chaired the Board of Visitors of the University of Arkansas College of Medicine, completed a 20-year tenure on the Board of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement and served several decades on the University of Arkansas Walton College Arkansas Executive Forum.