

NAPLES<sup>®</sup>  
ILLUSTRATED

# THE NAPLES 100

2025

*Collier County's*  
**MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS LEADERS**

# The Naples 100



## BRANDON DOWDY

Executive Director  
Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee

Brandon Dowdy brings more than 25 years of nonprofit management experience, having previously served as CEO of the YMCA of West Central Illinois. Under Dowdy's leadership, Pathways has reached its most successful financial performance to date. Known for his transparent and inclusive style, he has substantially enhanced programs, resulting in an impressive level of kindergarten readiness among vulnerable children in Immokalee. He fosters collaboration and innovation, encourages teamwork, and invests in staff development while emphasizing meaningful community impact and measurable outcomes.

**EDUCATION:** Springfield College (MS)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS FIELD:** To gather enough good karma to sneak into the pearly gates!

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED:** A second chance is a golden opportunity—don't squander it by repeating past mistakes.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE:** The loss of my beloved wife after over 20 years together. Even with the heartache, I'm honestly amazed by the silver linings and unexpected blessings that came from that tough time. Sometimes, life's challenges show us our own strength and resilience in ways we never could have imagined. For that, I am grateful.

**SOMETHING FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME:** THE Sheryl Crow was my elementary school music teacher. Go, Kellison Tigers!



## STUART DUNKIN

Owner  
Dunkin's Diamonds

Stuart Dunkin has become one of the leading jewelry providers in Southwest Florida with 5 locations. He was born in Aurora, Illinois to hard-working parents. His parents would be the sole reason his work ethic would bring such resounding success. Dunkin has spent more than 60 years perfecting how to market to his customers and provide the ultimate customer service. He is excited to continue to build on the Dunkin's Diamond brand for years to come.

**HOMETOWN:** Aurora, Illinois

**WHY I CHOSE THIS FIELD:** I wanted to be a part of people's most memorable moments.

**FIRST JOB:** Dunkin's Diamonds

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON:** Warren Buffet

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** I never gave up and continued to strive for perfection.

**LESSON LEARNED:** Helping others succeed always pays off.

**SOMETHING FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME:** I have one heck of a sweet tooth.

**HIDDEN TALENT:** I am one of the best backgammon players.

**ADVICE TO 18-YEAR-OLD SELF:** Love what you do and do what you love.



## ROBERT T. EDWARDS

CEO, Chief Investment Officer, Senior PIM®  
Portfolio Manager  
Edwards Asset Management

Bob Edwards helms a successful asset management team of 17, with over \$1.6 billion in assets. Beyond finance, he and his wife Terry are philanthropic pillars in the community, serving leadership roles in various organizations from Artis—Naples to the Guggenheim Museum in Venice, Italy. Edwards is deeply rooted in the community and has received numerous accolades for his service. His unique blend of professional expertise and social commitment makes him a trusted advisor and revered community figure.

**FUNNIEST WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE:** The team swapped my office chair for a balance ball. Portfolio balancing is easier.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED:** Warren Buffett says to be greedy when others are fearful—words to invest and live by.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE:** Expanding Edwards Asset Management in Naples and Fort Lauderdale simultaneously was like flying a plane and servicing its engine in mid-flight.

**HIDDEN TALENT:** I can recite Pi up to the fiftieth decimal place. Not very useful in finance, but it kills at parties!

**CHARITIES SUPPORTED:** Naples Zoo, Naples Children & Education Foundation, Artis-Naples, The Baker Museum, Naples Botanical Garden, Guggenheim Museum, Conservancy of Southwest Florida



## CURT C. EDWARDS

Managing Director, Wealth Management  
Southeast Region  
Wilmington Trust

With a national clientele but a focus on the Southeastern United States, Curt Edwards is responsible for overseeing the delivery of wealth management services, including planning, trust, investment management, family office, and private banking, to high-net-worth clients. Edwards has more than two decades serving as a leader of wealth management teams. He provides guidance and solutions to successful families throughout the Southeast, including corporate executives, business owners, entrepreneurs, and others who have transitioned to retirement.

**EDUCATION:** Boston University

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Certified Financial Planner, Chartered Financial Consultant, Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst, Chartered Life Underwriter, Certified Divorce Financial Analyst; graduate of Leadership Collier; holder of FINRA Series 7, 9, 10, 24, 63, and 65 licenses

**SOMETHING FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ME:** I am a bit of an adrenalin junkie—skydiving, scuba diving, and I completed ground school for a private pilot license.

**CHARITIES:** Naples Therapeutic Riding Center, The Immokalee Foundation, Leadership Collier, NCH, and the Collier Community Foundation