

Mary Elizabeth Junck

Doctor of Laws

Mary Junck is chief executive officer and chair of Lee Enterprises, a major newspaper corporation and currently is chair of the board of the Associated Press, America's leading international news service and a nonprofit organization that stands for the best in journalism.

Facing challenges in the digital age against a traditional economic media model, Junck guided Lee Enterprises by building on the company's commitment to community values. She built a leadership team to support the business's growth and prepare the company for increased change. Prior to joining Lee, Junck held several key executive positions at the former Times Mirror Company. She began her career with the Charlotte Observer.

Junck has been a generous and committed supporter of her alma mater, UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, including her endowment of the Mary Junck Colloquium, an initiative aimed at bringing scholars together to share insights into the world of media. She also supported the school's move to Carroll Hall and made contributions that helped provide Ph.D. students office space on the faculty floors allowing for greater collaboration. Junck has served on advisory committees for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, including representing alumni interests. She received the University Distinguished Alumna Award in 1997.