Barry C. Melancon is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the 350,000-member American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the premier professional membership organization for CPAs in the United States. Elected to this position in July 1995, Melancon directs the Institute’s operations in New York, New Jersey, Washington, DC and Texas.

With more than 20 years experience in the accounting profession, Melancon is dedicated to helping the accounting profession meet the challenges of a rapidly-changing marketplace that continues to demand a strong commitment from CPAs to their core values of integrity, objectivity and understanding broad business issues. Melancon is the chief spokesperson for the profession through media and legislative venues.

In addition to serving as President and CEO of the AICPA, Melancon is a member of the AICPA’s delegation to the International Federation of Accountants, whose broad objective is the development and enhancement of a coordinated worldwide accountancy profession with harmonized standards.

Prior to joining the AICPA, Melancon served for eight years as Executive Director of the Society of Louisiana CPAs. He began his accounting career in 1979 at the firm Bergeron & Company, CPAs in Louisiana. In 1984, he was elected a firm partner.

Melancon graduated in 1978 from Nicholls State University in Louisiana, majoring in accounting with a minor in government. He also earned an MBA in 1983 from Nicholls State University, and subsequently served as an adjunct professor of accounting at his alma mater for four years.

Launched in fall 2002 with Mr. C.T. Bauer, founder and retired chairman of AIM Management Group, the Distinguished Leaders Series at the C. T. Bauer College of Business provides students, alumni and faculty exposure to business and community leaders, bridging academic teachings on leadership and ethics with the Real World of Business. The Series is an extension of the annual fall Leadership and Ethics Week. The overall goal of the Distinguished Leaders Series is to develop Bauer College students into the effective, conscientious business leaders of tomorrow.