

ASHLEY E. ZUMWALT-FORBES

8701 Smoketree Cove, Austin, TX 78735 | aezumwalt@gmail.com | (405) 317-2191

Dynamic and results-driven executive with deep expertise in critical materials supply chains, energy security, capital raising, and transformative transactions. Recognized for leadership in fostering western economic competitiveness, managing complex negotiations, and driving innovation in energy and critical minerals. Proven public speaker and advocate, passionate about advancing sustainable and secure resource development. Seeking new Advisory or Board roles to leverage strategic insights and global expertise.

Education

2018-2019 UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, Norman, OK

Master of Legal Studies, focused on U.S. energy law, May 2019.

2015-2017 HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL, Boston, MA

MBA, May 2017. Leadership: Energy & Environment Symposium, Energy Club, Entrepreneurship Club.

2008-2012 UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, Norman, OK

Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, Petroleum Engineering. Leadership: PE-ET Honor Society (Top 10 Seniors), Vice President of Student Government Council.

Experience

2024-2025 US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, Washington, DC

Deputy Director for Batteries and Critical Materials (Rank: SES)

- Directed strategic deployment of \$6 billion in grants and nearly \$10 billion in tax credits to fortify U.S. critical materials and battery sectors.
- Ranked as top-performing Senior Executive Service member in the Department of Energy during my first year in government service.
- Shaped national policies to address supply chain vulnerabilities and enhance energy security.
- Engaged with senior federal leadership, industry stakeholders, and global partners to align on strategic priorities and outcomes.
- Championed initiatives to scale domestic production and processing capabilities, integrating sustainability into long-term plans.
- Delivered high-impact presentations to Congress, industry conferences, and international forums to advocate for U.S. leadership in critical materials.

2021-2023 METALS ACQUISITION LIMITED, Fort Worth, TX

Co-Founder, Sponsor, & Advisor

- Led \$267 million IPO of Metals Acquisition Corp (NYSE: MTAL), transitioning from SPAC to acquisition of Glencore's CSA copper mine in Australia for \$1.1 billion.
- Executed complex financing mechanisms, including senior debt, mezzanine debt, and commodity streams, securing over \$1 billion.

- Managed regulatory and compliance requirements with NYSE and SEC, ensuring seamless corporate re-domiciliation and shareholder engagement.

2021-2023 REECYCLE INC., Fort Worth, TX

Executive Director

- Spearheaded acquisition of rare earth recycling technology from University of Houston, retaining founder expertise while expanding leadership.
- Led Series B fundraising efforts and oversaw corporate restructuring to attract U.S. and international investors.

2021-2022 BLACK MOUNTAIN CARBON LOCK, Fort Worth, TX

Co-Founder & CEO

- Advanced carbon-negative solutions by securing partnerships with major corporations and lobbying for progressive climate policies in Australia.
- Negotiated long-term offtake agreements and developed infrastructure for a Direct Air Capture plant in Queensland, Australia.

2019-2021 BLACK MOUNTAIN EXPLORATION, Fort Worth, TX / Perth, AU

Co-Founder, President, & COO

- Acquired 1.7 million acres of gas resources in Western Australia, culminating in a December 2021 IPO with ~4X return on invested capital.
- Led stakeholder engagement with government, regulatory bodies, and Aboriginal groups to ensure successful project execution.

2018-2021 BLACK MOUNTAIN METALS, Fort Worth, TX / Perth, AU

Co-Founder, President, & COO

- Directed ~\$75 million in investments into battery metal mines, achieving significant returns (3-4X multiples) on transactions.
- Increased nickel reserves by 600% through extensive exploration campaigns, solidifying the company's industry presence.
- Built robust operational frameworks and cultivated teams across international offices.

2017-2018 BLACK MOUNTAIN OIL & GAS, Fort Worth, TX

Director of Business Development

- Orchestrated strategy and acquisitions in Eagle Ford, Mexican midstream, and Australian mining sectors.
- Developed financial models and business plans to launch new ventures.

2016 MCKINSEY & COMPANY, Houston, TX / Washington, DC

Summer Associate

- Delivered \$300 million in savings through procurement optimization and crisis management strategies for a major client.

2012-2014 EXXONMOBIL, Houston, TX / Neuquén, Argentina

Lead Drilling/Completions Engineer

- Designed and executed ExxonMobil's first successful international shale play in Argentina.
 - Oversaw \$500 million in exploration investments, navigating operational, environmental, and regulatory challenges.
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Honors

- Forbes 30 Under 30 (2020) – Energy
- Oil & Gas Investor 40 Under 40 (2021)
- Dallas Business Journal Top 25 Women in Business in DFW (2021)

Advisory Roles

- TCU Energy Institute, OU School of Petroleum Engineering.

Personal

- Married with one daughter. Passionate advocate for women in STEM, mentor, and global traveler (visited over 60 countries). Active volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters, CASA, and United Way.

Certifications

- Global Competent Boards Designation, ESG Competent Board Certificate
- IADC WellCap Well Control, Water Survival/HUET, Hydrogen Sulfide, Respirator Fit.