



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION
A Rural Minnesota Community Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert L. Thurston, Spicer, is currently the president of Olivia-based Thurston Genetics, a national and international corn genetics licensing company. He has worked in agriculture—and specifically the seed corn industry—his entire adult life, and founded Thurston, Inc. in 1980 and Thurston Genetics in 1994. Thurston holds leadership positions in other organizations including the Ridgewater Foundation, Corn Capital Trust in Olivia, American Bank of Olivia and Renville, Minnesota Postsecondary Agricultural Students Organization, Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace – Alliance for Talent Development, American Seed Trade Assn., Independent Professional Seedsman and other state and national agricultural organizations and committees.