



**Payson Wild**  
**President**  
**Wild Associates**

Payson Wild founded Wild Associates in 2000. Prior to the formation of Wild Associates, Payson was a Senior Vice President for eleven years with The Alford Group, a national consulting firm.

Previously, he served as Director of Planned Giving at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. During his tenure, he established the first formal planned giving program for any orchestra in the United States and provided direction for the CSO's \$30 million endowment campaign that resulted in \$32 million in commitments.

Payson began his development career at Northwestern University in Alumni Relations. He became Director of Capital and Estate Planning at Illinois Institute of Technology and directed the planned giving program that obtained over \$20 million in alumni gifts. Earlier, he was Assistant Director of Development at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's (now Rush University) Medical Center in Chicago.

Payson has also worked in airline and railroad management and taught in public schools and served in the U.S. Army Reserve Transportation Corps. He has served as President of the School of Education and Social Policy Board of the Northwestern Alumni Association and now serves on the Board of Visitors at NU's Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics (CIERA). He was a trustee of the Evanston Community Foundation and was a board member of the Chicago Council on Planned Giving, of which he is a founder and 2015 recipient of the Heintzelman Service Award. He was formerly on the boards of Northlight Theatre, the Monmouth College Alumni Association and the Evanston Historical Society (now History Center), where he is a Past President and Trustee Emeritus. He is "Commodore" of the Evanston Sail & Paddle Association. Payson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Monmouth College and a Master of Arts degree from Northwestern University.