

Dr. James Thomas, PhD, a 1972 graduate of Joshua High School, has built a distinguished career as a scientist and executive in the biotechnology industry. After graduation, Thomas pursued higher education with determination, earning a B.S. and M.S. in Nutritional Science from Texas Tech University, a Ph.D. in Nutritional Biochemistry from Purdue University, and a Research Fellowship at MIT in Cell Physiology. His career spanned leadership roles at Genentech, Immunex, and Amgen, where he helped develop more than 15 commercial biotech drugs, including the groundbreaking Enbrel™, the first successful treatment for rheumatoid arthritis. He later founded and served as President and CEO of Just Biotherapeutics and as EVP Global Head of Biotherapeutics at Just Evotec Biologics, leading international innovation in drug development and manufacturing. Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. Thomas has served as a church leader, participated in global missions in Africa, and engaged in philanthropic support for causes ranging from cancer research to humanitarian aid. His lifelong dedication to science, leadership, and service continues to leave a lasting impact on both his industry and community. Joshua ISD is proud to recognize Dr. James Thomas, PhD, as a 2025 Wall of Fame Inductee.