



# SCOTT HAMILTON

PRESIDENT & CEO, EXECUTIVE  
NEXT PRACTICES INSTITUTE  
NEXTWORKS STRATEGY

## BIO

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Scott Hamilton is a well-known thought leader, advisor & keynote speaker in the field of future thinking, strategy, organizational agility & innovation. In his prior roles as a corporate leader, he held key strategy, marketing, operations, and organization effectiveness roles for Nestle, Bergen Brunswig, Honeywell, ARAMARK, Golden State Foods & DirecTV. Hamilton keynotes conferences and private retreats globally on the topics of leadership, scenario development, future casting, emerging trends and "next practices" development. In addition, Scott and his team of Nextworks Strategy (NWS) partners provide executive and organizational programs around strategic planning & execution, internal innovation methods, performance management improvement and the pioneering use of "collective intelligence" alignment tools. NWS has orchestrated and delivered several hundred leadership/ strategic retreats for organizations ranging in size from \$3m to \$5B in revenue.

Hamilton is also CEO of the Executive Next Practices Institute (ENP Forums), an enterprise level innovation & trend exploration forum organization that is based at the University of California Irvine, Beall Applied Innovation. He is also a partner in the Cove Fund, a seed level venture fund based at UCI.



# ERROL ARKILIC

CHIEF INNOVATION OFFICER  
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
UCI BEALL APPLIED  
INNOVATION (BAI)



## BIO

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Chief Innovation Officer of UCI, and Executive Director of Beall Applied Innovation. At UCI, he leads campus-wide commercialization activity, helping researchers turn knowledge into products and services that impact society. Prior to his role at UCI, he was founder and CEO of M34 Capital. M34 is a private investment company that focuses on seed and early-stage projects being spun out of academic research labs. Previously, Errol was the founding and lead program director for the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps program (I-Corps). Prior to this, he was the lead software and services Program Director for the NSF SBIR program. Before his government service, Errol was founder and CEO of StrataGent Lifesciences (Acquired by Corium International: CORI) and Manager of Product Engineering at Redwood Microsystems. He has a Ph.D. in Aero/Astro Engineering from MIT.



# JOSH KREITZER

FOUNDER AND CEO  
CHANNEL BAKERS



## BIO

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Joshua Kreitzer is the Founder and CEO of Channel Bakers, an international Retail Media and eCommerce agency. He built the company from the ground up because of his deep understanding of Amazon's potential for brand growth. Josh's twenty-five year career includes advertising and vendor management at a large consumer electronics internet retailer, as well as being "the internet guy" at brands like GoPro and Corsair. His boundless enthusiasm, spirit of professional adventure, and proven track record is what he's most well-known for.

Under his leadership, Channel Bakers has rapidly grown to more than 200 team members globally, with billions in ad-attributed sales to their credit. Beyond the numbers, Josh has also prioritized giving back to the community; particularly through Channel Bakers' work with "Together We Rise", a foundation dedicated to helping children in foster care.

Josh's career of entrepreneurship and philanthropy has catapulted him to the forefront of eCommerce thought leadership, and earned him numerous awards and recognitions, including Internet Marketer of the Year 2020, a Congressional Honor in California, and Silver for the Entrepreneur of the Year Stevie Award.



# PANKAJ PATEL

FOUNDER & CEO  
NILE GLOBAL



## BIO

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Pankaj Patel is the founder and CEO of Nile, a disruptive startup that is reimagining the future of networking. With over 25 years of experience as a results-oriented technology leader, Pankaj has a proven track record of developing highly scalable products and services. He has built and led high-performance global engineering organizations, set clear visions, directed strategies, and consistently delivered results. Prior to founding Nile, Pankaj held key positions at prominent venture capital firms, serving as a partner and Chief Strategy Officer at JC2 Ventures and a senior advisor to March Capital.

Pankaj's strategic leadership has successfully positioned Nile to change the status quo and simplify network connectivity fundamentally. His deep understanding of go-to-market strategies and unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction has cultivated a culture of relentless dedication within the company. With his expertise in driving business and technology strategy, Pankaj played a pivotal role as the Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer at Cisco Systems, Inc., where he oversaw the company's extensive \$38 billion product and solution portfolio. During his tenure at Cisco, he led a staggering 180 acquisitions, strategically expanding the company's offerings and market presence.

In addition to his role at Nile, Pankaj serves on the board of directors of several technology startups, where he provides strategic guidance and expertise. His passion for contributing to the industry and his mission to simplify complex networking infrastructure solutions have solidified his position as a visionary leader in Silicon Valley. Pankaj holds a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science in Pilani, India, as well as a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



# HENRY DEVRIES

CEO  
INDIE BOOKS INTERNATIONAL  
FORBES.COM COLUMNIST

## BIO

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Henry DeVries writes a weekly business development column for Forbes.com and is the cohost of The Marketing With A Book Podcast. He is CEO of Indie Books International based in Oceanside, California and has ghostwritten or edited more than 300 business books, including his #1 Amazon sales and marketing bestseller, How To Close A Deal Like Warren Buffett. In his books and presentations titled "Marketing With A Book," "Rainmaker Confidential," and "Persuade With A Story!" he shows thousands of professionals each year how to uncover hidden asset hero stories that communicate their trustworthiness in two minutes or less. He earned his MBA from San Diego State University and a certificate in Leading Professional Service Firms from the Harvard Business School. He is the former assistant dean for continuing education at the University of California San Diego, president of an Ad Age 500 advertising agency, and vice president for an international \$5 billion financial services organization. On a personal note, he is a baseball nut who has visited forty-four major league baseball parks and has three to go before he can touch 'em all. He can be reached at [henry@indiebooksintl.com](mailto:henry@indiebooksintl.com).



# DELILAH PANIO

VICE PRESIDENT, U.S. CAPITAL  
FORMATION  
TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE / TSX  
VENTURE EXCHANGE

## BIO

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Delilah Panio is Vice President of U.S. Capital Formation for Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) and TSX Venture Exchange (TSXV) based in Southern California. In this role, Delilah advises U.S. companies on the opportunity to list and raise capital on Canada's premier equity markets.

Previously, Delilah spent 10 years at TSX and TSXV in business development and strategy in the Canadian head office. She has advised many companies on the going public process and provides an understanding of private and public financing options in Canada and the U.S.

Delilah is also the founder of Fortuna Funding which provides practical and intentional guidance on accessing aligned capital. She has developed a proprietary Investor Readiness Program for early-stage founders. She partnered with UBS and Coralus on Project Female Founder, a global investor ready accelerator for female founders. She is a frequent speaker, pitch competition judge and pitch coach.

Delilah is currently Chair of the Funding Committee for Women Leaders of Octane and an Advisory Board Member for MAPLE Business Council (a trade organization between Canada and Southern California), WE Global (an innovation studio for women entrepreneurs), and The Allyship (driving change for women in venture capital). She is an Activator for Coralus (formerly SheEO) and led the 2016 US launch for this financing vehicle for female and non-binary founders.

Delilah is also the Co-Founder of We Are Enough, a non-profit that educates women on why and how to invest in women-owned businesses and/or with a gender lens, which will be launching a global campaign in late 2023.

Delilah holds an MBA in Enterprise Development and a BA in English and has completed a certification as a Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) Master Practitioner.



# FEYZI FATEHI

CEO  
CORENT TECHNOLOGY, INC



## BIO

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Feyzi Fatehi is the CEO of Corent Tech, a cloud/software/SaaS technology leader named among the Top 10 Most Disruptive Private Companies. A technology visionary, inventor, and entrepreneur, Fatehi was the recipient of the 2019 CODiE Lifetime Achievement Award, an award previously bestowed on Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Bill Gates, for significant long-term contributions to the software industry. A Silicon Valley veteran, Fatehi studied at Cambridge, Princeton, UT Austin, and UCLA and has given talks at Harvard, Wharton, Stanford, CalTech, as well as a commencement speech at UC Irvine in 2022. Forbes Books recently published his book titled "Democratizing SaaS", a tech industry best seller on how Corent's breakthrough platform SaaSOPs is poised to accelerate the transformation of the software industry into a service industry unleashing a new multi-trillion dollar market by the end of this decade.



# CEDRIC HARRIS

CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER (CRO)  
EVERYTHINGBLOCKCHAIN, INC



## BIO

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Highly experienced Chief Solution Architect proficient managing large development teams across disparate disciplines. Mr. Harris is regarded as an IT “rock star” with more than 34 years of hands-on expertise architecting sustainable software solutions in the areas of blockchain, AI/ML, distributed computing, database, cloud architecture via Kubernetes and Docker. In addition to an in-depth knowledge, Mr. Harris is an experienced mentor and educator having developed curriculum for numerous IT architecture workshops alongside Microsoft, Inc consultants. Additional background details include a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) focused in Computer Software Engineering from Tuskegee University.





# JOEL MANFREDO

CHIEF INFORMATION & INNOVATION  
DIGITAL OFFICER  
MPI



## BIO

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Joel Manfredo is a senior executive with over 20 years of experience leading information technology, cyber-security, innovation and digital transformation across public, large private, government and non-profit entities. He has served in finance, development, leasing, and operating roles at The Rouse Company and at McCormick Properties, Inc. (MPI), a subsidiary of McCormick & Company (Fortune 500). At MPI, Joel also held positions in Syndications and served as the Chief Compliance Officer of a registered NASD Broker Dealer subsidiary. In summary, Joel spent 29 years in commercial real estate companies, 18 years as a practitioner and 11 leading information technology and cybersecurity. Joel has created strategies and overseen resultant successful turnarounds and transformations both in business roles and in technical roles. He has presented to boards about 70 times.

Joel presently serves as the Chief Information, Innovation and Digital Officer for the Motion Picture Industry Pension & Health Plans. He created strategies for each major IT area which have different technical risk profiles (cybersecurity, infrastructure, applications and digital transformation) and has overseen a wholesale replacement of all business and infrastructure systems, in addition to bringing new innovative tools into the organization. An example is the creation of a cybersecurity defense-in-depth strategy which required the implementation of over 30 tools executed in only of 22 months.

At The Irvine Company, Joel achieved a clean auditor's opinion regarding technical reliance on system generated financial statements (without the need for compensating manual controls) consistent with Sarbanes-Oxley.

While at The Rouse Company, Joel executed both a real estate turnaround and an IT transformation. In the face of corporate downsizing, Joel was asked to run a 4.0 million square foot portfolio of 57 office (50% vacant) and industrial buildings. The plan included assessing physical structures of both his portfolio and the competitors', understanding each submarket, devising common area improvements, focusing on labor, utilities and real estate taxes and recognizing the opportunity to be a market maker with the right messaging and leasing pitch. The results were a 209% EBITDA turnaround in 2½ years. Joel was then asked by the Vice-Chairman to transform the company's systems to avert a year 2000 problem. He developed the program, a \$43.0 million technology-based business transformation, that yielded hard cost savings 2X the proforma realized one year early. The program that was delivered on time, on scope and 9% under budget.

Joel has served on several non-profit boards, presented many times in MBA programs and professional conferences, has been cited in IT research publications and has mentored staff and colleagues. He holds an MS (Finance), an MBA (Management) from Loyola University and a BS in Business & Economics from Lehigh University. He's completed Wharton's Corporate Governance: Maximizing Your Effectiveness



# JOHN MARLER

DIRECTOR OF GLOBAL ESG  
INGRAM MICRO



## BIO

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John is the Director of Global ESG at Ingram Micro, the Irvine, California-based global leader in technology and supply chain services. In this role, John manages and advances Ingram Micro's ESG platform and programs, helping the company to meet its ESG goals and engage with its stakeholders. Prior to Ingram Micro, John led the energy management and environmental sustainability programs at AEG, the Los Angeles-based leader in live sports and entertainment. Prior to these sustainability roles, John held various roles at Southern California Edison, the law firm Ford Marrin, and at the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments. John currently serves on the Traffic and Transportation Commission for the City of Claremont, California.



# SCOTT KITCHER

PRESIDENT & CEO  
SUSTAIN SOCAL



## BIO

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Scott has over 30 years of financial services experience in investment banking, investment management, private equity, venture capital and consulting. Over 15 years ago, he began focusing on clean technologies, their impacts on sustainability and sustainability initiatives. Today, he is President & CEO at Sustain SoCal, Principal at EcoFin Consulting, LLC, and serves on various corporate, non-profit and academic boards and committees in various roles almost all related to cleantech and sustainability.

### **Other affiliations:**

Advanced Transportation Center: Director – Orange County

Capital Market Access: Member, Advisory Board

Elevation Ventures: General Partner; Chairman, Investment Committee

EMC Squared Vehicles: Member, Board of Directors

Samueli School of Engineering at UCI: Member, Leadership Council

Sustain OC Foundation: Chairman, Board of Directors



# MICHELLE BEAUCHAMP

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
THE CHAMP GROUP



## BIO

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Michelle's passion is quite simply, helping people grow. Her motto, "Unleash Your Inner Champ" is evident in her client relationship rapport, vast course curriculum, design structure, and delivery method. As a trainer, she constructs courses that provide a clear understanding of content with applicable activities that encourage practicing the lessons presented. When participants leave the classroom setting and return to the real world, they experience increased confidence and competence. Michelle is focused on providing not just understanding, her intention is to impact behavior change.

As a coach, Michelle establishes trust with her clients and supports them to explore their challenges in a non-threatening manner and resolve their limitations to achieve their high potential capabilities.

Some of the organizations and associations she's partnered with include Hyundai Capital, Farmers & Merchants Bank, Astronics Test Systems, American Management Association, Mirati Therapeutics, Clark Hill Law, University of California Irvine, Channel Bakers, Glidewell, Ensign Services and more.

Michelle is a certified coach, speaker and trainer on the John Maxwell team.

Michelle's 25 years in Corporate America as a Sales

Leader in Telecommunications, combined with her 12 + years as an entrepreneur, has equipped her to help others explore their strengths, improve.

areas of weakness and through a journey of inner discovery, create and lead inclusive cultures that enrich relationships and increase productivity.

A member of eSpeakers, she's also licensed in the Everybody at the Table DEI content, and FOR, the program that helps clients identify their purpose and practice to build customer, team and community excellence.



# DR. ANITA POLITE-WILSON, PH.D

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND  
BELONGING FOR THE C-SUITE



## BIO

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Anita Polite-Wilson, Ph.D., affectionally known as Dr. Anita, is a C-Suite trusted advisor, board director, executive coach, workshop facilitator, and organizational development consultant helping leaders and teams navigate complexity and change associated with Diversity initiatives by accelerating awareness and changing cultures. With over 20 years of experience, she is a scholar-practitioner with expertise in adult learning theory, change management, and organizational leadership initiatives for corporate, government, and non-profit entities.

She holds a B.S. in Management from Pepperdine University, an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Biola University, along with an M.A. and Ph.D. in Human and Organizational Systems from Fielding Graduate University.

### Expertise

Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging Thought Leader & Speaker, Sustainable Workforce & Culture Transformation Strategist, Workforce Psychological Safety & Change Management Practitioner, international speaker, author, and host of the Keeping It Real with Dr. Anita podcast

### Credentials

Academy to Innovate HR certified Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Specialist, Fearless Organization certified Psychological Safety Practitioner, Gallup certified Strengths Coach, iPEC Certified Professional Coach.



# COLTON BRINER

AUTHOR  
THE RACE TO RELEVANCE: PURPOSE  
AS A COMPETITIVE EDGE

## BIO

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Founder of Scrappy Marketing, Colt Briner has been a marcom executive helping to deliver transformational technologies since 2002. He led the team that created Collaborize Classroom, an online learning platform that brought blended learning and the “flipped classroom” model to millions of students; helping them to connect more deeply with curriculum, teachers, and peers. In 2013 he joined VisiQuate, a big data solutions provider dedicated to eliminating the inefficiencies in American healthcare through the application of machine learning, data science, and robotic process automation. To date, they have helped over 400 hospitals leverage vast flows of data to streamline operations. As CMO for a Cincinnati BPO company Colt personally witnessed the power of purpose as it helped take them from \$60M to \$2B in valuation in just over 2 years. Now he teaches leadership teams how to transform companies into purpose-driven powerhouses.



# HELENA FERRARI

GPHR, PHR, MANAGING HR  
CONSULTANT  
THE HRRX



## BIO

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Helena Ferrari, GPHR, PHR brings 25+ years of experience as a Certified Global Executive, Thought Partner, and Business Advisor, who brings a delicate balance of proven strategies and creative solutions that combines her business and HR expertise. She founded The HRrx on the belief that delivering timely client solutions to maximize your greatest asset, PEOPLE!

She is a proven HR professional, accredited facilitator, coach, author, keynote speaker, and a strong supporter of the community.



# DREW DEERING

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
SPEC FORMLINERS INC



## BIO

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Drew Deering is the Executive Vice President of Spec Formliners inc. His leadership and innovative mindset have played a pivotal role in increasing efficiency, and safety, expanding the company's market presence, and driving its growth. He leads a talented team of professionals, fostering a culture of collaboration, excellence, and customer-centricity.





# DAMON HOUTERMAN, CPA

PARTNER, TRANSACTION ADVISORY  
BAKER TILLY

## BIO

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Damon has more than 17 years of mergers and acquisition experience and has evaluated over 500 transactions ranging from \$5 million to \$30 billion in enterprise value for both multinational corporations and private equity clients on domestic and cross-border deals between the United States, Asia, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and South America.

Specific experience includes:

- Buy-side focus included pre-acquisition due diligence, evaluation of commercial, financial, operational, accounting and tax aspects of transactions. Assisting with transaction documents, purchase price adjustments, merger integration/transition, and post-acquisition accounting and reporting.
- Sell-side experience included helping companies prepare businesses, divisions or product groups for sale through definition of the business to be sold and development of information for bidders, while considering SEC requirements, post-transaction shared service arrangements, and other key features of the transaction.



# JAYSON DUNCAN

PRACTICE LEADER,  
COMMUNICATIONS  
MILLER MEDIA



## BIO

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Jayson Duncan Using storytelling to sell millions of dollars in products and services is the founder and Chief Storyteller of Miller Farm Media. Helping your marketing efforts increase revenue. From marketing strategy, branding, website design, cinematic award-winning video production, and digital advertising to social media management on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Trusted by small and large brands such as Microsoft, Google, and Nestle since 2000.



# WING LAM

OWNER  
WAHOO'S FISH TACO



## BIO

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And there are good things happening for Wahoo's Fish Taco. We are in the early stages of the bidding process for a couple of airport locations. We have some locations that we're looking at in Arizona and we are also going back into Austin. You have to have faith—some great things are in the works.

### **What was your first job?**

My first job was washing dishes for my father's restaurant when I was a kid. My first paid job was working as a junior lifeguard at 14 years old.

### **What's your favorite menu item at Wahoo's Fish Taco?**

Besides the fish tacos, my favorite thing to eat is rice and beans. That's comfort food—it's what I grew up eating in Brazil.

### **What's your favorite cuisine outside of Wahoo's Fish Taco?**

I love Mediterranean food and Vietnamese food. I love the freshness, the cucumbers, the greens, and the proteins, some mint leaves.

### **Who inspires you as a leader?**

My dad.

### **What's the best piece of advice other restaurant leaders should hear?**

They have to pivot. In other words, if people aren't coming into your restaurant, you have to go out and get them, whatever that means. Figure out what it's going to take to move the needle.

### **What are some of your interests outside of work?**

I like to surf. Surfing is very much like yoga—it gives you that Zen moment of peace and quiet.



# SAM KING

CHAIRMAN & CEO  
KING'S SEAFOOD COMPANY



## BIO

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Sam King is Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of King's Seafood Company. Based in Costa Mesa, Calif., the company owns and operates six unique restaurant brands in five states at 23 locations. This includes King's Fish House (12), Water Grill (7), Pier Burger and three steakhouses: 555 East, Lou & Mickey's and Meat on Ocean. All offer iconic, elevated dining experiences with menus that change daily.

Sam and his family-owned company are committed to the community – locally and globally – leveraging more than 75 years of strong relationships to source from local fishermen and lobstermen. Stewards of the ocean and dedicated to its Guests, King's Seafood Company exclusively handpicks, cuts and supplies the highest quality product available to its own restaurants.

Sam serves on various boards including the Aquarium of the Pacific and the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. He is the cofounder of the Sustainable Seafood Forum, which is dedicated to helping people identify seafood procured through responsible fishing operations or environmentally friendly aquaculture techniques. Sam is also an active advisor for the California Sustainable Seafood Initiative.



# BILL EDWARDS

CEO

EDWARDS GLOBAL SERVICES, INC.



## BIO

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William (Bill) Edwards Brief Bio – August 2023 William Edwards, CEO and Chief Global Advisor of Edwards Global Services, Inc. (EGS), has 4+ decades of international operations, development, executive, consulting, and entrepreneurial experience. Outside the USA, he has lived in China, the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran and Turkey and has worked on projects in more than 50 countries in the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. After a 20-year technical and executive career in international oil & gas exploration, Mr. Edwards was Master Franchisee for a U.S. franchisor in China, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Turkey. He was also Senior Vice President of international operations and development for the AlphaGraphics® taking the brand into 20 new countries. Since founding EGS in 2001, he and his team based in more than 25 countries have helped 44 companies enter 30+ countries. EGS provides a complete international solution for U.S. companies going global, from the initial global market research and country prioritization to developing new international markets and providing operational support around the world. EGS has worked with Fortune 50, INC 5000, and private companies in the auto service, business services, education, software, auto service centers, beauty, property management, medical, fitness, home care, food & beverage, and pet care sectors. EGS has twice received the U.S. Presidential award for export excellence. He is also currently Chairman of the Board of the World Affairs Council of Orange County, California. Bill was recently appointed to the Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Services as the U.S. franchise industry's international trade advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and to the U.S. Trade Representative. He is active on the International Franchise Association's International Committee and Education Advisory Council. He is Vice Chairman of the District Export Council of Southern California, appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Edwards speaks around the world at conferences and universities on taking businesses international successfully. He has authored more than 50 articles on global business development. Bill publishes a biweekly global business update newsletter – Geowizard.biz – that goes to over 1,400 subscribers in 20 countries and has quarterly published the well known GlobalVue™ country-ranking tool since 2001. "To his many clients who are going global, Bill oversees overseas." — Franchise Times



# MARVIN SEPE

SVP  
CTC GLOBAL



## BIO

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Marvin Sepe is Senior Vice President of CTC Global Corporation, headquartered in Irvine, California. He has over forty years' experience in senior executive positions with leading international aerospace, semiconductor, and energy related corporations. Marv has a successful track record of developing technology companies, foreign operations, strategic partnerships, and entry into international markets. He joined CTC in February 2006, and served as Chief Operating Officer of CTC Global and its predecessor Composite Technology Corporation from 2007 to 2018 and led CTC's transformation from start-up into global manufacturer with operations in California, China, and Indonesia. CTC Global is now the world leader in the development and supply of high efficiency electrical transmission conductors for global power grids, with projects in 62 countries. He is currently focused on strategic market development activities in South Africa and also serves as General Manager and Legal Representative for the company's wholly owned China based manufacturing subsidiary north of Shanghai. Marv formerly served as President of CTC Cable Corporation and DeWind Inc., a producer of utility-scale wind turbines headquartered in Germany.

Prior to joining CTC, Marv served as President of JMAR Semiconductor after a long tenure as Director of Programs at the Components International division of TRW Space and Technology Group (now Northrop Grumman) managing the supply of critical components and technologies to international spacecraft programs. Marv is a long-time member and past Chair of the District Export Council of Southern California and maintains a close relationship with the U.S. Commercial Service and International Trade Administration to promote global trade opportunities for Southern California businesses.



# ALICIA COX

CEO  
PRJKT HOSPITALITY & CONCESSIONS  
GROUP



## BIO

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Alicia Cox, founder and CEO of PRJKT Restaurant Group, has redefined beachfront dining along California's vibrant coastline. While her innovation and drive have led her to open multiple notable SoCal restaurants, and even release her own wine label, she has found her niche increasing elevated seaside dining experiences. In 2016, Alicia and her team revitalized all four of Bolsa Chica State Beach's concessions with SeaLegs at the Beach, SeaSalt Burger, Beach City Provisions and Pacific Kitchen. They have since become a tourist, dining and entertainment hub for Southern California. SeaLegs at the Beach is now a go-to destination for live music, comedy, and dining right on the sand. After this endeavor, she then expanded the SeaLegs concept into one of Los Angeles International Airport's busiest terminals. In early 2021, she signed a first-of-its-kind, 10-year agreement with the California State Park System for new beach concessions along a 3-mile stretch of Huntington State Beach. With three of four concessions open, the success she's seen at the Huntington Beach House, SandBox Beach Essentials and most recently opened Sahara Sandbar & Pizza.

This year, Alicia has been focused on growing and expanding the many events and offerings at her seven concessions currently open and in operation. She has worked around the clock to implement specialty menus with made-to-order dishes, exciting music and Insta-worthy photo opportunities which pair perfectly with the phenomenal Pacific Beach views each concession is known for. This year she also released her own pocket-sized, bi-yearly publication, Endless Summer, which includes details for all things happening throughout Huntington Beach, as well as her concessions. Available at all Prjkt Restaurant Group locations, Alicia is the editor-in-chief and leads the charge with securing talent to interview and spotlight. She's also in the process of publishing a cookbook of her most famous recipes from her restaurants over the years. A unique component to this cookbook will be a corresponding YouTube channel, with each recipe having a QR code listed that will link to an interactive video of Alicia cooking that menu item. Additionally, she is in the process of finishing her final Huntington State Beach concession, California Fork & Spoon, which will be a love letter to California and its beloved state parks. The final concession in her vast portfolio is set to open early next year.



# RITHVIK RAVIKUMAR

FOUNDER/CEO  
AUTOTICKET



## BIO

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Vik is a recent graduate of UC Irvine with a Bachelors in Computer Science and Engineering as well as Quantitative Economics, with a minor in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He is a software engineer by practice and will be working at Amazon starting this fall. He has created products and started companies

in multiple industries, from a modular water bottle called TWIST to most recently, autoTicket, a customer relationship management software that has been scaled into a service.

He is passionate about using technology to solve real-world problems and looks forward to continuing to do so in his career.





# HOLLY JOHNSTON

CHIEF ENGAGEMENT OFFICER  
BLUE WATER, LLC



## BIO

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Holly is a highly skilled business consultant and organizational development practitioner. With over twenty years experience working with C-Suite leaders, Holly is known for delivering business solutions. She has expertise in strategic planning, M&A integration, developing high performing leaders and teams, performance management, succession management, and behavior-based competency research.

Holly's direct style and business orientation has delivered results for both private and public companies, governmental organizations, educational institutions, and non-profits. She has in-depth experience leading in a global environment.

Holly is passionate about the people – the talent – within an organization and seeks to ensure the best and right talent is aligned with the business's strategy.

### **Her belief is Strategy + Culture + Talent = Growth**

As a Talent Strategist, Holly has been a leader in organizations as large as 9000 employees, generating \$1.9B in revenue annually. She facilitated a strategic direction to decentralize operations achieving reduced procurement cycle time by 30% and 99% on-time material operations. Her depth of experience spans unique industries including legal, founder owned, hospitality, transportation, government, and nonprofits. Her professional network includes Million Peacemakers, National Human Resources Association, Executive Next Practices, Growth Mindset Leaders, and Private Directors Association, Southern California.

Holly's passion extends to philanthropic efforts including Red Bucket Equine Rescue, Pacific Marine Mammal Center, Laguna Beach Playhouse, Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Catalina Island Conservancy and most importantly Wounded Warrior Sailing Program. She is an avid golfer, sailor, hiker, and world traveler.