

John P Ellbogen 30K Competition 2013 Judge Bios

Jon Benson is currently the CEO of the University of Wyoming Technology Business Center, an entity charged with developing early stage high growth companies. Prior to joining UW in July 2005, Jon was the CEO of an early stage medical device company where he led the company through three rounds of financing and the development and testing of an experimental and Alpha prototype. Jon was also the founder & CEO of The Ben Craig Center, a technology-related business incubator associated with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Prior to the Ben Craig Center, Jon was a Program Manager with the National Science Foundation from 1979 to 1982. Jon received his BA from Miami University and his MA and Ph.D degrees from Ohio State University.

Even Brande was born and raised in Oslo, Norway. Even came to the United States in 1988 where he enrolled at the University of Wyoming. In 1991 he graduated from the UW College of Business with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. In 1997, Even founded Handel Information Technologies, a market leader in enterprise software for human services agencies. As the President and CEO of Handel, Even is involved with sales and marketing, finances, and most importantly, overseeing the strategic planning for the company. Even serves on several boards including the Governor's Information Technology Policy Council and the Leadership Wyoming Alumni Board. Even is a 2006 Graduate of Leadership Wyoming and he is also a 2008-09 recipient of the College of Business Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Ann Nelson is Regional President of Wyoming for American National Bank. Ann has over 20 years of banking experience to lead her team and the Wyoming Region. She joined ANB Bank in 1997 at the Laramie Banking Center. During her tenure with ANB she has held various lending and management roles. Ann is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with bachelor degrees in Accounting and Business Management. She is also a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado where she co-taught BankSim courses for 9 years. She is also the recipient of the University of Wyoming College of Business Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2009-2010 and is a 2011 graduate of Leadership Wyoming.

Nels Paine is the Founder and Managing Director of Paine Pacific in Portland Oregon, a firm where he applies his personal experience in operations, management, fundraising, and mergers and acquisitions with emerging growth and middle market companies. Today, Paine Pacific has more than 150 clients in over 30 industries. Nels has a strong family background in investment banking and venture capital, which laid the groundwork for his interest and subsequent career in small to mid-size businesses. Nels spent the first part of his career in the computer technology and software businesses. He also co-founded a medical device company, which he sold in 1997. Nels graduated from SMU in 1988 and is an avid outdoorsman and cyclist living in Portland with his wife and 6 children. Nels also has a local connection with Wyoming. His great grandparents, grandparents and mother all lived in Sheridan.

Ryan Whitehead is the Business Finance Program Manager in the Business and Industry Division of the Wyoming Business Council. In his position, Ryan manages the relationship with the Business Council's loan servicing agent, coordinates client information and communication, manages the state loan portfolios, participates in the Business Council's role with respect to Industrial Development Bonds, Industrial Development Revenue Bonds and oversees the Small Business Investment Credit program.

Prior to his work at the Business Council, Ryan served for five years as the Vice President of American National Bank in Cheyenne. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from the University of Wyoming.