

2014 30K Competition 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.

Mike Martin is the Chief Lending Officer at Warren Federal Credit Union where he has responsibility for lending operations, underwriting and collections for Warren's 8 branches and more than 47,000 members. Prior to joining Warren, he was Manager of Business Finance at the Wyoming Business Council where he administered the Challenge Loan Program, underwrote bond issues purchased by the State Treasurer's office, oversaw the Wyoming Small Business Investment Credit Program and assisted companies in finding seed and venture capital. He received a B.S. in Finance from the University of Wyoming and an M.B.A. with Honors from Regis University. He is an adjunct professor of entrepreneurship for Laramie County Community College and a frequent lecturer for both undergraduate and master's classes at the University of Wyoming, College of Business. Mike is active in many community organizations including STRIDE Learning Center, where he serves as board treasurer and Cheyenne Frontier Days. He and his wife Kelley have four daughters.

Colleen McKinnon was raised in Pocatello, Idaho and graduated from Pocatello High School in 1972. Following High School graduation, Colleen moved to Salt Lake City to pursue her love of skiing and to attend college. Colleen received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Utah in 1977. Thereafter, Colleen moved to Laramie, Wyoming in 1979. Colleen worked as a nurse until 1991 when she received a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University Of Wyoming College Of Law. Following law school, Colleen clerked for the Honorable Justice Richard Thomas of the Wyoming Supreme Court for two years before pursuing private practice.

Colleen began her career with Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company in 1999 as Litigation Supervisor/Staff Attorney. She was then promoted to the position of Litigation Manager/Corporate Counsel. Colleen received the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation in 2005. From January of 2008 through September of 2013, Colleen served as Vice President, Corporate Counsel, for Mountain West. As General Counsel, she managed the legal affairs for the company and reported directly to the Chief Executive Officer.

Last fall, Colleen retired from Mountain West. In addition to enjoying her time off, she is interested in Certified Financial Planning and consulting part time. She is active in the Laramie community and presently serves on the Board of Directors for the Cathedral Home for Children. She enjoys skiing, biking, hiking and swimming.

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.

Barry Sims is currently Executive in Residence and an Adjunct Professor for the University of Wyoming College of Business. Last year, he retired as Chairman & CEO of Taco John's International, which operates and franchises over 400 quick-service Mexican restaurants. Barry joined Taco John's in 1986 as CFO after several years with the accounting firm of McGladrey & Pullen in Rapid City, SD. He is a CPA and graduate of the University of South Dakota.

In 2013, Barry was appointed by Governor Mead to the Board of Directors of Wyoming Lottery Corporation, which will be responsible for "start-up," and governance of the Wyoming Lottery. He has also served as President of the Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association and served on the Board of Cheyenne LEADS for eight years.