

Judging Bios - Alphabetical

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.

Larry Fenster is a Managing Partner in Margarita Group, LLC, a Merchant Banking and Advisory Services company focused on early stage technology businesses. Larry has been involved in raising capital for early stage businesses from Angels, Venture Capital Funds, and Strategic Partners. Larry is also an active Angel Investor with a history of numerous direct investments in early stage business, and also investments as a limited partner thru several Venture Capital Funds. In 1977, Larry co-founded Natkin Energy Management, a successful national energy performance contracting company (ESCO) located in Englewood Colorado. Larry served as the President of Natkin Energy Management, and its successor, ServiceMaster Energy Management from 1981 to 1997. From 1987-1997 he was an Executive Vice President in ServiceMaster where he was responsible for multiple P&L centers. He was also involved in a number of merger and acquisitions, as well as several turnarounds. Larry has a BSEE from the University of Nebraska and an MBA from the University of Colorado. Larry is a founding member of the Colorado Clean Tech Initiative, and serves on several University and Private Company boards.

Mike Martin is the Manager of Business Finance at the Wyoming Business Council where he administers the Challenge Loan Program, underwrites bond issues purchased by the State Treasurer's office, oversees the Wyoming Small Business Investment Credit Program and assists companies in finding seed and venture capital. He received a B.S. in Finance from the University of Wyoming and an M.B.A. from Regis University. He sits on the Legislative Committee of the Council of Development Finance Agencies and is active in many community organizations including STRIDE Learning Center, the Wyoming Brewers Festival and Cheyenne Frontier Days.

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.

Alan B. Steiner has a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. Alan joined Hewlett-Packard in Palo Alto, California where he served as a Marketing Manager and then General Manager of businesses in California, Colorado, Padova (Italy), and Edinburgh (Scotland). He moved from the Bay Area to Monument, Colorado in 1981, and lived overseas from 1991 to 1995, retiring in 1998. Alan's strengths are in general management, new business formation, and strategy creation and integration. His technical background includes data- and tele-communications and microwave and wireless communications. His corporate board activities included ADA Technologies in Littleton, CO., Q-Dot in Colorado Springs, and he also served as an advisor for several small companies in Colo. Springs.