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Executive Coach of New Enterprise Forum. He has CIO, CTO and Executive Leader with technology strategy experience across Advertising, Automotive, Pharma, Utilities, Aerospace, Professional Services and industries. He has deep experience establishing scalable enterprise architectures and leading transformational initiatives. Results delivered through developing people, leading large-scale lean process changes and adopting emerging technologies (when appropriate) to shave costs, boost revenue and maintain competitive



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Founder and President of Cimulus, Inc., a custom software company in Ann Arbor. With a BS in Electrical and Coherent Optics from Kettering University, the common thread across all of Mr. Carmichael's careers - which include concert roadie, real estate investor, tech entrepreneur and more - is using software to solve problems in efficient ways. Outside of work, he can be found climbing at Planet Rock, running on Michigan's many trails, or relaxing in Dexter.



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graduate of EMU's MBA program. He started his career with the outdoor retailer, Recreational Equipment Inc. and worked in Reykjavik, Iceland for the outdoor camping retailer, Fjallakofinn. During his MBA program, he founded an expedition garment company High Route Gear and in 2019 helped a German wearable tech company enter the US market. Pierce is currently co-founder of No Dirty Earth, an environmentally sustainable product line of products receiving international recognition from Fast Company Magazine as a 2021 World Changing Idea. He is also the founder of the Portage-based company, Blu Technology, creating off-grid water treatment systems for vehicle-based



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President and owner of Hessenaer Associates, C.P.A., P.C.. The firm provides a full range of accounting, tax, part time CFO services. The firm focuses on small to mid-size businesses with a specialty in start ups and businesses. Start up business clients have been funded through owner funds, grants, angel and VC investors. Gary is a regular speaker at SPARK business start up programs. He is very well networked in the startup and community. Gary is also a proud EMU alum.



of the Law Offices of Ravi K. Nigam. He is a legal adviser and counselor for startups and small businesses on company formation, business law, contracts, data privacy and security issues, immigration and business



AI-SBTDC Technology Team manager. In his most recent assignment, Alain was president of an advanced company. The company was a technology spinout from a large automotive supplier. Alain has also worked in Africa, Central and South America for international corporations such as DuPont, Sherwin Williams and Motive. He has also been involved with turn-around, startup and M&A activities. Alain brings his extensive organizational development, manufacturing, R&D, market development, technology transfer and international team.

an avid farmer. He is passionate about agronomy and entrepreneurship in the agricultural field. He has taken a position at the Michigan State University Agricultural Incubators and evaluates agricultural translational research that can be supported by MTRAC which is funded by the State of Michigan. He is also involved with AcreAGTech, an independent business accelerator in the State of Michigan by providing strategic reflection and leadership guidance.

BSBA and MBA from Wayne State University.



currently a Business Consultant for the Greater Washtenaw Region of the Michigan Small Business Center. Whether it is one-on-one consulting or facilitating workshops, Kory works with all types of clients, through various industries, to help them plan and grow their businesses. He has been teaching entrepreneurship with The Center for Youth for over ten years, and is part-time faculty at Washtenaw Community College. Kory also serves as the Director for Digital Inclusion, a non-profit refurbishing technology for underserved communities in southeast Michigan. He is the Business Development Representative for the Detroit Micro-enterprise Fund Corporation where he has developed packages, presented to the Loan Committee, maintained relationships with the local community development organizations, and training programs. He took applicants through the loan process from business planning to loan growth. He holds four degrees through his MBA with undergraduate and graduate concentrations in Business Administration. He has worked two and a half years in Retail as a Certified Lawn and Garden Specialist. He also spent three years in Design and Build to Order Manufacturing where he served as; Assembly Technician, Tool Crib Manager, Shipping Receiving Manager, Project Manager, and Repair Department Manager.



an entrepreneur with a diverse background and 20+ years of experience, much of which has been spent helping business owners on developing strategy and on executing at a high level. His career includes broad experience in strategic planning, market development, new product and business development, and training. Sysko has been a mentor and mentor to dozens of start-ups and hundreds of small businesses. He advises startups, emerging, and established companies with launch, growth, and rebuilding strategies. He helps founders discover and effectively tell their story, validate their proposition, identify and avoid – or tear down – roadblocks, and turn their ideas into focused, viable business plans. Through a strategic partnership with metro Detroit-based Poco Labs, Sysko helps companies with concept validation, consumer research and product design. He is a board member, past-president, and coach at New Enterprise Institute. Sysko holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Wayne State University and an MBA from Eastern Michigan University.



xperienced Marketing, Sales, and Strategy executive with over 35 years in innovative marketing, product
les, and strategic operations for technology companies in telecom, information technology, life science, and
engineering providing a solid technical background, he has achieved a consistent track record of developing
ive consistent and managed growth for high technology companies. He has been successful in companies
) person start up, through mid-sized public companies, all the way to a two year assignment as an IBM
i seasoned team builder, who has attracted, developed and retained high-performing marketing, sales and BD
n is helping technology companies achieve profitable, sustainable growth