



The Center for Business
Education, Innovation,
and Development, NFP

P.O. Box 622 Geneva, IL 60134
info@CBEID.org www.CBEID.org

CBEID Founders is a committee of community and business leaders who help plan and guide the activities of the Center for Business Education, Innovation and Development NFP, a not for profit organization promoting business innovation and entrepreneurship in the Fox River Valley area of Northwestern Illinois.

Joe Abraham, a serial entrepreneur, has been involved in the startup and growth of over 20 companies ranging in industries from technology and financial services to wellness and motorsports. He is CEO of BOSI - The LinkedIn meets match.com for entrepreneurs. Joe is also author of the book *Entrepreneurial DNA: The Breakthrough Discovery That Aligns Your Business to Your Unique Strengths*. He juggles his working hours between being a CEO, author and strategic advisor.

John Bassett is a twenty year resident of Geneva. He has successfully led large, complex businesses (petroleum refineries), grown medium sized, entrepreneurial businesses (export specialty carbon products), managed a small consulting practice, and served on non-profit boards (history, hospital, education). John's skill set is oriented towards the long term; aligning organizational goals with value-adding activities, identifying drivers to articulate a strategy, and developing people processes for success. John has a chemical engineering degree from the University of Illinois.

Dr. Ray Benedetto is an executive change leader with over 35 years experience in various aspects of leadership and management in the public and private sectors. Ray completed a military career in 1996 with the rank of Colonel, having served in numerous leadership and staff assignments with the United States Air Force and the Department of Defense (DoD). Dr. Benedetto's expertise placed him in many challenging assignments, including post-Cold War restructuring of the military services, specifically the Military Health Services System. Ray has continued his work in organizational transformation in civilian life, leading corporate transformation efforts inside medium-to-large sized companies. In late 2005 Dr. Benedetto transitioned from part-time to full-time consulting work as Founder of GuideStar Inc., focusing on the "Power of Character in Organizations" - how small to mid-sized business owners develop organizational effectiveness and strong profitability.

Rogers Brackmann obtained his first patent at age 23. However, he was primarily engaged in several advertising agency and promotion positions and became Director of Advertising for M&M/Mars. Rogers then founded his own promotion agency - Roger's Merchandising, Inc. - which, after twenty successful years was sold to Y&R (Young and Rubicam). He also co-founded Action-Packed, Inc. Rogers then redirected his efforts to intellectual property development as founder and CEO of Insight Marketing, Inc. and subsequently Private Pallet Security Systems.

Jim Brannen was raised in Geneva and now resides in St. Charles. He has both corporate and entrepreneurial experience, having financed businesses around the world for First Chicago for more than 25 years. This included managing their work-out group, where he accumulated experience and insights working with struggling companies. Jim subsequently founded his own firm and shepherded it through several venture capital financings and an IPO. He is a director and the treasurer of CBEID.

Donald Cummings is a resident of Geneva. He has more than 20 years experience in the financial industry, including trading experience on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and is now a principal of Blue Haven Capital, a Registered Investment Advisory firm offering investment management to private foundations, public charities and individuals nationwide. Mr. Cummings is active in community organizations and not for profit boards and has leadership positions on the Geneva Library Board, the Geneva Chamber of Commerce and the Geneva Rotary Club.

Jack Curley is a native Chicagoan and has lived in Naperville for the last 38 years. He spent the bulk of his career in the electrical industry in both power equipment and electronics. In the mid-90's, Jack managed two federally funded Manufacturing Extension Programs that assisted small manufacturers with shop floor issues such as ISO 9000 and lean manufacturing. More recently, Jack was Executive Director of the NASA Tech Center located at the DuPage County Airport helping small companies pursue federal technology funding and angel investors. Jack holds a BSEE, MBA, and is a registered U.S. Patent Agent.

Jamie Daniel, a resident of Geneva since 1956, spent the first 20 years as mother to seven children and being a "career volunteer." Her activities ranged from den mother and PTA president to leadership roles in the local and state League of Women Voters and various responsibilities in the Geneva United Methodist Church. At age 56 she founded Miscella, a boutique real estate company that focused on the marketing of all types of Geneva properties. Honors received include having been named Realtor of the Year by her colleagues, citation in Who's Who in American Women, receiving of Geneva's prestigious Wood Award and recognition from Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley for leadership in protecting Geneva's historic district.

Austin Dempsey is resident of Batavia. Mr. Dempsey earned his BS degree from Butler University, and obtained his MBA degree from Loyola University, Chicago. His career in the real estate field includes leasing and commercial property management experience in Michigan, Indiana and the Chicago metropolitan area. Currently he is Vice President of Batavia Enterprises, Inc., a 53 year old real estate firm specializing in land acquisition and the development, leasing and management of industrial, office, retail and residential properties throughout the Fox Valley. Mr. Dempsey has served in a variety of roles with community boards,

but has a passion for working with organizations dedicated to maintaining a strong downtown business environment in Batavia. Mr. Dempsey is also a licensed Illinois Real Estate Broker.

Ellen Divita is Director of Economic Development for the City of Geneva, Illinois. She has 20 years experience in economic and community development management, specializing in program start up. She received a BA in Communications and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana. Ms. Divita has served on a wide variety of community Boards and Commissions including the Kane County Economic Development Advisory Board, the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, the Woodstock Area Community Education Program, the Elgin Community College Small Business Development Center Advisory Board, Elgin Area Education to Careers Board, Mount Prospect Downtown Merchants Association, and the St. Charles United Way.

Jon Duerr is a life-long resident of St.Charles. Mr. Duerr earned degrees in Biology, Chemistry and an MS in Ecology. A member of the founding faculty of Waubensee Community College, Mr. Duerr taught for 5 years until he purchased the Oswego Greenhouse, a garden center/greenhouse, which he operated for 16 years. He then joined the staff of the Kane County Forest Preserve and retired as Superintendent in 2004. Mr. Duerr was also an alderman in St. Charles and a founding member of the St.Charles Library Foundation. His hobby/study interests are the natural histories of Kane County and South/Central American orchid culture and bird study.

John Ford is a resident of Geneva, Illinois. Mr. Ford has 30 years of management and operations and experience in the printing and publishing industry. He holds a BA in Accounting. Mr. Ford has served in a variety of leadership roles with various civic and not-for-profit organizations and is presently on the Geneva Mental Health Board.

Benjie Hughes founded Backthird Audio, a recording studio and wedding-music company with one unifying value: People. As Backthird Audio, Benjie and his staff record bands and solo artists, write and arrange music for other artists and for commercial clients, host and record small private concerts and offer training in the fundamentals of audio production. As Backthird Entertainment, they book and manage dance bands, DJs, jazz and string ensembles for weddings and events all over the Chicago area. Benjie is also active in social and economic development projects downtown Aurora.

Ernest Mahaffey is a resident of Geneva, Illinois. Mr. Mahaffey has 30 plus years of international finance and distribution experience including founding an international distribution firm with programs in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan. He holds a BA in Asian history and languages as well as a Masters in International Management in finance and economics. Mr. Mahaffey has served in a variety of roles with various civic and not-for-profit organizations including organizations working to achieve

economic sustainability in ethnically diverse communities. Mr. Mahaffey is a director and the president of CBEID.

Robert Mann is a resident of Geneva, Illinois. Mr. Mann is a lawyer with more than 41 years of experience as a management-side labor and employment counselor, attorney, and litigator. He has represented private and public business corporations operating nationwide in many sectors of the economy including appliance and other manufacturing, meatpacking, shipbuilding, oil refining, steelmaking and fabrication, construction, airline operation, newspaper publishing, paper making, automotive parts manufacturing, the hotel and hospitality services industry, and others. He has represented institutions of higher education and basic research, nonprofit healthcare institutions, and public bodies. Mr. Mann received his bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut and his law degree from the University of Illinois. Mr. Mann is a director and the secretary of CBEID.

Bill McGrath is a long-time resident of the City of Batavia. He has been an attorney for 35 years, but left the active practice of law in 1998 to become the City Administrator of the City of Batavia (COO), which position he currently holds. He is knowledgeable and experienced in all municipal matters, including land use, economic development, management, and community participation in governance. Bill has actively promoted the development of the community's affinity with the arts, most recently helping with the public-private partnership which resulted in Water Street Studios, a facility housing 29 artist spaces, a fine arts gallery, and classrooms, the first of its type in the Chicago collar counties. He is on the Steering Committee of Batavia's Art In Your Eye Festival, a member of the Board of Directors of the Batavia Chamber of Commerce, as well as an aspiring metal sculptor. He received his bachelors degree from the University of Notre Dame and his law degree from the John Marshall Law School.

Britta Wilk McKenna is a community leader and 'dot connector' with exceptional project management skills. Britta has previous experience owning a retail business with husband Steven, providing great background on small business challenges and opportunities. She has extensive non-profit leadership experience, serving on the boards of Batavia Park District, Fox Valley Special Recreation, Batavia Riverwalk, Batavia Chamber of Commerce and having co-founded the Batavia Parks Foundation. Britta's resume includes work at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) developing entrepreneurial programs. She recently led Batavia MainStreet as its' Executive Director (2004-2011), working to recruit, retain and revitalize business in downtown Batavia. Owner of McKenna Group, Britta splits her time serving at IMSA as Director of IMSA25 special projects, growing business ideas and sharing her personal journey with DCIS breast cancer at www.dcismystory.com.

Andrew Parker is founder and CEO of Hubtack, Inc., an Internet business that has revolutionized the way surveyors and engineers obtain county land use records. Andy was also founder and CEO of Mercantec, Inc., a pioneer of the first electronic commerce solution

commercially available on the Internet. He has also served in executive positions with companies including Technology Advisors, Inc, Unitech Systems, Spyglass, Inc. and Tandem Computers (now Hewlett Packard).

Harriet Parker is Manager of the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Waubensee Community College. Ms. Parker has over 20 years experience managing successful start-up businesses, where she has played a key role designing and marketing software products that are in use nationwide today. In addition to her role with the Illinois SBDC, she also is co-owner of HubTack, Inc. a web-based business serving land surveyors and engineers. Ms. Parker is active in small business efforts throughout the Fox Valley.

Linda Robertson is a St. Charles, Illinois resident and an expert in biocides and the microbiology of papermaking systems with over 35 years of experience. She worked at Weyerhaeuser and Nalco in a variety of technical roles. After retiring in 2006, she started International Microbial Associates and is now a consultant to various paper corporations, the US Chemical Safety Board, and start up chemical companies. She is active in the League of Women Voters and in Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry.

Wayne Woltman is a Geneva resident and retired owner-publisher of the Press-Republican Newspapers. He is past president of the Illinois Press Association and the DuPage County Publishers Association. Mr. Woltman is sitting a member of the Illinois Press Association Foundation and the Government Relations Committee of the Illinois Press Association and is a board member of the News-Gazette in Champaign, IL.

Joe Zlotnicki, COO and Physicist at Green Light Industries, is an entrepreneur with several business interests including a high tech start-up in pattern recognition and a consulting company offering services in radiation protection and general business matters. Previously, he spent 13 years with NYSE listed Landauer, Inc., most recently as top international executive. Joe is a certified health physicist and has several patents granted or pending. Joe is most at home in the no man's land where technical, business and marketing issues intersect.