



Denver

# EXECUTIVE MBA

Faculty and Staff

Directory and

Course Descriptions



Denver

EXECUTIVE MBA

BUSINESS SCHOOL

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# Faculty Directory and Course Descriptions

## Jung Park

### Leadership

Jung.S.Park@ucdenver.edu

Founder, Sherpath Coaching

MBA, University of Colorado Denver

Jung Park has more than 20 years of consulting experience in design, branding, marketing, user experience, strategy, and business development. He also has over 15 years of experience as a start-up entrepreneur in all facets of entrepreneurship from funding to operations.

Jung also delivers keynotes, seminars and facilitates workshops on the subjects of corporate/personal branding, professional/personal development, leadership, Life ROI, entrepreneurship, value, culture, diversity, and Asian-American empowerment.



**Leadership Course Description:** Personal and organizational assessments for success in changing business environments. Includes strengths assessment and training on how to leverage these styles and strengths to maximum potential. A second focus on organizational issues and succession planning. Partnership with Center For Creative Leadership. Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.



## Mary Malina

### Accounting

Mary.Malina@ucdenver.edu

Professor, University of Colorado Denver

Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder

Mary Malina is a Professor of Accounting at the University of Colorado Denver. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado Boulder and her MBA from Butler University. Prior to joining academia, she worked as a CPA for a global medical manufacturing firm. Mary teaches in the Executive, One Year, and Professional MBA programs at CU Denver.

Her research interests include management control systems, performance measurement, and subjectivity in performance evaluation. Her work has been published in leading accounting journals including *The Accounting Review*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *Journal of Management Accounting Research*, and *Management Accounting Research*. She formerly served as Editor of *Advances in Management Accounting*.

**Accounting Course Description:** Emphasizes the use of accounting statements and data in making business decisions. External financial accounting information and concepts are used for investment and credit decisions. Internal managerial accounting information and concepts are used for product costing, cost analysis and management control. Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.

## Thomas Eppel

### Analytical Decision Making

Thomas.Eppel@ucdenver.edu

Lecturer, University of California Irvine

Ph.D., University of California Irvine

Born and raised in Germany, Dr. Thomas Eppel holds a Ph.D. in Mathematical Psychology from the University of Southern California. He taught at various universities both in the U.S. and in Europe, including Purdue University, Pepperdine, TIAS, and Mannheim Business School. He currently teaches at the Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine.



Dr. Eppel has published numerous articles, book chapters, and reports in the areas of decision and risk analysis, fields in which he also has considerable consulting experience. He authored a textbook and developed instructional software in statistics and has been widely recognized for his outstanding teaching. His teaching awards include the R.B. and Mary Stewart Distinguished Teaching Award at Purdue University and an award for Innovation in Teaching from the University of California at Irvine, as well as many awards given by students. He is a sought-after speaker and shared his views on education during the inaugural TEDx conference at UCI in the spring of 2012.

**Analytical Decision Making Course Description:** Analytical techniques and advances in artificial intelligence have transformed not just the business world, but the world in general. This transformation has disrupted business models, our private lives and the social fabric of our society. Therefore, this course will not be your typical “stats” course. Instead, it will put analytical decision making in a much broader context that explores the power and potential perils of analytical techniques. We will not focus on mathematical details unless they are necessary to develop a deeper understanding. Instead, the focus of this course is on how to solve business problems and how to make smart decisions in a world of uncertainty and risk. This will also include a discussion of behavioral aspects of decision making and the use of Microsoft Excel as the main computational platform. Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.



## Michelle Marks

### Leading Individuals and Teams

Michelle.Marks@ucdenver.edu

Professor, University of Colorado Denver

Ph.D., George Mason University

Michelle Marks is a professor of management in CU Denver's Business School. Her professional experience and academic expertise are in the areas of leadership, change management, organizational behavior and team effectiveness.

Previously Marks was Chancellor of CU Denver (2020-24), where she led the institution through the pandemic, and pursued an ambitious vision for the future of CU Denver—a leading public urban research university. She is an innovator dedicated to reimagining higher education to support lifelong learning.

As Chancellor, she led the university in a highly collaborative, ambitious strategic planning process, completed in June 2021. CU Denver's 2030 Strategic Plan promotes social and economic mobility & workforce sustainability. Under her leadership, the university nearly doubled its sponsored research and added many important new academic programs tailored to the economic needs of Colorado and the nation.

Before arriving at the University of Colorado Denver, Dr. Marks served as Vice President of academic innovation & new ventures at George Mason University, as well as professor of Management in GMU's business school.

**Leading Individuals and Teams Course Description:** In the dynamic and fast-paced world of modern organizations, effective leadership has never been more important. The Leading Individuals and Teams course helps participants master leadership skills and better understand team dynamics. This course is designed to enhance one's personal leadership approach, enabling participants to guide their teams and organizations towards success. Participants will learn to establish and lead a collaborative, innovative, and high-performing team environment. **Restriction:** Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. **Max hours:** 3 Credits.

## Kate Watkins

Economics

Kate.M.Watkins@gmail.com

State Demographer, State of Colorado

Ph.D., Cornell University

Kate Watkins is Colorado's State Demographer. She leads the State Demography Office, which produces population and economic estimates and forecasts for use by the business community and state and local governments. Kate's career history includes serving as the Chief Economist for Colorado's state legislature, as an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, and as an economic consultant in the private sector, including founding and directing Bright Fox Analytics, an economic and data analysis consulting firm. Kate holds a Ph.D. from Cornell University, with research concentrations in economic sociology, and holds an MA in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration from the University of Denver.



**Economics Course Description:** Economics offers an insightful lens for navigating business decisions in today's competitive and dynamic global economic environment. This course applies the lens of economics to business strategy and management through analysis of consumer demand, pricing, and market competition. The course will also explore how incentives guide firm and consumer behavior, and what social and psychological processes structure these incentives. Addresses profit-maximization, supply and demand, demand elasticity, the estimation of production and cost, and pricing and output decisions for making effective business decisions.

Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.



## Steve Lawrence

### Operations

Stephen.Lawrence@colorado.edu

Associate Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado Boulder

Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University

Stephen Lawrence (Steve) is an Associate Professor Emeritus of Operations Management in the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado, where for many years he was a Fellow of the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute (RASEI). His current research and teaching interests include the deployment of renewable energy, international operations, and the management of healthcare operations. Dr. Lawrence currently teaches in-class and online courses in operations management, international business, and

commercializing renewable energy technologies.

Dr. Lawrence has been the recipient of a number of teaching awards, including the MBA Teaching Excellence Award. Prior to his time at CU, he taught at Washington University in St. Louis, Carnegie-Mellon University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Prior to his academic career, Dr. Lawrence worked for eight years in industry, concluding as vice president of operations for an entrepreneurial metal casting plant in the Midwest. He received BS and MS degrees in engineering from Purdue University and his doctorate in industrial administration from Carnegie-Mellon University.

**Operations Course Description:** Examines use of productivity, quality, timeliness, and flexibility to improve efficiency and operating performance; examines the importance of integrating the marketing and operations functions. Emphasizes supply chain management, lean operations, innovation, product design to improve competitiveness, performance, efficiency. Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.

# Adriana Medina-López-Portillo

## Communication

Adriana.Medina@ucdenver.edu

Founder and CEO, Pangea Training

Ph.D., University of Maryland Baltimore County

Dr. Medina-López-Portillo has 30 years of teaching experience and curriculum development; and 18 years of experience as a trainer, facilitator, and consultant in the areas of leadership; emotional intelligence; communication; cultural competence; and diversity, equity, and inclusion. She is a published author and a tenured professor who switched to full-time facilitation and part-time teaching. She has taught both graduate and undergraduate classes at the University of Denver, the Metropolitan State University of Denver, Goucher College, the University of Maryland College Park, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

She has designed and led workshops for higher education, not-for-profit, governmental, and corporate clients in the United States and abroad (Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, India, China, Singapore, Dominican Republic, Canada).

She is also founder and CEO of Pangea Training. Here, as a leadership coach, Dr. Medina-López-Portillo creates the conditions in which her clients can grow into the person they need to become to be able to succeed and be fulfilled and thriving professionally and personally.

**Communication Course Description:** This course focuses on effective, appropriate, and intentional communication and why it is key to building a healthy, psychologically safe, and functional culture that invites its members to innovate and produce at high levels (individually and in collaboration). We will look at interpersonal and intercultural communication and the competences needed to excel in both. In particular, we will pay attention to the internal process of how we show up when we communicate, what gets in the way, and how and why we interpret messages and situations the way we do. In addition, we will study the ways we communicate with others in terms of verbal and nonverbal communication, communication and conflict management styles, giving and receiving feedback, and listening and coaching skills. The students will leave this course with a heightened self-awareness and an ability to communicate effectively and compellingly at any level of their organization.

Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.





## Kelly See

### Negotiation

[Kelly.See@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Kelly.See@ucdenver.edu)

Associate Professor, University of Colorado Denver  
Ph.D., Duke University

Kelly See is a tenured Associate Professor of Management in the Business School at the University of Colorado Denver. She holds undergraduate degrees in Economics and English Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Duke University.

Kelly has extensive experience delivering interactive skill development courses, such as Negotiations and Conflict Management, to working professionals and student

populations at all levels. Before joining the University of Colorado Denver, Kelly spent over a decade teaching negotiation material on the faculty of both the Stern School of Business at New York University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. She has also worked extensively with executives as a feedback coach and visiting instructor in the executive education leadership program at Duke University.

Known as an expert in her fields of research, Kelly studies the factors that influence the effective utilization of input or advice in the workplace. A second area of research interest concerns the use of extreme goals in organizations. Kelly's work has been published in leading scholarly and practitioner outlets, including the *Academy of Management Review*, *Organization Science*, and *Harvard Business Review*. Her research has won several awards and has been covered in a variety of media outlets, such as *Forbes*, *Wall Street Journal*, ABC News, FOX News, and *INC*.

Prior to her academic career, Kelly spent several years working in Washington, DC as a research analyst at a think tank and a consultant in the private sector. In these roles, she worked on a number of economic and policy impact projects for clients in the federal government, including EPA and DOT.

**Negotiation Course Description:** Negotiation is the art and science of creating good agreements. This course expands managerial negotiation and conflict management skills by mixing lecture and practice, using hands on cases and exercises in which students negotiate with each other. The cases cover a range of negotiation contexts and provide the opportunity to discuss and develop effective strategies to attain better outcomes.

Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.

## John Shaw

### Finance

John.2.Shaw@ucdenver.edu

Adjunct Professor, University of Northern Carolina  
Chapel Hill

MBA, University of Northern Carolina Chapel Hill

John H. Shaw brings 23+ years in Corporate Finance at the Procter & Gamble Company to the MBA classroom. During that time, he served in several financial leadership roles across business units and staff organizations, focused on both North American and Global businesses. Some of his more memorable roles include leading the North American Food (Grocery) Channel Sales Finance organization, Global Fabric Care Product Supply Finance leader, Global Transportation and Warehousing Finance leader, and early in his career, as Customer Team Finance Manager for Food Lion and Publix and the Hawaiian Punch Finance Manager.



Since 2013, John has focused on helping online MBA students learn about Finance and helping them become financially savvy managers. Until 2022, John was full-time faculty and Course Lead of the Financial Management 1 course at the Jack Welch Management Institute (JWMI), a top 10 Online MBA program founded by the former CEO of General Electric. He was awarded Top Faculty honors in 6 of his 8 years at JWMI and had a cumulative NPS (Net Promoter Score) from students of 95 out of 100. In 2022, John left JWMI and joined the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Finance Professor in both the online MBA and MAC programs. John was just awarded Top Faculty for 2024.

John received his MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his undergrad BBA with a major in Accounting from Western Michigan University. John is also a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). John resides in Celebration (Orlando), Florida.

**Finance Course Description:** Develops the skills to understand the financial implications of major business decisions. Provides an overview of corporate finance, analysis of financial statements, financial planning, valuation, capital-investment decisions, capital structure policy, and cost-of-capital considerations. Emphasis will be on financial decisions and strategy in the real world...including across different industries, types of companies, and business functions. Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.



## Jeff Brooks

### Finance

Jeffrey.Brooks@ucdenver.edu

CEO & CFO (former), Private Equity

Master of Science, Purdue University

Jeff Brooks has served in many successful executive roles in both private and public companies. Until February 2024, he served as CEO and President and Chairman of the Board for Guy & O'Neill, a premier manufacturer of household cleaning and personal care products. He has pivoted G&O to a new strategic focus, significantly expanded capacity and strengthened operations efficiency and effectiveness. Prior to G&O, Jeff spent 27 years at The Procter & Gamble Company.

He was the CFO of the global Pet Care business which he successfully divested in a \$3 Bn sale to Mars. Previously, he was CFO for the \$4 Bn Prestige Beauty business and led the division to consistently rank among the top-performing business units at P&G. In addition, Jeff led numerous M&A projects for P&G including the company's biggest acquisition, as well as smaller deals in Asia, North and South America, and Europe. Jeff is currently an Operating Partner with Centre Partners, a leading private equity firm focused on middle markets in consumer products and healthcare industries.

Jeff holds a Master of Science in Industrial Administration ('Krannert Scholar' honors) and Bachelor of Science in Management (with Highest Distinction) at Purdue University. He previously served as a three-time award-winning Professor at the Jack Welch Management Institute teaching Finance and Strategy courses to MBA students, was department chair of Strategy, and served as an Assistant Dean for Strategy, Operations and Finance courses.

Jeff is passionate about partnering with motivated people to help them achieve their goals and dreams. He is also an avid golfer and pickle baller and resides in Florida and South Carolina.

**Finance Course Description:** Develops the skills to understand the financial implications of major business decisions. Provides an overview of corporate finance, analysis of financial statements, financial planning, valuation, capital-investment decisions, capital structure policy, and cost-of-capital considerations. Emphasis will be on financial decisions and strategy in the real world...including across different industries, types of companies, and business functions. Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits

## Richard Hanna

### Marketing

Professor of Practice, Babson College  
Ph.D., Boston University

Dr. Richard Hanna is Professor of Practice in Digital Marketing and Analytics at Babson College. He teaches in undergraduate, graduate, and executive-education programs and designed the current marketing curriculum for the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program. He was a recipient of the Babson College's Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. In his teaching and consulting, he focuses on connecting analytics with action, equipping leaders to navigate today's marketing landscape. His research—published in journals such as *Journal of Interactive Marketing*, *Business Horizons*, and *Journal of Marketing Analytics*—focuses on digital strategy, social media, email, and information transparency. He consults with enterprises and small-business startups and previously worked in B2B sales and marketing research.



**Marketing Course Description:** This course addresses how to design and execute modern marketing strategies that create, communicate, and deliver customer value. Topics include customer needs and the buyer's journey; segmentation, personas, positioning, and competitive advantage; value propositions; channel strategy and integrated marketing communications; digital strategy (search, social, content, email); UX-focused web design fundamentals with basic analytics; pricing and unit economics; acquisition and customer lifetime value; and the post-purchase experience for retention and referrals. We also address alignment with sales and product, plus practical, responsible uses of generative AI for research, ideation, and content—alongside essential considerations of ethics and privacy. **Restriction:** Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. **Max hours:** 3 Credits.



## Jill Lohmiller

International Business

[Jill.Lohmiller@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Jill.Lohmiller@ucdenver.edu)

Instructor, University of Colorado Denver

MBA, University of Colorado Denver

Jill Lohmiller has extensive experience in global education and has led a variety of MBA courses abroad. She holds an MBA and an MS in International Business from CU Denver, with a focus on European Union business practices and cross-cultural communications. Jill teaches other experiential learning courses at the Business School and serves as a Reynolds Fund for Global Business fellow, working in collaboration with internal and external partners to enhance international experiences for all students.

In addition to teaching, Jill runs a small marketing consultancy that partners with domestic and international clients to help grow their businesses through strategic messaging and media.

**Global Leadership and International Trip Course Description:** This course offers students the opportunity to learn about and participate in international business through intensive classroom sessions, collaborative group projects, and a unique, first-hand experience abroad. The course overlays multiple experiential-learning models to expose students to executive-level insights on international business, together with consulting projects addressing operational challenges with client companies in our destination country. The course culminates in an intensive trip to contrasting countries in a topical global region. Learning outcomes include an understanding of key dimensions of business in a global context; an appreciation of how complex cultural dynamics impact business decisions, interpersonal relationships, and leadership effectiveness; the application of leadership and management tools to enhance personal and team effectiveness; and problem solving in a complex and ambiguous, cross-cultural context.

# Michael Leiblein

## Managing in Dynamic Environments

Michael.Leiblein@ucdenver.edu

Professor, Ohio State University

Ph.D., Purdue University

Michael Leiblein is a professor of management whose research explores how firms can improve their innovation activity and economic performance. His research applies well-known frameworks to guide resource allocation (which projects to fund) and organizational (how to organize effort) decisions. Michael's recent research offers a way to delineate between strategic and non-strategic decisions as well as a model that suggests how decision-making under various forms of uncertainty may lead to competitive advantage. He has published over two dozen articles in leading academic journals, received multiple awards for research and teaching, and secured external grants from the NSF and other agencies.



Michael has experience teaching MBA, EMBA, and Executive Certificate courses on strategic management, competitive strategy, and innovation management and has been recognized as an award-winning MBA instructor. In addition, he has developed and directed several interdisciplinary programs. At Ohio State University (OSU), he developed or co-developed the Integrated Business and Engineering program, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the Food Innovation Center.

Michael is a leader and contributor to the global strategy community, serving in various roles such as the founding co-editor of the Strategic Management Review, Chair of the Academy of Management Strategic Management Division (~5,800 faculty members), and an award-winning editorial board member of top-ranked journals such as the Academy of Management Review and Strategic Management Journal. As a co-founding editor of the Strategic Management Review, he has a specific mission to advance the field of strategic management and innovation by creating a high-quality outlet for cutting-edge conceptual research that bridges the gap between theory and practice.

**Technology Strategy Course Description:** The objective of the Technology Strategy course is to improve participants' ability to make well-reasoned business judgments in complex, knowledge-intensive, and dynamic environments. These settings pose a different set of challenges than in traditional courses leading to the introduction of additional principles. **Restriction:** Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. **Max hours:** 3 Credits.



## Jeff Reuer

Corporate Strategy

Jeff.Reuer@gmail.com

Professor, Purdue University

Ph.D., Purdue University

Jeff Reuer is the Guggenheim Endowed Chair and Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado. Previously, he was the Blake Family Endowed Chair in Strategic Management at Purdue University, where he was also the Area Head. He has also served as the Boyd W. Harris, Jr. Distinguished Scholar and Professor of Strategic Management at the University of North Carolina. He started his academic career on the faculty of INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France. Professor Reuer has led courses and

seminars on business and corporate strategy, strategic investment decisions, and collaborative strategy in many graduate degree programs and organizations.

Professor Reuer has served as an Associate Editor for the Strategic Management Journal and as a Consulting Editor for the Journal of International Business Studies. He is a founding Editor in Chief of the Strategic Management Review. He recently co-edited a special issue of the Strategic Management Journal on the interplay between competition and cooperation, as well as a special issue of Strategy Science on strategic decisions and the integration of strategic management research. He has been a member of the editorial boards of seventeen journals and has received five best reviewer awards.

Professor Reuer's research uses organizational economics to investigate firms' external corporate development activities and growth options.

**Strategic Management Course Description:** This course is about the issues and challenges of leading a firm in a competitive environment from the perspective of a top executive. Coverage includes pursuing sustainable competitive advantage, making corporate investment decisions, and addressing uncertainty and execution challenges surrounding strategic choices. **Restriction:** Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. **Max hours:** 3 Credits.

## Gideon Markman

### Business Model Innovation

Gideon.Markman@ucdenver.edu

Professor, Colorado State University

Ph.D., University of Georgia

Gideon Markman is a Full Professor at Colorado State University, a Visiting Professor at Gent University (Belgium), and an Affiliate Professor at Audencia Business School (France). He also teaches the Consulting Course in the MBA program at CU-Boulder. His research explores competitive dynamics, market entry, business models, platforms, and buyer-supplier relations, with publications in top-tier journals such as *Academy of Management Journal*, *Academy of Management Review*, *Strategic Management Journal*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, and *Journal of Supply Chain Management*.

He previously served as Editor-in-Chief of *Academy of Management Perspectives* and as an Associate Editor for *Journal of Management Studies*. He is also the founder of the Sustainability, Ethics & Entrepreneurship (SEE) Conference. Beyond his academic work, he remains actively engaged in mentoring, editorial leadership, and cross-institutional research collaborations.

**Business Model Innovation Course Description:** This applied course challenges students to design groundbreaking business model innovations for some of the world's most innovative companies (e.g., Amazon, Starbucks, Airbnb). Rather than simply creating new products or services, students will act as business architects, leveraging corporate entrepreneurship principles to develop novel business models that generate and capture new value. Through a hands-on, team-based approach, students will analyze industry leaders, identify strategic opportunities, and craft innovative business models that push the boundaries of traditional market success. Restriction: Restricted to students in the Executive MBA Program. Max hours: 3 Credits.





## Jeff Brooks

### Capstone

Jeffrey.Brooks@ucdenver.edu  
CEO & CFO (former), Private Equity  
Master of Science, Purdue University

Jeff Brooks has served in many successful executive roles in both private and public companies. Until February 2024, he served as CEO and President and Chairman of the Board for Guy & O'Neill, a premier manufacturer of household cleaning and personal care products. He has pivoted G&O to a new strategic focus, significantly expanded capacity and strengthened operations efficiency and effectiveness. Prior to

G&O, Jeff spent 27 years at The Procter & Gamble Company. He was the CFO of the global Pet Care business which he successfully divested in a \$3 Bn sale to Mars. Previously, he was CFO for the \$4 Bn Prestige Beauty business and led the division to consistently rank among the top-performing business units at P&G. In addition, Jeff led numerous M&A projects for P&G including the company's biggest acquisition, as well as smaller deals in Asia, North and South America, and Europe. Jeff is currently an Operating Partner with Centre Partners, a leading private equity firm focused on middle markets in consumer products and healthcare industries.

Jeff holds a Master of Science in Industrial Administration ('Krannert Scholar' honors) and Bachelor of Science in Management (with Highest Distinction) at Purdue University. He previously served as a three-time award-winning Professor at the Jack Welch Management Institute teaching Finance and Strategy courses to MBA students, was department chair of Strategy, and served as an Assistant Dean for Strategy, Operations and Finance courses.

Jeff is passionate about partnering with motivated people to help them achieve their goals and dreams. He is also an avid golfer and pickle baller and resides in Florida and South Carolina.

**Capstone Course Description:** This Executive MBA Capstone course is designed to integrate, synthesize, and apply the comprehensive learnings from across the EMBA curriculum to real-world executive challenges. Using contemporary business events and complex leadership dilemmas pulled directly from current headlines, this course provides students with an intensive, interactive experience that mirrors the ambiguity and high-stakes nature of the C-suite. Each in-person session centers on a fresh, multifaceted business challenge—from global supply chain crises and leadership transitions to regulatory disruptions and emerging technologies. Students are tasked with evaluating, debating, and presenting strategic responses in a collaborative, real-time environment. Max hours: 3 Credits

# Staff Directory



**David Chandler**  
**EMBA Program Director**  
[David.Chandler@ucdenver.edu](mailto:David.Chandler@ucdenver.edu)

David is a Professor of Management who joined the University of Colorado Denver Business School in 2011. He first taught in the EMBA Program in 2015, and currently teaches the capstone course, Sustainable Value Creation. David grew up in the U.K. and spent many years in Asia (Hong Kong and Japan) before moving to the U.S. in 2002.

He got his Ph.D. in Management from The University of Texas at Austin. He enjoys swimming, art, and discovering great cuisine from around the world.

Connect with David about:

- Curriculum design
- Faculty management
- EMBA staff
- Program development
- Alumni Network

## Bethany Cape

**Director of Operations and Alumni Engagement**

[Bethany.Cape@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Bethany.Cape@ucdenver.edu)



Bethany joined the EMBA team in the fall of 2021 and is an alumna of the One-Year MBA at CU Denver. She enjoys building relationships with the students to help them achieve their goals and developing local partners for the program, such as our community service project opportunities. Her background is in human services operations and social work, including adult vocational rehabilitation. Bethany built and ran an e-commerce business with her sister for a time, enjoys seeing live music whenever possible, loves yoga and running, and is continuously learning from her three children.

Connect with Bethany about:

- Program logistics
- Class details and materials
- CU Denver resources
- Post-graduation
- Alumni Network



**Joe Hogan**  
Finance Director  
[Joe.Hogan@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Joe.Hogan@ucdenver.edu)

Joe has been involved with the CU Denver EMBA for over two decades. Joe has extensive experience with CU Denver finance and procurement and has served as interim director of the EMBA. Joe was born and raised in Colorado. He loves spending time with his family and enjoys cooking, hiking, bicycling, and walking the dogs.

Connect with Joe about:

- Tuition
- Veterans Benefits
- Scholarships and financing resources
- Financial Aid
- Alumni Network



**Mary Ann Skadow**  
Director of Recruiting and Marketing  
[MaryAnn.Skadow@ucdenver.edu](mailto:MaryAnn.Skadow@ucdenver.edu)

Mary Ann joined the EMBA team in the spring of 2022. Mary Ann has worked with various universities supporting Executive MBA programs, traveling abroad with students, and developing local business

connections. Before discovering her love of higher education, Mary Ann has been a professional organizer (yes, hoarders!), a community activist, and an event planner. In her free time, she has racked up hundreds of miles on Colorado trails hiking the beautiful Rocky Mountains with her husband of 30 years and her Bernese Mountain Dog, Apollo. She also enjoys spending time with her adult children, biking, reading, and cooking.

Connect with Mary Ann about:

- Prospective student inquiries
- Application and admissions process
- EMBA website and social media
- Community Events
- Alumni Network



## Paul Wood

### Assistant Director of Recruiting

[Paul.Wood@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Paul.Wood@ucdenver.edu)

Paul joined the EMBA Team at the beginning of 2025. He is an alumnus of CU graduating in 2012 with a bachelor's in communications and with a Masters in Educational Leadership in 2014 from University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. He has a long history within the CU system having worked professionally on all four CU campuses. His background is in operations and program management. Originally from Illinois, Paul came to Colorado when his father transferred to Denver for work. He loves spending time with his wife Christina, their son Gabriel, and two dogs, Bane and Hobbs. He is an avid workout enthusiast and always looking for his next adventure.

Connect with Paul about:

- Prospective student inquiries
- Application and admissions processes
- Recruitment
- Community Events

## Karen Freidhof

### Assistant Director of Operations

[Karen.Freidhof@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Karen.Freidhof@ucdenver.edu)

Karen Freidhof joined the EMBA team in Spring 2026 and is an alumna of the MBA and MS International Business programs at CU Denver. Her background is in international business operations, marketing and project management, with extensive experience leading strategic initiatives, managing complex projects, and supporting global partnerships. Karen has two sons, is a Colorado native, loves to travel, and will take any opportunity to partake in outdoor activities.



Connect with Karen about:

- General information
- Program logistics
- CU Denver resources
- Post-graduation
- Alumni network



## Shamsiah Ebadi

### Student Assistant

Shamsiah.Ebadi@ucdenver.edu

Shamsiah joined the EMBA Team in November 2025 and serves as a Student Assistant for the EMBA Aviation program. In this role, she supports event coordination and marketing efforts while helping create a welcoming environment for students, faculty, and staff. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business at the University of Colorado Denver, with interests in management and

international business. Shamsiah enjoys her free time in fitness, basketball, and traveling.

Connect with Shamsiah about:

- General information
- Administrative/marketing support

## Isabel Soto

### Student Assistant

Isabel.Soto@ucdenver.edu

Isabel joined the EMBA program in August 2025 and serves as a Student Assistant for the program. In her role, she provides essential office support and helps maintain a welcoming and organized environment for students, faculty, and staff. Isabel is pursuing a bachelor's degree with a double major in Accounting and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado Denver Business School. Originally from California, she enjoys spending quality time with her family, traveling, and creating crafts.



Connect with Isabel about:

- General information and administrative help
- Catering, snack, and beverage suggestions