

Stephen (Steve) Ciesinski

Silicon Valley, California

Biography – March 2023

Steve Ciesinski is a seasoned executive, investor, board member and advisor to companies in a broad range of tech and service-based industries. He is a deep-tech advocate and is experienced in a variety of company business models and financing situations. Steve is a global traveler who understands the benefits of learning new cultures and markets while engaging in executive business development. He is a frequent speaker and panelist at conferences and executive programs on digital transformation, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Steve is active as the founder and managing partner of Vencrest Partners, a seed-stage, high-tech venture capital investment and advisory services firm. He is especially interested in applying technologies such as AI/ML, VR/AR, speech, blockchain, advanced materials, infrastructure software and robotics to solve business and government challenges.

Steve was most recently president of Silicon Valley-based SRI International (www.sri.com), one of the world's leading independent R&D organizations. With annual contracted research and commercialization revenues of nearly \$500M, SRI creates breakthrough technology-based innovations, including Siri, the computer mouse, ultrasound and telerobotic medical devices, HDTV, drugs for cancer, natural language speech recognition and many others. Steve is chairman of SRI's largest subsidiary, Ravenswood Solutions, that provides tech-based simulation and training systems to US military and allied forces worldwide. He maintains government security clearances with SRI.

He has held executive positions with Applied Materials (General Manager), the global manufacturer of semiconductor capital equipment; Octel Communications COO/EVP), the worldwide leader in voice-messaging products; Resumix (Chairman/CEO), the inventor of AI-based personnel recruiting applications; and Laszlo Systems (Chairman/CEO), a pioneer in Web 2.0 software. He started his career at Procter & Gamble, was a consultant with Booz, Allen & Hamilton, and also served as a venture partner with Earlybird Ventures.

Steve is past Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Union College (NY) as well as The President's Cabinet at California Polytechnical University. He's also been a board member of public, private and not-for-profit organizations, and has served on strategy, compensation, audit, finance and investment, and other board committees.

Since 2009, Steve has been on the faculty at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, teaching on entrepreneurship and innovation topics. His service to Stanford includes past board memberships for the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute, the GSB Management Council, the Buck/Cardinal (athletic) Club, and the GSB Dean's Advisory Committee.

He has a BSEE and AB from Union College (NY), and an MBA from Stanford University.

Steve and his family are founders of the Kalele Foundation, dedicated to providing character-building and life-changing development experiences for disadvantaged children. He's also active with the Yosemite Conservancy, LifeMoves (homeless shelters), Hidden Villa (social justice), the Stanford Children's Hospital and other mission-oriented organizations. Steve enjoys reading (current events, economics, international relations) and traveling, backpacking/hiking, cycling, skiing, tennis, golf, and other outdoor activities.