

Stephen (Steve) Ciesinski
Silicon Valley, California
Biography

Steve Ciesinski is a corporate executive, investor, advisor and board member, experienced in growing early-stage companies into significant global businesses. Steve is also a lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Business (GSB).

Steve is the founder of Vencrest Partners, a seed-stage venture capital investment and advisory services firm. He works with companies applying technologies such as AI/ML, VR/AR, blockchain, advanced materials, infrastructure software and robotics to address business and societal challenges for positive impact.

Steve recently retired as president of Silicon Valley-based SRI International, one of the world's foremost independent R&D organizations. With annual revenues of nearly \$500M, SRI creates breakthrough innovations, including Siri, the computer mouse, ultrasound and telerobotic medical devices, HDTV, natural language speech recognition and many others. Steve led the SRI's commercialization growth of its advanced research through partnerships with G-2000-type companies while launching 5–8 venture-backed companies annually. Steve remains closely engaged with SRI as a senior advisor to the CEO and executive management.

Previously, Steve held leadership roles 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 recruitment solutions. He started his career at Procter & Gamble and also served as a venture partner with Earlybird Ventures.

Steve is deeply committed to conservation and education. He currently chairs the Yosemite Conservancy Board, and has held additional notable positions, including Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Union College (NY) and Chairman of The President's Cabinet at California Polytechnical State University.

Steve has been on the faculty at Stanford's GSB for 15 years, authoring case studies and teaching on entrepreneurship and innovation topics with a focus on emerging economies.

Steve holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) and AB from Union College (NY), and an MBA from Stanford University.