



SPEAKER BIOS



Sean K. Brown

SVP and Managing Director, Juvo Ventures
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Sean has a Jurisprudence Doctorate from the J. Reuben Clark School of Law and is a licensed Utah attorney (UT Bar #10017). He volunteers with the Utah Minority Bar Association, Lone Peak High School Football, as well as local youth groups. Sean loves to support his seven children in anything they are passionate about, and as a result has often found himself on different types of sports fields volunteering as a parent coach. Sean began his legal and business career working for King and Spalding LLP in Atlanta, Georgia in 2002. He made a lateral move to work closer to family in Utah at the law firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll LLP. Sean began teaching as an adjunct professor at BYU in 2006. Sean is a member of the National Venture Association and is passionate about EdTech and the Future of Work. Sean is the Managing Director of Juvo Ventures and reports directly to General Partners, Nadeem Syed and President Scott Pulsipher.



Scott Pulsipher

President, Western Governors University and General Partner, Juvo Ventures
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Scott Pulsipher has served as President of Western Governors University, the nation's premier nonprofit competency-based university, since April 2016, leading all academic, operational, and organizational functions. He cultivates a student-centric environment by using technology and data to improve learning outcomes, graduation rates, employment, and overall student wellbeing. Prior to joining WGU, Scott led several technology-based, customer-focused businesses, including Amazon, Sterling Commerce, and two successful startups that traverse retail, supply chain, banking, payments, and manufacturing sectors.

He serves on multiple higher education and technology boards, including as a member of Handshake's Impact Advisory Board, advisory board member at the Presidents Forum, Trustee for the Committee for Economic Development, and board member at the American Council on Education.



Joe Fuller

Professor of Management Practice and co-head of Managing the Future of Work Project at Harvard Business School

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**Harvard
Business
School**

Joseph Fuller is a Professor of Management Practice at the Harvard Business School, the co-director of the school's long-term project, Managing the Future of Work. He is also a co-head of the Harvard Project on the Workforce. He studies issues related to employment and income polarization and the relationship between talent and economic competitiveness. Joe has published widely cited papers on various issues related to the workforce, including the skills gap, degree inflation, care economics, the role of artificial intelligence in employment outcomes, the effectiveness of social entrepreneurs in improving education to employment outcomes, mechanisms for enhancing the earnings prospects of low wage workers and the efficacy of various education to employment programs. He co-hosts the popular Managing the Future of Work podcast, which has been downloaded almost two million times. Prior to joining the Harvard Business School faculty, Joe was a co-founder and long-time CEO of Monitor Group, the global consultancy now called Monitor-Deloitte. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Business School and a director of Aera Technology and Helios Consulting, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Western Governors University, and a Non-resident Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a Senior Fellow at the Burning Glass Institute



Gregg Levin

CEO, Engen

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ENGEN

Gregg Levin is the Founding CEO and Board Member of EnGen, a Certified B Corporation that delivers personalized, career-aligned, mobile-first English language instruction to immigrants, refugees, and speakers of other languages. Using patented technology that has served over 4 million language learners worldwide, EnGen is advancing economic mobility, workforce inclusion, and talent pipeline development at the scale needed to serve both New American workers and the U.S. workforce. Formed in 2020, EnGen serves adult learners from Fortune 500 companies, regional employers, higher education, apprenticeship programs, and government institutions, and is proven to help adult learners – internationally trained professionals and those with limited formal education – meet their educational and employment goals in high-demand fields.

Prior to forming EnGen, Gregg held senior leadership positions with leading educational technology companies including K12 Insight, K12, Inc (now Stride) and Educate, Inc. In addition, Gregg has served in board and advisor capacities for multiple early-stage companies focused on virtual learning, student achievement, school safety, and online mental/behavioral health solutions. Gregg is a graduate of the University of Rochester and earned an M.B.A. from Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland.



Varun Chopra

Co-founder and CEO, Eduvanz

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Varun Chopra is a visionary and a highly accomplished professional in the edtech and fintech industries, with over 15 years of experience. As the co-founder and CEO of Eduvanz, he has made a significant impact in the field of education finance, making it more accessible to learners in India. Under his leadership, Eduvanz has become a leading player in the market, offering innovative financial solutions that have made a difference in the lives of over 200,000+ learners.

Varun's passion for improving access to education stems from his belief that education is the foundation of progress and success. He founded Eduvanz with the goal of bridging the gap in education finance and creating opportunities for learners. With his deep understanding of the industry, Varun has been able to create innovative solutions that are effective, affordable, and accessible to a wide range of learners.

Prior to founding Eduvanz, Varun worked as an investment banker at Nomura, where he gained extensive experience in change management, client partnerships, and research. Varun was also the business manager for Global Credit Products at Deutsche Bank, India. These experiences have been invaluable in his role as CEO of Eduvanz, where he is able to bring a unique perspective and innovative solutions to the challenges faced by learners in India.

Varun is a proud alumnus of IIT Madras and holds degrees in Computer Engineering and MBA. This exceptional education, coupled with his practical expertise, positions him as an asset in the education finance industry. He was selected to join the prestigious "Champions of Change" committee initiated by PMO and Niti Ayog and was honoured as one of the brightest young entrepreneurs, innovators, and achievers by Business World in "BW 40 Under 40". In 2022, he was further recognized as an Influential Edtech Change Maker. Varun commands respect among his peers and is renowned as a visionary thought leader in his field.



Parth Upadhyay

Co-founder & Chief Product Officer, Eduvanz

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Parth Upadhyay is an experienced professional with over 8 years of diverse experience in domains such as financial products, tech products, risk management, policy, startups, valuations, forecasting, and financial modelling.

After a short and exciting role with Riverhead Capital, Parth founded Skill Right in 2016 – a P2P lending Network that onboarded over 50 institutes and disbursed more than three crores worth in financial assistance for those skill development and education funding.

His affable professionalism makes him a natural asset to the Eduvanz leadership team where he serves as a Co-founder & Chief Product Officer. Working towards building a strong nation by helping create skilled youth through innovation and leveraging technology. Here also spearheads some niche fund raising strategies and investor relations.

Parth is a Bachelor of Engineering degree from MVJ College of Engineering and has completed the Imarticus Financial Analyst Program.



Nate Ober

Chief Technology and Product Officer (CTPO), American Prison Data System
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Nate Ober, a visionary technology executive with over 15 years of expertise in both B2B and B2C software product development, currently holds the position of Chief Technology and Product Officer at the American Prison Data System (APDS). Nate's commitment to using technology to drive positive change is evident in APDS's mission to provide education for incarcerated learners, ultimately helping them access living wage jobs upon release. APDS has made significant strides under his leadership, deploying over 15,000 licenses, and benefiting over 100,000 learners across multiple states.

Throughout his career, Nate has showcased an exceptional ability to integrate technology with business strategy, innovate relentlessly, and achieve outstanding results. He is renowned for guiding high-performing teams, navigating a tech team through a \$120M+ acquisition, and rolling out SaaS products that cater to a staggering 200K+ concurrent users. Beyond APDS, his diverse roles spanning industries from education to software services emphasize his versatility and expertise.

Nate graduated from the University of Utah and later pursued an MBA from the University of St. Thomas. His profound understanding of cutting-edge tech stacks and consistent leadership ensures he's always setting industry benchmarks.



Rajen Sheth

CEO and Founder, Kyron Learning
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Rajen Sheth is CEO and Founder of Kyron Learning, a public benefit company focused on giving all students equitable access to high quality one-on-one teaching using AI. Previously, Rajen was VP of Google Cloud AI and Industry Solution as part of a 17 year career at Google. He focused on building products that enable enterprises to transform themselves through AI, and building transformative products for Google Cloud's key industries: healthcare, retail, financial services, media/entertainment, and manufacturing. Earlier on, Rajen led the development of Android and Chrome for business and education, including the Chromebooks for Education product line which is used by over 50 million students worldwide. Rajen also helped create and lead product development for Google Apps for Work and Education (now known as Google Workspace), a full suite of communication and collaboration products for businesses and schools which is now used by over 5 million businesses and over 200 million students.



Michael Discenza

Chief Technology Officer, SchoolLinks
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SchoolLinks

Michael leads the product, engineering, design, and solution/integration teams at SchoolLinks. He built much of the SchoolLinks product and grew the product and engineering team to 50 people.

Over the last several years Michael has worked with state departments of education and school district leaders to understand their needs, build trust as a partner, and develop solutions within the SchoolLinks Platform to support their students' success. He has been the main technical implementation contact for the largest SchoolLinks accounts: Chicago Public Schools, Houston ISD, Dallas ISD, and many others. Michael has built out new products in partnership with SchoolLinks districts and led complex custom development projects to serve the unique needs of districts around the country.

Michael is actively working for wider data standards adoption across the K-12 education and technology ecosystem and has served as an active member of Ed-Fi Alliances' Technical Advisory Group for open data standards. Michael is a frequent presenter at education conferences and events. He takes a quantitative approach to identifying best practices for achieving student success and building tools to institutionalize these practices.

Michael has a background in technical and business roles (machine learning/data science + full-stack software engineering, consulting + VC). He started his career at JPMorgan and led a Data Science research team at a digital advertising startup that was acquired by the international marketing agency Publicis. Michael graduated Cum Laude with a BA double major in Statistics and Sociology and a concentration in Business Management and earned a MA in Statistics, both from Columbia University.



Rahim Fazal

Co-founder and CEO of SV Academy
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Rahim is Co-founder and CEO of SV Academy. Recently, Fast Company recognized SV Academy as the #2 Most Innovative Education Program of the year.

SV Academy, through its rigorous online learning experiences crafted by employers, grants diverse job seekers the opportunity to delve into sales and customer success careers with over 400 partner SaaS companies. Beyond skill development, the SV Academy community offers mentorship, assistance in job placement, post-hire support, alumni networking events, and coaching. The academy has made headlines with its new partnership with Salesforce, launching career discovery programs on Coursera.

The demographic breakdown of SV Academy graduates is notable: 60% women, 25% Black, 17% Latin, and 70% are first-generation students. Since its inception, graduates have seen an average income increase of 2.4X post-program.

The academy is proudly supported by esteemed venture capitalists, including Owl Ventures, Uprising, Bloomberg Beta, Kapor Capital, ReThink Education, and Sound Ventures, a collaboration between Ashton Kutcher and Guy Oseary.

He is the founder of several software companies, including Involver, an enterprise social media platform. Involver was later acquired by Oracle and has since become a part of the Oracle Marketing Cloud. After the acquisition, he served for nearly three years as the senior director, collaborating with the global field, inside sales, and product development teams.

Earlier in his career, he established a cloud productivity apps platform that went public on the OTCBB. During high school, he founded a web hosting company, which he sold for \$1.5 million while juggling his senior year exams. Despite these achievements, he never attended a traditional four-year college nor obtained a bachelor's degree.

A few years ago, he was honored with an Empact 100 Award at the White House, presented by Startup America and The Kauffman Foundation. His entrepreneurial prowess earned him recognition as one of Inc. Magazine's Top 30 Entrepreneurs Under 30 in America, the San Francisco Business Times' Top 40 Under 40, and iMedia's Top 25 Digital Thought-Leaders.

Passionate about fostering entrepreneurship, he often lends his expertise to emerging ventures. He is an investor or advisor to various start-ups, early-stage venture funds, and non-profit organizations. His insights have also been sought after globally, leading him to speak at esteemed platforms like SXSW, President Obama's Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Dubai, MIT's \$100K Business Plan Competition, Imperial Bank in Kenya, and Startup Weekend in Egypt.



Michael Simpson

CEO and Co-founder, PAIRIN

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Michael is a son of educators, and corporate intrapreneur turned 3x entrepreneur. His passion for helping people reach their potential was fueled by his own rise from poverty to international recognition as a market strategist. He co-founded PAIRIN after over a decade as a certified coach, and spending seven years living in Russia coaching many at-risk young adults to successful careers. As the CEO of PAIRIN, he works to bridge the opportunity gap for future generations by enabling educators and employers to predict and develop behavioral performance. He is an ICF certified executive coach, avid cyclist, fly fisherman and award-winning chocolatier.



Dennis Brooks

Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of Cinematic Health Education

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Dennis Brooks has spent his whole career in healthcare. After graduating with a degree in Healthcare Administration, Dennis has worked in a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals, physician practices, nursing homes and healthcare billing and consulting firms. He has been in charge of physician practice groups for large health systems, run business development for health care systems, operated and sold practice management software for physicians, and been the Administrator at several senior care facilities, including nursing homes and an assisted living community. As a co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of Cinematic Health Education, Dennis is passionate about having CHE lead the way in training a new generation of compassionate, competent and credible caregivers.



Steve Grubbs

Co-founder and CEO of VictoryXR

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Steve Grubbs is the co-founder and CEO of VictoryXR. Steve previously served in the Iowa Legislature as Chair of the House Education Committee. Figuring out he could make a bigger impact in the private sector, he left politics and became a successful serial entrepreneur. In 2016, Steve launched VictoryXR, which today is the leading global provider of immersive spatial learning. Steve has business and law degrees from the University of Iowa.



Dave Savory

Co-Founder and Vice President of Experiential Learning, Riipen

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Dave is the Co-Founder and Vice President of Experiential Learning at Riipen. He has over 15 years of business development and leadership experience. Dave developed his entrepreneurship bug in university by owning and operating a student painting business which helped him develop core business and leadership skills. The business generated over \$100,000 in revenue each summer and helped Dave finance his bachelor of commerce degree.

Nearing the end of his education, he was troubled by the sheer amount of university and college graduates working jobs unrelated to their field of study. Living this problem personally, among record levels of youth unemployed and graduate under-employed, Dave Co-Founded experiential learning platform, Riipen. The rapidly growing marketplace addresses the very real social issue of graduate underemployment by providing a technology platform on which post-secondary institutions can deliver project-based experience learning to their students at scale.

At Riipen, Dave focuses on promoting the vast benefits of project-based experiential learning and works closely with academic and industry partners to drive scalable experiential learning opportunities for learners. Over the past several years, Dave and the entire Riipen team have built the world's most vibrant ecosystem of project-based experiential learning opportunities. Currently, the ecosystem has over 430 post-secondary schools and 28,800+ industry partners who have collaborated to help over 200,000 learners connect to real-world project opportunities.



David Simmons

WGU Board of Trustees

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David Simmons is an actively involved private investor. He has worked in the media, communications, and travel management industries as CEO of Keystone Communications and Simmons Media Group, and Chair of Morris Murdock, LLC. David graduated from the University of Utah and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School. He currently serves as a trustee for Western Governors University and chairs the Utah Sports Commission and Walker Institute of Public Policy, along with board memberships of other companies and charitable organizations. David and his wife Melinda live in Salt Lake City, Utah and have 5 children. He has a love for history, especially American presidential, and for travel, having visited all seven continents around the world.