

Professor Biographies

Professor Erick Mueller

Adjunct Professor and Director of the Cross Campus Entrepreneurship Program at the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder



Erick Mueller has helped businesses grow throughout his career. He started his career with DOT First Aid & Safety where he was promoted from a student intern to Vice President. He helped the organization grow from \$2.2 million in annual sales to over \$5 million in two years. Fresh from this experience, he founded Vision Co., a corporate training and consulting organization. As CEO and President, he grew the business to over \$300,000 in annual revenue. Mueller then co-founded and was Vice President of Sales for Achieve.com, an interactive Web service. He created the new selling process and led its growth to over 10,000 customers.

Mueller also co-founded Real Measure and EyeThink Corp., computer-based instrumentation businesses. He successfully negotiated and sold EyeThink Corp. to a Fortune 50 company. Currently, Mueller is Chairman and co-founder of Funovation, which creates heart-pounding addictive attractions that require brain and brawn. He has led the company from an idea to over 180 locations throughout 21 countries. Funovation has been awarded a Top Colorado Company to Watch and a Top Boulder County Company.

In addition, Mueller is an award winning professor where he has been rated by students among the top MBA instructors. He leads a Global Seminar each summer, Entrepreneurship and Empowerment in South Africa, helping disadvantaged businesses in the Townships. Mueller also helps with the Veterans Entrepreneurship Program, helping disabled military veterans start businesses.

A few years ago, Mueller developed The Tour de Happiness, a documentary exploring happiness. He also traveled to New Zealand and Australia, which included an appointment as Entrepreneur in Residence at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. He graduated magna cum laude from Eastern Michigan University and holds an MBA magna cum laude from The University of Colorado Boulder.

Professor Cynthia Banks

Instructor, Faculty of Business Leed's Business School University of Colorado, Boulder

Cynthia has over 25-years entrepreneurial experience as Founder/CEO of one of the largest global education abroad organizations in the USA. After a successful sale in 2014, Cynthia started a technology company in the Denver area called Unleash while working on her own



consulting practice New World Vistas that specializes in strategy and leadership. Recently, her consulting practice helped create a vibrant women's leadership organization called the Global Leadership League.

She is the President of the Foundation for Global Scholars a Denver non-profit that provides scholarships and she is now on the faculty at the University of Colorado – Boulder Leeds Business School teaching entrepreneurship. In addition, she serves as an advisor to the CSU Institute of Entrepreneurship and CU Denver Jake Jabs Entrepreneurship Center.

Her other volunteer interests include the CU Women's Council, the International Women's Foundation, and advisory roles with Terra Dotta software and Diversity Abroad. Honors include 2009 Small Business of the Year by Colorado Women's Chamber, Inc. Magazine Top 5000 Business and the 2013 Top Three Minority/Women Owned Business by the Denver Metro Chamber of

Commerce.