



Mentors

April-June 2021

Main Mentors



Scott Brovsky, Associate Director, EPIC SBDC. I have been working with the University of California Riverside mentoring entrepreneurs and tech startups since January 2017. We are working to build a tech ecosystem in the Inland Southern California region and launched a tech focused Small Business Development Center called EPIC SBDC. My mission is to help identify, mentor and get funding for promising tech startups in the Riverside County and San Bernardino County regions of California. I have been a Founder or Founding Executive of a number of startups including the VC funded mobile games studio Muti Labs, the Temecula based sports tech company NZN Labs/LIT Pro and I had some beginners luck selling my first company Industrial Strength Network (an early interactive agency) to frog design as an acquihire in 1998. Seeing the early promise of the iPhone and App Store, I put my own capital to work as an angel investor in independent mobile games while at Brovsky Capital. In addition, as a brand marketing executive, I have a successful track record in defining, launching and driving revenue for major video game franchises such as The Avengers, Turok, Kingdom Hearts and Medal of Honor for leading entertainment companies like Disney/Marvel, Electronic Arts and Take-Two Interactive.



Dr. Vasu Pestonjamas has 20+ years of combined experience in chemical, physical and life sciences and business, which spans work with startups, mid- and large-size entities; funding agencies and technology transfer offices regarding their commercialization decisions. Her expertise includes evaluation of innovations generated by outstanding academic faculty and companies based globally, new product development, advisory for strategic partnerships and the maximization of various SBIR/STTR and other funding opportunities. Her technology portfolio includes environmental safety, clean technology, therapeutics, R&D reagents, medical devices, drug delivery platforms, regenerative medicine, diagnostics, telemedicine, genetic engineering and comparative medicine. As educator and Instructor, Vasu has mentored entrepreneurs, developed educational training programs and organized licensing workshops for academic, industry and legal professionals. Vasu completed her 3M Fellowship-supported postdoctoral research at Boston Children's Hospital (Harvard), MA and the University of California San Diego, and conducted discovery research at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, MA. She holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry (Mumbai University, India), a Masters degree in Microbiology (M. S. University, India) and Executive MBA from the University of Southern California (USC).



Art Salyer is a business leader with broad “C” level experience. He has “hands-on” experience effectively managing businesses with operations in North America, Latin America, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe. His most recent role was as COO of SDI Media, one of the largest independent dubbing and subtitling companies operating 38 locations around the world involved in 60 different languages. Customers included Apple, Warner, Universal, and virtually all major media suppliers. This role was completed with a planned successful sale to a consortium of Japanese entertainment companies and government agencies. Prior to SDI Media, Art was the successful CEO of Palladium Energy. Palladium is one of the largest independent producers of lithium batteries and power supplies for consumer and industrial applications. Customers included Apple, Samsung, Microsoft, Sony, Bose and a variety of others. Art was responsible for the successful transition of this business unit into a growing independent company with manufacturing and technology centers in Europe, China, Brazil and the United States. This assignment concluded with a successful merger with a primary competitor. Art has had a number of increasingly responsible roles in large and smaller businesses including: technology post startups, battery and power supplies, retail consumer electronics, entertainment and media, consumer and office products, and food. The focus of his work has typically been in the operations/manufacturing/services areas. At present, Art is a senior partner at Global Interim Executives LLC. This boutique consulting firm specializes in shorter-term executive assignments, private equity and venture capital operations support, turnaround leadership, and executive coaching/development. His focus is both US-based and global assignments. Art has an Engineering degree from California State University and an MBA from Pepperdine University.



Doug has 35+ years experience in sales management, business development, marketing, strategic planning, distribution and channel strategy, manufacturing and service operations, team building, and P&L responsibility. Doug has experience in large, medium and small companies, in several industries, including automotive, HD trucking and transportation, RV's, real estate and construction. As an entrepreneur in a franchised real estate business he understands the challenges of building a company from the ground up. He and his teams have recruited, trained, motivated and managed both direct and indirect channel sales for manufacturing and service organizations. Doug is creative and analytical in approach, and has developed skills in virtually every aspect of business, excelling in sales management, marketing, team building and organizational change. As a “change agent” with a wide range of skills and experience, Doug is uniquely positioned to help businesses grow through leveraging technology, improving sales process and sales management by implementing the SalesQB system. Doug is an avid skier who took up golf as a sport to pursue between winters, and is the father of two adult children, both also avid skiers. He earned a BS in Psychology and an MBA at Arizona State University.