

Brian C. Hensley

LinkedIn References

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Paret Hajhassan

Cecelia Health, Quality Assurance Manager
Directly Supervised

I've had the privilege of working directly under Brian Hensley during his tenure as Interim CIO at Cecelia Health, where I serve as the QA Manager. Brian is an exceptional leader who combines strategic clarity with a genuine commitment to empowering his teams. Under his guidance, our organization experienced a noticeable shift toward stronger alignment, improved communication, and a renewed focus on delivering high-quality, scalable technology solutions. His ability to simplify complex challenges while fostering cross-department collaboration made a tremendous impact on both productivity and morale.

As my direct manager, Brian has been instrumental in supporting the growth of the QA function and my own professional development. He consistently provided thoughtful direction, trusted me to lead critical initiatives, and encouraged innovation within our testing and automation frameworks. Brian's leadership style is grounded in transparency, mentorship, and a deep understanding of both people and process—qualities that elevate every team he works with. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have worked with him, and I confidently recommend him as a transformative technology leader who drives excellence and brings out the best in those around him.

Bill Papandreu

Cecelia Health, Lead Software Engineer
Directly Supervised

Brian brings a deep understanding of agile practices and is truly dedicated to his team. He values input from everyone and creates an environment where people enjoy doing their best work. When he joined us, he carefully evaluated how we were applying agile methodology and introduced improvements gradually, ensuring no disruption to our day-to-day operations. His leadership and contributions were truly invaluable. Thank you, Brian.

Allison Calvert

The Canton Group, Senior Project Manager
Directly Supervised

Brian has a remarkable ability to assess, reform, and strengthen teams by shaping processes that actually empower people. His deep understanding of team dynamics shows up in everything he does. He is a rare combination of technical depth, organizational insight, and genuine leadership.

When our department needed to redefine its core capabilities, Brian stepped in with clarity and confidence. He navigated complex and often delicate internal and external relationships with honesty and a steady hand. Beyond his extensive technical experience, what stands out most is his ability to guide organizations and teams through change, introduce new processes, and elevate overall performance.

I learned a great deal from working with him and continue to carry those lessons with me. I am thankful for his continued guidance!

Abigail Calderon, MBA, PMP, PMI-ACP
AT&T Consulting, Senior Program Manager
Vendor/Partner

I had the privilege of working closely with Brian Hensley during his time as an executive, and he quickly became my go-to leader for navigating complex, high-impact initiatives. Whether it was spearheading the redesign of our Azure DevOps (ADO) environment, optimizing agile ceremonies across teams, guiding the creation of detailed program schedules, or negotiating complex contract structures, Brian brought exceptional clarity, strategic thinking, and leadership to every effort.

What impressed me most was his ability to quickly break down complex issues, identify the core challenges, and lead the team toward effective, sustainable solutions. His sharp mind, paired with a calm and collaborative leadership style, enabled faster decision-making and alignment across stakeholders—often in fast-moving or ambiguous environments.

Brian's executive presence, coupled with his hands-on problem-solving approach, made him an invaluable asset to the organization. Any team would benefit from his vision, rigor, and ability to lead through complexity with confidence.

Heather Cantor
The Canton Group & TIC Gums, Program Manager/ Chief of Staff
Directly Supervised

Brian is one of the most dedicated and passionate people I know. His knowledge of business, operations, and technology is second to none, and his sharpness in making business decisions is admirable.

Not only does Brian have a unique ability to keep teams organized and on schedule, but his people-first leadership style truly lifts spirits in any challenging situation. He complements his inspirational leadership style with a solid foundation in operations and business management. However, Brian also has the business acumen that places him in the category beyond operational management - the area of true strategic management and leadership.

While working with and for Brian in two different roles, I completed some of my best work and was able to gain valuable professional experience. His dedication to his craft is nothing short of inspiring, and his ability to coach others is something that I'll always remember. I'm grateful to have worked with Brian and highly recommend him to any company!

Julia Kramarivska, PMP®
The Canton Group, Program Manager/QA Engineer
Indirectly Supervised

I had the pleasure of working with Brian, while directly reporting to him at Canton Group. Brian brought the life and the light back to the company after the difficult times it's been going through. He approached the clients and explained to them the value of the process, and that "No" means "No", but an excellent result will be delivered.

Brian is very supportive and is always available to hear each one of us. Meetings with Brian are not your usual "meetings with your boss", because they allow honest discussions, being open, and feeling good about yourself and a conversation as a whole.

Having Brian as a leader, allowed us to grow professionally. He is curious about the career goals of each of his employees and tries to do his best to make these goals come to life.

Dan Reilly

NexTec, Account Manager
Vendor/Partner

Brian has been a tremendous client and resource to me in the three years we have worked together, his professionalism and tenacity are among his many strengths. We have collaborated on several projects in his time at TIC and have established a rapport build upon alignment of goals, extreme honesty, and above all else establishing a win-win approach to working together. He is tireless in his pursuit of best practices and strategic vision, and he is well recommended.

Anita Chawla

Connections Education/Pearson, Product Manager
Current: Engageli , Vice President of Global Partner Success
Directly Supervised

Brian was an excellent leader to his team and provided insightful strategy for the organization. Brian has a unique talent of presenting creative engineering solutions that align with business initiatives. He always worked closely with his team even through intense deadlines, all the while demonstrating superior analytical qualities and providing detailed project guidance. I was extremely fortunate to have him as my manager and found him to be very accessible, approachable, and dedicated to achieving success with his team.

I also noticed that Brian excelled at selflessly sharing information with his colleagues. His consistently positive professional attitude and air of calm confidence enabled him to be a trusted advisor to other leaders in the organization. I would highly recommend Brian to any organization seeking a true professional.

Ken Lawrence

Connections Education/Pearson, Sr. Director of Software Engineering
Current: Mind Over Machines, Director of Solution Architecture
Peer

Brian is a thoughtful leader that is detail oriented but can also step back to focus on strategy and innovation that will help move a project in the right direction. His tenacity and perseverance allow him to weather the toughest of situations and stay focused on getting the job done right. Brian is also a great colleague to those around him. He regularly goes the extra mile to help whenever it is needed and sets a great work ethic example for those on his team. He is an excellent mentor that inspires his team to focus on efficacy in all aspects of their daily work.

Michael Snyder

Connections Education/Pearson, Director of Software Engineering

Directly Supervised

Current: Travelers, Director of Software Engineering

When I started working for Brian Hensley at Connections Education (Connections Academy back then), I was really impressed by how genuinely he cared about his team, their growth, and their success. He really helped me develop as a leader, and was always there to nudge me in the right direction when I got off course. It seemed like there was a lesson in every interaction with Brian, and applying those lessons, the stage was set for my smooth entry into the world of management. Over the next few years, even though I was no longer his direct report, Brian still took the time to check in with me. He's been a great manager and mentor, and it was a privilege to work with him.

Craig Newcomb, MBA, CSPO

Connections Education/Pearson, Product Owner

Current: Brightview Senior Living, Sr. IT Project Manager

Indirectly Supervised

Brian Hensley is a great leader and more importantly, a great coach who possesses a plethora of knowledge that he readily shares with his team. Brian is the type of leader who takes the time to mentor those under him to ensure they have the tools needed to grow within their roles. When I joined Connections Education and transitioned from project management to business analysis, Brian took time out of his busy schedule to mentor and provide me with a solid foundation of principles I still use to this day. Brian was a great motivator, encouraged and appreciated open communication and helped me grow professionally. I enjoyed working for him and would happily do it again.

Thierry Marbach

CreditXpert Inc., Co-founder

Was Supervised By

Brian is an energetic and dedicated professional with a broad set of experiences in the IT area, ranging from web design to information architecture and back-end systems. Perhaps more than anything else, Brian excels at anticipating an organization's future needs and envisioning information systems that will support its long-term growth. He introduced technology that revolutionized the way we share files and information internally, making knowledge management simpler and facilitating end-user access. Also, Brian will take on a project on his own time if he believes it can add value to the organization, and he is not afraid to get his hands dirty to make things happen. An agent of change, he vigorously promotes his views until he has been heard, but at the same time he respects decisions once they are made. Brian is also very good at identifying gaps in processes, documentation, and knowledge. Finally, he did a superb job recruiting, training and coaching a diverse team of tech professionals. With Information Technology taking on an ever-increasing role in such a competitive marketplace, I believe that Brian's talent will add value to any company.

Jay Travisano

CreditXpert Inc., Managing Partner

Was Supervised By

Brian built departments for product deployment and web application development from virtually nothing. He did a great job recruiting talented people and coaching them effectively, established key processes, and improved our IT infrastructure and web sites. Brian knows a lot about technology, as well as the

importance of good processes and mentoring. He constantly strove to improve communications and teamwork across diverse groups here. He is honest, direct, and passionate about doing high-quality work.

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Also recommend reviewing the numerous additional references found in LinkedIn profile