

SPEAKER BIOS

MICHELE SKELDING

SVP Global Technology & Innovation, Austin Chamber



Michele Skelding currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Global Technology and Innovation for the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce where she leads the development and execution of the organization's vision for Central Texas as a top global region for innovation, company formation and expansion, in addition to increasing top access to private equity and venture capital.

J. RICHARD "DICK" JOHNSON

Texas State SBDC / Certified Business Advisor IV, Certified Technology Commercialization Advisor



Dick Johnson owned and operated a software development company for 15 years specializing in manufacturing execution systems. He brought the company from start up to installations in 28 states and 7 foreign countries. Prior to that, Dick spent over 20 years in the technology industry in a number of middle and senior management roles. Dick has a BS-Marketing degree from Virginia Tech.

As a Certified Business Advisor with Texas State University Small Business Development Center, Dick works with both start-ups and existing small business to help them obtain funding, business planning, marketing, financial analysis and government contracting. He has been able to leverage his experience as a business owner to assist entrepreneurs to establish and grow their businesses. Dick also leads the Technology Commercialization Program and has obtained his certification in Technology Commercialization from University of Houston.

EVAN LOOMIS

Managing Partner, Quiver Capital Group



Evan Loomis mentors and invests in early-stage entrepreneurs. He cofounded TreeHouse, a smart building supply store, and cofounded an angel investment group called Wedgwood Circle. Prior to Wedgwood, Evan worked on Wall Street as an investment banker.

ANN BENOLKEN

Partner, Norton Rose Fulbright



Ann Benolken, a partner in the Austin Office of Norton Rose Fulbright, heads up the M&A and Securities practice there. She helps clients raise funds and buy and sell companies. She also assists clients with mergers, acquisitions, buyouts, recapitalizations, joint ventures, technology transfers and critical contracts. Earlier in her career, Ann served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and a member of the executive team responsible for the strategic planning of a broadband-based security and telehealth company. She also successfully negotiated and closed the sale of a telecommunications company for which she served as General Counsel.

CHRIS SHONK

Managing Director, Liahona Ventures, LLC



The oldest of 8 children, Chris started his first business at 14 prior to being named the Special Forces Soldier of the year, followed by an investment banking and private equity career. An early-stage consumer service & tech investor, he serves as director/advisor to: Famigo, EndlessBeauty.com, Resolute Fitness, Localeur, EZ Money Pawn and Central Texas Angel Network.

MORGAN FLAGER

Partner, Silverton Partners



Morgan Flager joined Silverton in 2006. Prior to Silverton, Morgan worked with FTV Capital in San Francisco, where he focused on growth investments in technology and financial services. Prior to that, Morgan held various executive positions at Ingrian Networks (acquired by SafeNet) and Kintana (acquired by Mercury Interactive Corp.). Morgan received his BS from Stanford University. Morgan sits on the boards of BlackLocus, CopperEgg, Famigo, Socialware, and UnboundID.