Recognizing excellence

Greatness in business comes with extensive experience, commitment, and perseverance. The W. P. Carey School of Business is proud to recognize the excellence of leaders from the local, national, and international business communities.

Executive of the Year

The W. P. Carey School’s Dean’s Council honors one business leader annually whose contribution is recognized as significant to the nation and the world, whose inspired leadership has created and sustained superior organizational performance, and whose achievements exemplify a model for future business leaders.

2019 Executive of the Year: Doug Parker

Doug Parker was named chairman and CEO of American Airlines Group in 2013. Previously, Parker was chairman and CEO of US Airways. Before the merger of US Airways and America West Airlines in 2005, he was chairman, president, and CEO of America West.

Under Parker’s leadership, US Airways achieved record revenue growth, operational performance, and profit margins that outpaced most industry peers. Parker has been a vocal proponent of airline industry consolidation, which provides a more stable and competitive industry for employees, customers, communities, and stockholders.

Accessing industry thought leaders


The Economic Club of Phoenix (ECP) enhances discussion of economic and business issues among academic, business, labor, and public sectors in the Phoenix area.

2018–19 speakers

Tomas Gorny, CEO, Nextiva
James C. Fish Jr., President and CEO, Waste Management Inc.
Lois E. Krahn, MD, Interim CEO, Mayo Clinic
Michelle Cirocco, Chief Social Responsibility Officer, Televerde

Spirit of Enterprise Award

The Spirit of Enterprise Award is Arizona’s premier celebration of entrepreneurship. For more than two decades, the W. P. Carey School has recognized businesses that positively impact our economy while exhibiting ethics, energy, and excellence in entrepreneurship.

2018 Spirit of Enterprise Award winner: Nextiva
Lawrence R. Klein Award

An annual honor for economic forecasting accuracy, the W. P. Carey School of Business presents the Lawrence R. Klein Award in association with the nationally recognized Blue Chip Economic Indicators newsletter.

2018 Klein Award recipient: Ellen Zentner

Ellen Zentner is chief U.S. economist and a managing director at Morgan Stanley. She has been named to the “Bloomberg Best” list of top forecasters of the U.S. economy and has 20-plus years of experience as a Fed watcher and markets-based economist, with a keen eye toward early identification of market-moving trends. Zentner joined Morgan Stanley in 2013 from Nomura Securities International, where she served as senior economist for fixed income. Previously, she served as the senior economist at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd., and senior economist at the Texas State Comptroller.

Zentner serves on the economic advisory panel for the New York Federal Reserve Bank and the academic advisory panel for the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank, as well as the American Bankers’ Association economic advisory committee. She is a director of the National Association for Business Economics and sits on its foundation board.

W. P. Carey Alumni Hall of Fame

Established in 1977, the W. P. Carey Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes alumni who have demonstrated leadership and achievement in their fields and in the community.

2018 Hall of Fame inductees: Jerry Olivo (BS Finance '83), Rossi Ralenkotter (BS Marketing '69); Greg Vogel (BS Real Estate '85); and 2018 Young Alumni inductee Vivek Kopparthi (MiM '14)

Jerry Olivo is managing director of Citigroup, overseeing $600 billion in business and leading treasury, liquidity, and asset/liability management activities for its treasury/trade services, securities services, private bank, and corporate lending businesses. Prior to joining Citigroup in 2004, Olivo held several product management and corporate finance roles at Bankers Trust Co. and the Bank of New York. He leads Citigroup recruiting activities at ASU, and has been a member of the W. P. Carey Department of Finance Advisory Board since 2007.

As CEO of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), Rossi Ralenkotter branded Las Vegas and southern Nevada as the world’s most desirable destination for leisure and business travel. Under his leadership, the LVCVA launched the most successful branding campaign in the history of tourism — “what happens here, stays here.” Before beginning his 45-year career with the LVCVA, Ralenkotter served in the United States Air Force.

Since founding the Land Advisors Organization in 1987, Greg Vogel has applied his knowledge in the areas of land economics, land use, and market trends to become a trusted advisor and broker for a broad range of clients, including financial institutions, investors, home builders, and master-planned community developers. In his current role as CEO, he has led company expansion into 23 markets nationwide. Vogel is a board member for ASU Enterprise Partners and the ASU Realty Company, a trustee for the ASU Foundation, and a member of the ASU Real Estate Council.

Vivek Kopparthi was raised in southern India believing that engineering and entrepreneurship can be forces for positive change in the world. That drive led him to pursue a W. P. Carey specialized business master’s degree, where he co-founded a health care company that engineers and designs empathy-driven solutions for newborns in need of neonatal medical care. NeoLight invents lean, flexible devices that can care for babies in hospitals or at home — bringing solutions to settings and parts of the world where infants with jaundice, for example, were previously untreatable.

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