



The McDermond Center Industry Insight Panel: Venture Capital

Monday, February 15, 2021

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Zoom



Ashlyn Myers '15

Associate Counsel, Portfolio Operations, 500 Startups

Ashlyn Myers is a former associate of HG Ventures and will be Associate Counsel, Portfolio Operations for 500 Startups. At HG Ventures, she invested in early stage deep tech and material science startups. She graduated with a JD/MBA from Indiana University Kelley School of Business and Maurer School of Law with honors. Ashlyn earned her Bachelor of Arts in Economics from DePauw University, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa as a Management Fellow.



Matt Neff '77

Senior Director of Capital Markets, Thompson Thrift

R. Matthew Neff is an entrepreneur, investor, lawyer, and expert on strategy development. After practicing law for 12 years, Mr. Neff became the Deputy to the Chairman of the Federal Housing Finance Board, the governor and regulator of the Federal Home Loan Bank System. Mr. Neff was in charge of agency operations, intergovernmental coordination, and the development of the first-ever strategic plan for the Bank System.

Mr. Neff has since founded three companies: an insurance acquisition firm, with Dan Quayle, that acquired 4 life insurance companies; a healthcare finance firm that pioneered the underwriting and management of self-pay healthcare receivables; and a venture capital firm owned by the largest healthcare system in the State of Indiana, Indiana University Health. More recently, Mr. Neff served as the Chairman and President of the American Institute of Toxicology, Inc., d/b/a AIT Labs. Under his leadership, AIT was able to resolve serious regulatory and business challenges, developed a new program to facilitate the management of opioid prescribing, and in 2016 was successfully sold to a private equity-backed firm. Mr. Neff is currently Senior Director of Capital Markets of Thompson Thrift, a real estate development firm, and serves on multiple boards of directors, including BioAnalytical Systems, Inc. (NASDAQ:BASI) and Hotel Tango Whiskey, Inc. Mr. Neff is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of DePauw University, and received his J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis, where he was Executive Editor of the Indiana Law Review. He lives with his wife and adult children in Indianapolis.



Katie Birge '08

Associate & Head of Platform, M25

Katie Birge is an associate and head of platform at M25, an early-stage venture capital firm investing in Midwest-based startups. A lifelong Hoosier born and raised in Jasper, Indiana, Katie studied Communication and Classical Civilization at DePauw University before heading to Indiana University for her MA in Telecommunications (think social informatics and innovation communities...not telegrams and TVs). Katie's thesis that startups will help the industrial Midwest rise again led her to the Bloomington Technology Partnership, where she started Bloomington Code School and co-founded an accelerator while growing the college town's tech community. Katie has worked in the trenches of software companies and startups and as executive director of Launch Indy. Katie is a long-time organizer of the Combine tech conference and in her free time, she collects plants and vacations across the 92 counties of Indiana.



Brian Hatton '95

Partner, QVentures

Brian graduated in 1995 and now has over 25 years of international banking and finance experience. He lived and worked in London, UK for nearly 20 years and managed teams across Europe, including in Italy and Germany.

Currently, Brian invests in early-stage technology companies as a Venture Partner at QVentures, an early-stage investor and advisor based in London, UK. In this role, Brian leads investments into Ocyan, Articulate.XYZ and PowerMarket and sits on all three company's boards. As an active Angel Investor, Brian invested in Beer52 (named one of the Financial Times' fastest growing e-commerce businesses), bitposter (a major disrupter in the OOH Media market) and QVentures. Brian is also an Investing Member in The Flywheel Fund based in Bloomington, IN, which just completed an investment into Stage Time Arts. Brian previously worked as a consultant at late-stage fund Cross Creek Advisors in Salt Lake City, UT and was a Managing Director, Institutional Equity Derivatives, at UniCredit in London.

In addition to being a DePauw alum, Brian holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and an MSc in Accounting and Finance from the London School of Economics and Political Science. When not working, Brian spends most of his time chasing around his young son, enjoying the outdoors of South Central Indiana and dreaming about skiing.