MEET THE MENTORS

ANNIE HYMAN PRATT's mastery is developing leaders, teams and infrastructure that drives business growth. She founded the consulting and training company Leading Edge Teams based on her unique, decades-long experience as both a successful C-level executive and a highly sought-after business adviser. Annie’s business education began at the dinner table, hearing her mother and father talk about their business, The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf. She worked behind the bean counter in her teen years and then went to college at nearby UCLA, where she graduated with a degree in economics/business. She then worked with one of the prestigious Big 8 accounting firms in Los Angeles, doing business valuations and becoming a certified public accountant. After the sale of The Coffee Bean, Annie moved into interim C-suite executive work and top-tier business consulting. She became an expert in guiding companies through rapid growth and complex turnarounds while working within diverse industries.

STEVE ROBINSON has more than 40 years of experience in the manufacturing, retail, hospitality, distribution, telecommunications, food service, daycare, ready mix and computer industries where he has participated in more than 50 transformational efforts. His entrepreneurial experience includes being the founder and chief executive of six ventures: Thirsty’s, Quenchers and Surf City Grill fast food chains; The World POG Federation, creator of the POGs children’s games; Data Systems; CLEAR; Reimagine; and most recently Brewery X. He is a reserve police officer for the Los Angeles Police Department and the Hawthorne Police Department.

KARAN SURI is the founder and managing partner of Hawkins Way Capital, which manages and develops real estate across the United States. Prior to forming Hawkins Way Capital, Suri served as managing director at Menlo Capital Group and worked at Clarity Partners, a private equity firm located in Los Angeles, where he helped execute over $1 billion in equity investments in media and telecom companies globally. He holds a Bachelor of Arts, with a double-major in computer science and economics, and a Master of Engineering in computer science, both from Cornell University.
ELDP is a three-part mentorship program that provides select UCLA Anderson School of Management students with the opportunity to meet and learn from entrepreneurial CEOs and business leaders in an intimate setting, through monthly Friday meetings during the academic year. The program features four ELDP groups of 15 to 18 students, half of whom are returning members. The groups and their assigned mentors meet in a cohort format, visiting a different entrepreneurial enterprise each month. Typical meetings feature morning discussions with entrepreneurs at their place of business, while afternoons are devoted to confidential peer-to-peer discussions, facilitated by the group’s mentor, that focus on individual leadership development. ELDP groups have visited entrepreneurs in a variety of industries, including the owner of a professional sports franchise, a female entrepreneur who sold her business to Anheuser-Busch, nonprofit CEOs, a family-owned health care services business and venture capital and investment management firms. Past members report that the skills and relationships cultivated during ELDP continue to serve them well beyond their time at Anderson. Membership in the Entrepreneur Association (EA) is required to participate in this program, and communication regarding the ELDP information session and application process will be done through the EA campus groups listserv.

ELDP SCHEDULE

EARLY OCTOBER: Information session
MID OCTOBER: Applications due
LATE OCTOBER: Interviews and group selection
FIRST OR SECOND FRIDAY IN NOVEMBER: First meeting of the year, depending on your group’s schedule