Program Overview

The success of an employee ownership company rests on an unusual collaboration among the three elements of its governance structure— the board of directors, the ESOP fiduciaries, and the company’s management. In an employee ownership environment, none of the elements has absolute control at any point. At the same time, each of the elements has a responsibility to make it work for the best interest of the ESOP shareholder. In many cases, the structure makes employee ownership companies nimble and responsive to changes in the marketplace, but where the collaboration breaks down, it can become a hindrance to competitiveness and long-term success.

The Governance Curriculum on Employee Ownership at the Rady School of Management include programs designed to support the development of each of the three members of the governance community; to foster their efficient interaction; and to help refine “best practices” for each of these roles.

The Corporate Directors’ Exchange is a unique opportunity for people serving in or considering serving in the pivotal role as directors of ESOP companies to share experiences with others in similar situations. Whether an employee or independent director, understanding of the role and responsibilities it brings is critical to safe and successful service. This exchange allows directors to work together to hone their understanding of corporate governance as it is influenced by ESOP as a capital structure and to apply their group experience to the task of guiding employee-owned companies on a strategic path to growth and sustainability.

The Corporate Directors’ Exchange is a highly interactive mix of presentations and group exercises. It is designed to establish a knowledge base and build upon it to allow each company represented to develop a truly efficient business model that not only creates value for the stakeholders but lives up to the promise of an employee ownership future.

Because of the nature of the program, attendance is limited so please register early.

Testimonials – Corporate Directors’ Exchange

“Great program! Well worth my time, and a perfect fit for me as I step into my new role as a board member.” Bobbette Biddulph, southern Calif. regional director, Environmental Science Associates, San Diego, CA

“Very good program and lots of interesting take-away material.” Joe Hurwich, director, Dipaco, Inc., Reno, NV

“Being a director can be somewhat overwhelming. I left the Corporate Directors’ Exchange feeling more confident that I was prepared to execute for the benefit of the employee owners.” Roger Ryberg, director at Windings, Inc., New Ulm, MN