

David Thornburgh

President and CEO at Committee of Seventy

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Summary

I am an entrepreneurial and collaborative leader with extensive experience as a chief executive of regional and national civic and educational organizations. Every stop along the way, I've brought vision, strategic discipline, and creative energy to each organization that resulted in significant growth and greater external visibility. I have great communications skills (I've probably spoken to over 250 groups on a wide variety of topics, do regular radio commentaries on business and public policy and appear frequently on radio and TV and in pixels and print). I'm a strong strategic thinker, I've shown the ability to raise money, and I've turned into a pretty good teacher, advisor and coach.

Experience

President and CEO at Committee of Seventy

December 2014 - Present

The Committee of Seventy is Philadelphia's leading nonpartisan advocate for better politics and better government. Founded in the Progressive Era, Seventy has been at the forefront of every significant change effort in its realm. In addition to its policy work, Seventy operates a number of initiatives designed to inform citizens and engage them in the process of making public decisions about their future.

Executive Director at University of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute of Government

August 2008 - November 2014 (6 years 4 months)

The Fels Institute of Government, is Penn's professional graduate program in public policy and public management. The Fels program was founded in 1937 and played a significant role in building the field of public management. Today, Fels is a high quality boutique program, with about 140 students in its Masters and certificate programs. We were very proud of our practical and personal approach--think Ivy League without the ivory tower. I developed an active Consulting and Executive Education group that helped current public leaders improve their ability to lead and manage. We designed and led executive education offerings for the National Association of State Chief Administrators, the National Association of Workforce Boards, and the Council of State Governments, among others.

In 2009 we launched an innovative Public Policy Challenge competition that challenges student teams to devise high impact, workable solutions to tough community challenges. Presented in

partnership with Governing magazine, the PPC invites teams from 12 public policy programs around the country to the competition, judged by Governing Public Officials of the Year.

As Executive Director, my job was to create opportunities for Fels and for our students, raise the resources necessary to realize those opportunities, and to advise and support my staff to help them perform at the highest level. I also taught two courses, one in Politics and Public Leadership and one in Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.

Senior Advisor at Econsult Corporation

May 2007 - August 2008 (1 year 4 months)

I joined Econsult to help develop, lead, and contribute to several high profile policy and planning projects. These included an assessment of the City of Philadelphia's pension fund, an economic development strategy for Montgomery County, PA, a civic campaign plan for a regional arts organization, and a growth strategy for a local university.

President and CEO

June 2006 - September 2007 (1 year 4 months)

I left the Economy League to serve as the first full-time chief executive of this young national best practice network of metropolitan leaders creating globally competitive and sustainable regions. In a short period of time we developed a compelling strategic vision, business model, and growth strategy for the organization, but ultimately decided that we could best realize that vision by partnering with another established national organization. We merged ARS into the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, the national network of Chamber CEO's, at which point I left ARS.

Executive Director

August 1994 - June 2006 (11 years 11 months)

I served as chief executive of this longstanding business-led "think and do tank" dedicated to making the Philadelphia region "healthier, wealthier, and wiser". I reported to a Board of about 60 C-suite private sector executives, managed a staff of about 10, and was responsible for raising an annual budget of almost \$2,000,000 from corporate memberships, project revenues, and foundation grants.

During my tenure the organization more than tripled its budget and we developed and carried out some very high impact projects: the Metropolitan Philadelphia Policy Center, a \$3.9 million partnership with two other civic groups to grow the Philadelphia regional economy in a more sustainable fashion; the Knowledge Industry Partnership, a collaboration with several other groups to improve the region's position as a "talent magnet", and Graduate! Philadelphia, a regional initiative to improve college attainment in the region by helping adults complete the college degree that they began but didn't finish. We also helped support and lead several high impact civic

campaigns to reduce and restructure local taxes, build smart infrastructure, and grow the region's arts and culture economy.

One of the more enduring initiatives we launched during my time at the Economy League (also still going strong) was a Leadership Exchange, where we organized a group of about 75 public and private leaders to travel to another city (Chicago was first) to meet with their peers, learn about promising initiatives and best practices, and in doing so strengthen Philadelphia's network of leadership.

Director-Small Business Development Center at The Wharton School

May 1988 - August 1994 (6 years 4 months)

I was hired to lead this interesting consulting and training organization for entrepreneurs and new companies based at the Wharton School--despite the fact that I had no business experience and had never taken a business course in my life! Our 21 professional employees were all MBA candidates at Wharton who worked part-time while they were attending the program. The \$1.3 million SBDC budget, raised annually from public and university grants and contracts, enabled us to advise about 2,200 entrepreneurs and emerging businesses every year to develop business and marketing plans and raise growth capital. Over the course of my tenure we worked with more than 10,000 entrepreneurs and helped them raise over \$45 million in additional capital.

While at Wharton I also did consulting work with entrepreneurs and government agencies supporting entrepreneurship in Russia (during the "shock therapy" years of the early '90's), China (looking at the viability of small scale energy businesses), Hungary, and Japan. Back at home, I co-founded The Enterprise Center (1989), an award-winning business accelerator focused on early stage minority businesses, and the annual Philadelphia 100 project (1988), an effort to identify and celebrate the region's fastest-growing small companies. I'm proud to say both these efforts are going strong.

Director, Civic Affairs at CIGNA Corporation

November 1985 - May 1988 (2 years 7 months)

I joined CIGNA right out of the Kennedy School to evaluate grant proposals from nonprofit organizations and recommend projects in Philadelphia for funding from the CIGNA Foundation's \$8 million budget. I also prepared briefing books for CIGNA's CEO, President, and senior officers on civic and public policy issues, both in Philadelphia and nationally. One of the most interesting assignments I had was to staff the corporate-wide United Way Campaign, particularly when a few years later the Chair of the Campaign became CIGNA's CEO!

Social Studies and English Teacher at North Shore Country Day School

September 1981 - June 1983 (1 year 10 months)

Fresh out of college, I taught US History, Third World Cultures (Indian and Chinese history and culture) and English to 7th, 8th and 9th graders at a small private school outside of Chicago. This was the most physically exhausting job I've ever had. On my feet, teaching 5 classes of squirming adolescents every day, I also learned a lot about teaching, learning, and communicating. It was also great preparation for parenthood! By the end of my tenure, I think I'd become a pretty good teacher and certainly developed an appreciation for the teaching profession and an enormous admiration for great teachers.

Education

Harvard University Kennedy School of Government

Master's in Public Policy (MPP), 1983 - 1985

Haverford College

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Political Science, 1976 - 1981

Activities and Societies: I wrote my senior thesis about the potential for economic and social change brought on by the rapid growth of African-Americans elected to state and local offices across the country. I also played guitar and sang in a great band called Joe Mama.

National River Academy

Deckhand Certificate, 1978 - 1978

Activities and Societies: I took a year off from college to work for a barge line plying the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Great real world experience and a lifetime of stories.

Sidwell Friends School

1975 - 1976

Activities and Societies: We moved to DC the summer before my senior year of high school. I was admitted to Sidwell two weeks before classes started, and my year there opened my eyes and changed my life.

Shady Side Academy

1972 - 1975

St. Edmund's Academy

1967 - 1972

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