

CONFERENCE BANQUET

Friday, July 22, 6:00 8:00pm
Student Center Ballroom



Keynote Speaker

J. Paul Wahnish

President and Founder, Career Technical Education Foundation, Inc.

www.careertechedfoundation.org



J. Paul Wahnish founded the Career Technical Education Foundation, Inc. (CTEF) in 2003. It originally began as a booster organization for the robotics club where he currently chairs the Academy of Engineering and teaches Project Lead The Way® courses, a nationally renowned curriculum for pre-engineering. Started in 2001, the booster organization transitioned into an integral support system for the Academy. The five-year business plan Paul set into action guided East Lake High School to the status of a model school for implementing career academies related to the STEM career clusters. The "Footprint for Sustainability" developed through East Lake's success has become a driving factor in assisting surrounding districts desire to implement career academies structured for success. Paul's expertise in implementing his program has led to various speaking engagements, entertaining such audiences as the Southern Region Education Board regional and national conferences, the state of South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Indiana State Educator meetings, to name but a few.

Paul's extensive background in the engineering technology field contributes to his ability to design and develop programs that continue to have lasting impacts on the participants and communities involved. An entrepreneur at heart, Paul started his journey in 1985 as the President and Owner of Under Car Parts, Inc., a company involved in the purchase, engineering design, consolidation, remanufacture, sales and marketing of front wheel drive constant velocity assemblies. Also during this same timeframe, he started Metro Automotive Marine and contracted out his services to major Automotive and Marine manufacturers. Paul became involved as an entrepreneurial independent contractor agency, in engineering, sales and marketing of automotive and marine products offered by Champion Parts, and various other manufacturers until 1995. In 1995, Paul started Wahnish Consulting as an independent contractor in engineering design, sales and marketing of all product categories nationally to automotive OEM, traditional, retail, and to marine OEM and the traditional aftermarket. Paul continued consulting until 2003 when he sold one of his companies.

A committed father to two young men, Paul actively became involved in their lives by coaching junior and senior high school sports teams and substitute teaching at their schools. When offered a full-time position at the high school, Paul took it on his own terms, and began the five-year plan that has now become recognized as one of the Top Ten high school engineering academies for Project Lead The Way®.

Paul received his B.S. in Political Science from the University of South Florida, then attended Stetson University Law School and is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Society of Automotive Engineers.