

# Dr. David A. Spencer

## Professional Background

Dr. David A. Spencer was the founding Executive Director of the Oakland University SmartZone Business Incubator in the City of Rochester Hills, Michigan and the founding Managing Director of the Macomb – OU Incubator in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

As the lead executive in charge of Rochester Hills OU Inc, Dr. Spencer worked with area emerging companies, those primarily focused on commercializing ideas, technology transfer, patents and other potential opportunities arising out of research and development activities.

The incubators are directly affiliated with Oakland University, the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to bring together business, research, training and support services in one location, allowing for easy collaboration and business development. Since inception the Incubators have launched more than 75 early stage companies.

Dr. Spencer was the first incubator leader in the state to complete the National Business Incubation Association's "Incubator Management Certification Program".

Dr. Spencer also served as the Executive Consultant to the President and CEO of InfiLaw, a national consortium of independent for-profit law schools. As the Executive Consultant to the CEO of InfiLaw, Dr. Spencer led this start-up proprietary law school in the administrative services role for the newly formed Phoenix International School of Law

Dr. Spencer has also served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Virtual University, a private, not-for-profit corporation founded by the Executive Office of the Governor and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation serving 8,000 K-12 students and as President and Chief Executive Officer of Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration in Troy, Michigan where he launched and completed a \$6.1 million capital campaign to geographically expand the Collage.

He began his career as the Chief Legislative Assistant to Michigan Senator Bill S. Huffman at the Capitol in Lansing.

## Accomplishments

In addition to his founding two separate incubators, Dr. Spencer led the effort to research, fund and develop a unique technology based decision support system collaboration program with grant fund assistance from Ameritech and EDS.

Hundreds of Michigan corporations, agencies and governmental units and their employees conducted strategic planning, business process design and market research at Walsh College in this collaboration laboratory over a 6-7 year period.

In conjunction with the innovative collaboration laboratory program at Walsh College, a Master of Science in Information Management and Communication degree was launched, which focused on managing the explosion of resources available in the Information Age.

He also spearheaded the effort to start a Walsh MBA program, which began in the fall 1998, as well as a series of Interactive Marketing courses that are offered at the graduate, undergraduate and certification levels.

During his involvement with the Michigan Virtual University and its affiliate Michigan Virtual High School he instituted a 24 station technology-based decision support system laboratory that was created within the Michigan Virtual University to engage state policy makers, elected officials, business and education leaders, university faculty and k-12 teachers in the research, design and development of policies, programs and services for state-wide virtual learning initiatives.

## Education and Certification

- Doctor of Education – Major: Instructional Technology, Minor: Organizational Communication, Wayne State University
- Master of Arts – Major: Instructional Development & technology, Minor: Organizational Communication, Michigan State University
- Bachelor of Arts – Major: Theatre and Teacher Education, Minor: Political Science
- Incubator Executive Management Certification

## Community Service / Committees / Boards

Numerous local, regional, and national participation.  
(See addendum for detailed listing)

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## **Current Affiliations & Boards**

- Chair, OU INC Investment Review Board
- Board of Advisors, Michigan Economic Development Corporation – SmartZone Strategic Service Providers
- Co-Chair, Macomb-OU INCubator Executive Advisory Board
- City of Rochester Hills, Mayor's Business Advisory Council
- Member, National Business Incubation Association
- Member, Angel Capital Association
- City Councilman 1978/79, DeWitt, Michigan
- Member, Workforce and Career Advisory Council, Schoolcraft College
- Member, Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, Legislative Action Committee

## **Past Affiliations & Boards**

- Board of Governors, Michigan 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pre-Seed Capital Fund
- Board Member, Horizon Health System, Henry Ford Health System
- Member, President's Council, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Michigan
- Board Chairman, Business Enterprise Development Center, Oakland County, MI
- Board of Directors, Library of Michigan Foundation
- Board Member, Henry Ford Health System - Northeast Region Advisory Board
- Board of Directors, Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan
- Board Member, Oakland County Local Development Corporation
- Past Chair & Member Board of Trustees, Cranbrook Institute of Science & Technology
- Board Member, International Center for Canadian-American Trade, Port Huron, Michigan
- Board Member, Datatel Corporation Scholarship Foundation
- Board Member & President, Troy Chamber of Commerce
- Senior Corporate Advisory Board, PrimeLearning.com
- Vice Chairman, Education Committee, Automation Alley, Oakland County, MI
- Board Chairman, Oakland County Cable Communications Corporation 1981-1987

## **Past Affiliations, Professional & Advisory**

- Consultant Evaluator, North Central Association, Higher Learning Commission
- Member, Financial Strategies Digital Focus Group, North Central Association, Higher Learning Commission
  - Member, Advisory Council on Distance Learning, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
  - Member, Workforce and Career Development Community Advisory Council, Oakland Community College
- Member, Governor's Innovation Forum 2002, State of Michigan
- Member, Universities Task Force on Distance Learning, Midwest Higher Education Commission