



# Instructors

*In order of appearance*



**Craig Ferreira**  
**Program Manager, UNLV Leaderverse Initiative**

Craig Ferreira leads efforts to develop and deliver impactful educational content that advances diversity, economic development, and the global gaming industry. A Summa Cum Laude graduate in Mass Communications from California State University, Hayward, Craig also holds an MBA from Aspen University in Colorado. With 18 years of experience in hospitality management, marketing and training, he transitioned into the gaming industry in 2018, bringing with him a wealth of expertise in strategic leadership and stakeholder engagement.

From 2018 to 2024, Craig played a pivotal role in shaping the programming and operations of the UNLV International Center for Gaming Regulation, where he directed strategies to enhance executive education initiatives for gaming operators, regulators, suppliers, and policymakers. His efforts included delivering high-impact seminars and content designed to support the growth and regulatory evolution of the global gaming sector.

At the Leaderverse Initiative, he works with a dedicated team to create sustainable, educational programs aimed at improving and fostering global collaborations to strengthen economic development.



**Steven Light**

**Senior Distinguished Fellow of Tribal Gaming Policy; Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy at the University of North Dakota**

Steve Light (Ph.D. Northwestern, B.A. Yale) is a Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, former Interim Dean of Business and Public Administration, and Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy at the University of North Dakota (UND). The Institute is the first university research center dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of Indian gaming.

With Kathryn Rand (UND School of Law), Steve is widely recognized as among the nation's leading experts on Indian gaming, federal Indian law, and tribal-state-federal intergovernmental relations. He has published more than 50 articles and co-authored three books on tribal gaming, including *Indian Gaming Law: Cases and Materials* (2008, 2d ed. 2019), *Indian Gaming Law and Policy* (2006, 2d ed. 2014), and *Indian Gaming and Tribal Sovereignty: The Casino Compromise* (2005), featured on C-SPAN's Book TV. He has testified on Indian gaming regulation and oversight before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, serves on the Editorial Board of the *Gaming Law Review*, and is a member of the International Masters of Gaming Law and the ABA Business Law Section's Gaming Law Committee.

He is a frequent commentator in the national media, including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg*, *NPR*, and *Indian Country Today*, has delivered invited lectures at Boston College, Stanford, the University of Macau, and numerous industry events. Light's research also includes organizational leadership and



diversity and inclusion. He was awarded UND's highest award for faculty excellence in teaching, research, and service.



**Kathryn Rand**

**Senior Distinguished Fellow of Tribal Gaming Policy; Professor of Law, and Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy at the University of North Dakota**

Kathryn Rand (J.D. University of Michigan, B.A. University of North Dakota) has served as Dean of the UND School of Law from 2009 to 2018, the first woman to hold the position. Rand is widely recognized as among the nation's leading experts on Indian gaming, federal Indian law, and tribal-state-federal intergovernmental relations. She has published more than 50 articles and co-authored three books on tribal gaming, including *Indian Gaming Law: Cases and Materials* (2008, 2d ed. 2019), *Indian Gaming Law and Policy* (2006, 2d ed. 2014), and *Indian Gaming and Tribal Sovereignty: The Casino Compromise* (2005). She has twice testified on Indian gaming regulation and oversight before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., as well as before the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation. Her first book was featured on C-SPAN's Book TV. She is a frequent commentator in the national media, including the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*, and has delivered invited lectures at Boston College, the University of Manitoba, the University of Helsinki, the University of Macau, and numerous law schools. Rand also has presented and published on academic leadership and diversity and inclusion in legal education. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute and was awarded UND's highest award for faculty excellence in teaching, research, and service.



**Dr. Kristine Burtis**  
**Vice President, Wildlife Care at San Diego Zoo Safari Park**

Dr. Kristine Burtis brings more than three decades of invaluable experience in caring for guests, team members, and wildlife, in zoological and entertainment venues. Serving as a Vice President, Kristi utilizes her real-world experience, supported by her academic accomplishments, to lead more than 200 management, supervisory, and hourly staff members.

Her extensive responsibilities also include driving population sustainability initiatives and crafting long-range strategic plans that bolster the organization's educational outreach and global conservation efforts. Kristi is deeply involved in a vast national and international network of accredited zoos and aquariums. Demonstrating her commitment to specific species, she serves on the executive board for the International Elephant Foundation and a board member for Conservation Centers for Species Survival. Furthermore, she actively manages relationships with various partners and conservation organizations worldwide, working to assess wildlife population health and foster multi-institutional conservation efforts.

Kristi's academic background complements her practical experience, holding a Veterinarian Technician Certificate and an Associate of Animal Science degree. She also has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Master of Arts degree in Human Behavior, and a Doctorate in Management and Organizational Leadership, equipping her with a unique blend of scientific knowledge and leadership acumen. Her profound dedication and



comprehensive expertise have allowed her to play a vital role in the world of wildlife conservation and impact the lives of others through her teaching, training, and leadership.



**Tyler Burtis**  
**CEO, Burtis Investigations**

Tyler Burtis served with the California Department of Justice for more than 20 years, honorably retiring as a Special Agent in Charge, with management responsibilities for the Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego Offices. Tyler spent most of his years working with and leading multi-agency task forces that specialized in major investigations, intelligence, money laundering, casino crimes, drug trafficking, homicides, and kidnappings.

Tyler earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Arts degree in Leadership from Saint Mary's College of California. He is a graduate of the POST Supervisory Leadership Institute (SLI) and the PERF Senior Management Institute for Police (SMIP), held at Boston University. He is also an ASIS Board Certified Protection Professional (CPP) and Certified Financial Crimes Specialist (CFCS).

In addition to his law enforcement career, Tyler taught a variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels as an adjunct professor for almost two decades, including classes on Leadership Theory and Systems Thinking. After retiring from law enforcement and academia, Tyler started his own business, Burtis Investigations LLC, where he specializes in due diligence, complex investigations, and consulting for





state/tribal governments, prestigious law firms, and a prominent investment company. He is a sought-after POST Team Building Workshop Facilitator for Police Executives, presenter at professional conferences, training course designer, and Tribal Government consultant.



**Amy Pourciau**  
**Owner, Lab Mindset**

Amy is a Fortune 500 human resources executive with expertise in organizational development, talent management, and performance management. Amy's broad human resources experience includes establishing international offices, developing and leading enterprise-wide initiatives, rapid property expansions, centralizations and leading operational transformations, and talent development.

Amy holds a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership and Learning from The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Amy is a lover of chips and spicy salsa and spending as much time as possible running, hiking and being outside.



**Kenneth Mead**  
**Retired, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department**

Kenneth Mead retired from LVMPD in 2023 after nearly 26 years of service. His assignments included patrol, field training officer, gang investigations, counterterrorism, FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, academy instructor, and lastly, was the program coordinator for LVMPD's Threat Assessment Program for Targeted Violence (TAP). Additionally, he was the terrorism liaison to the Nevada Legislative session in 2022-2023 and refined and instituted the LVMPD department policy and procedure on the use of High-Risk Protection Orders.

Kenneth Mead has a BA in Abnormal Psych, MS in Criminal Justice, and a Post Grad Certification in Forensic Psych. Kenneth Mead is an active member of the Allegiant Stadium Threat Committee, regularly coordinates with the NFL and UFC on threat cases in southern Nevada and is a consultant for the IACP Mass Violence Advisory Initiative and the Institute for Intergovernmental Research. Det Mead is the Sgt at Arms Board Member position within the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP), Desert Southwest Region for the 2023-2025 term. He has coordinated research projects with the National Policing Institute, Gun Violence Research Consortium, Rockefeller Center for Government, John Hopkins University (School of Public Health) and national working groups on the use of "red flag laws" in the United States.

Kenneth Mead is certified as a Threat Management Coordinator with the FBI Behavioral Analysis Unit BAU 1 (Terrorism and Targeted Violence). In January 2024, Kenneth Mead was hired by the Department of Homeland Security and was the Regional Prevention Coordinator for Terrorism and Targeted Violence for NV and AZ. Currently, he serves as the Regional Security Advisor with Secure Community Network/Jewish Nevada,



where he provides training, consultation, security mitigation, and antisemitism and terrorism liaison work with law enforcement, for 53 Jewish facilities and 76K Jewish community members in NV.



**Anne Leets**  
**CEO, The Leets Consortium**

Anne Leets, CEO of The Leets Consortium, is an experienced Keynote Speaker, Session Facilitator and Team Retreat Leader. Her successful Fortune 500 leadership experience and extensive coaching expertise provide diverse leaders with strategic insights, high-impact best practices and thought-provoking content on today's most important leadership development topics.

Anne's audiences, who represent a wide range of functional areas, organizational levels and business sectors, enjoy the unique way she connects and resonates with their everyday dynamics. Audiences find her to be engaging, inspiring and entertaining as they explore important topics like authentic leadership, staying true to personal values and preparing for the next level with a strategic enterprise focus. Passionate about research and preparation, Anne becomes a "student" of the client's business and interviews key leaders to make sure her content is relevant and meaningful with valuable perspectives. She understands that each organization is unique, and customizes her topics to fit your objectives, culture and audience.



**Christine Cassiano**  
**EVP, Chief Corporate Affairs & Brand Strategy Officer**  
**Allogene Therapeutics, Inc.**

Christine Cassiano is the Executive Vice President, Chief Corporate Affairs and Brand Strategy Officer, and a founding member of Allogene. She also serves as an executive/board advisor and performance coach through her consulting firm, SCILDI Strategies. Christine is a communications executive with wide experience in investor relations, corporate communications, media relations, brand strategy and public affairs. Christine's career is distinguished by the development of integrated communications strategies for companies with novel therapies such as YESCARTA® and BOTOX®/BOTOX® Cosmetic.

Prior to Allogene, Christine served as Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications and Investor Relations for Kite until its acquisition by Gilead Sciences in 2017. Prior to that, she was the Head of Healthcare for W2O Group (now Real Chemistry). In 2012, Christine co-founded ARC2 Communications & Media, a boutique agency that developed groundbreaking platforms for some of the largest companies in healthcare. Before, she served as Senior Vice President and Co-Director, Healthcare, at Hill + Knowlton Strategies. Christine also held senior global communications roles in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, including Amgen, which also included an expatriate assignment in Switzerland overseeing all European communications, Allergan and Abraxis BioScience. Some of Christine's career achievements include a SABRE Silver Anvil Award for the launch of BOTOX® Cosmetic (Allergan), an In2 SABRE Award for the Most Innovative Brand/Agency Collaboration (Pfizer/ARC2), and PR Week's 40 Under 40. Christine serves as a Senior Strategic Advisor to Urogen Pharma and Vida Ventures. She holds an M.A. in Psychology from Pepperdine University, a B.A. in Communications from California State University, Fullerton, and an Investor Relations Certification (IRC) from the University of California, Irvine.



**Earle G. Hall**  
**CEO, AXES.ai**

Earle G. Hall is a globally recognized entrepreneur, 2x TEDx speaker, and innovator specializing in technology and neuroscience. With a dynamic career spanning the video game, movie special effects, technology education, and casino industries, Earle has founded and led companies at the forefront of innovation.

He is the CEO of AXES.ai, a global leader in real-time cloud-based casino management solutions, delivering cashless technology, digital media, loyalty systems, and AI-driven analytics across more than 30 countries.

Earle serves as Chairman of the Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity Committee of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. He is the Emeritus Chairman of the International Gaming Standards Association and a former Board Member of the Government Blockchain Association, where he contributed to the creation of the United Nations Blockchain Evaluation Standard.

A graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada and a Veteran Army Officer, Earle holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and is currently pursuing his Doctorate at Quantum University.

In recognition of his pioneering work in blockchain, artificial intelligence, anti-money laundering, and responsible gaming, he was awarded the United States President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024.



**George "Trey" Smith**  
**Business Transformation Coach**

As an experienced business transformation consultant, George specializes in boosting productivity, reducing employee turnover, and streamlining processes. He focuses on empowering people through strong leadership commitment, fostering open communication, and aligning values with goals. His passion lies in creating sustainable transformation in organizational culture, driving enhanced employee engagement and satisfaction. With an MBA from UNLV, George also brings over 21 years of program management and business analysis with the US Air Force including earning Distinguished Graduate honors: Top 10% in leadership, academics, and physical fitness among graduating class of 300+ officer candidates.





**Tim Furlong**  
**Author-Speaker-Facilitator-Executive Coach**  
**[www.MyQuarterTurns.com](http://www.MyQuarterTurns.com)**

A Nationally recognized Speaker, Facilitator & Executive Coach, Tim Furlong and his unique brand of “Edutainment” have impacted nearly every type of organization for nearly two decades. The Hard Rock Hotels & Casinos, M&Ms Mars, Whole Foods, Michael Kors, The National Parks Service, New York Life, CNN, MTV & VH1, The University of Michigan Athletic Department, and The NHL’s Nashville Predators are just a few of broad range of organizations that have chosen to utilize Tim and his dynamic, insightful presentations.

Tim is also the author of the book “Quarter Turns-Small Shifts, Big Impact” and founder of the “Quarter Turns” Executive Coaching Program which enables leaders in any industry to identify small shifts in approach and behavior that yield highly impactful, sustainable results.

From CEO’s of fortune 500 companies, to platinum selling Recording Artists, Tim’s executive coaching & leadership training programs have empowered thousands of individuals and organizations to achieve at the highest levels.



**Claire Krawsczyn**  
**Media Specialist • Marketing Consultant • Writer & Published Author**

Claire Krawsczyn is a graduate of Ohio University's Scripps School of Journalism and Georgetown University's Communication, Culture, and Technology masters program. She is the founder and CEO of Verano Marketing & Communications, through which she has developed strong brand stories, compelling visuals, and sustainable marketing strategies for hundreds of small businesses across the world.

Her company was named Small Business of the Year in 2019 by the local chamber of commerce, just two weeks before her second daughter was born. Currently, Krawsczyn is the senior director of media relations for the American Health Care Association/ National Center for Assisted Living, the nation's largest trade association representing more than 15,000 providers across the country.

Krawsczyn lives in her hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, with her husband, two daughters, and labrador retriever.



**Noah Ahmed**  
**Stand Up Comedian, Improv Expert, Neuroscientist**

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience from the University of Nevada, Reno, shaped a strong foundation for analytical and problem-solving skills. Noah collaborates with leadership to deliver regulatory education programs, leveraging core competencies in consultation, community partnerships, and effective positioning.

Noah's role as a Strategy Consultant at Las Vegas Wildcard Improv League reflects a commitment to cultivating professional growth and community relationships. By designing impactful curricula and leading training sessions, he enables teams to foster creativity and strengthen collaboration. Noah aims to support organizations in building inclusive environments that drive innovation and shared success.



**Adam Torres**  
**Chief Gaming Regulator, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

Adam Torres is the Chief Gaming Regulator for the San Manuel Tribal Gaming Commission (SMTGC). In this role, he leads the agency's strategies, goals, policies, and day-to-day operations. SMTGC is an independent agency of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and includes the following departments: Administration, Anti-Fraud and Investigations, Audit, Compliance, Gaming License, and Surveillance.

Before joining the SMTGC, Adam served in various roles, including Managing Director with an international risk management consulting firm with a focus on business intelligence, compliance, and anti-money laundering; he was appointed by the President of the United States as the United States Marshal for the Central District of California, presiding as the chief federal law enforcement officer for the federal courts; served on the California State Bar Discipline Standards Task Force to review and revise Standards for Professional Conduct and Discipline; appointed by Governors of California to the Commission on Judicial Performance, where he provided oversight of investigations related to judicial misconduct; and Internal Revenue Service Revenue Agent and Special Agent, working in both the civil and criminal divisions.

Adam has been recognized by various government and professional associations for outstanding contributions in fraud prevention, compliance and gambling regulation.