



ISE Department Advisory Committee (DAC)

Mr. Chris Constantin



Chris Constantin is a recognized and award winning leader in government and began his path at San Jose State University in 1995. At the age of 19, he was elected to public office overseeing two higher education institutions and became one of the youngest college board presidents in the nation. At that time, he was an undergrad at our Industrial and Systems Engineering program at San Jose State University. He has demonstrated a deep commitment to public service and brought a unique perspective in the application of systems engineering principles to local government organizations. In fact, Chris's senior project was a special quantitative analysis of college budget allocation models using IE principles.

After graduating San Jose State, Chris went on to obtain his Masters of Public Administration from the top-ranked Maxwell School at Syracuse University. He still served on the college board and would fly every other week across the country to attend board meetings only to return on a redeye flight back to Syracuse, New York that same night. Graduating from Syracuse, Chris started with the City of San Jose, CA as a performance auditor evaluating and determining how the government can be more effective.

As a performance auditor, Chris utilized Industrial and Systems Engineering skills to improve government operations including systems thinking, process engineering, and statistical process control. In 2010, Chris went on to become the first Assistant City Auditor for San Diego, CA, an office established by a vote of the people to bring accountability to San Diego. In those cities, Chris evaluated operations to make government more efficient and effective and was responsible for internal fraud, waste and abuse investigations. In total, Chris found improvements worth over \$150 million and won six national awards. His office in San Diego was named one of the top ten government auditor organizations in the world by the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Chris's story continues on the next page....



Chris Constantin, cont.

In 2013, Chris left to move into operations for the City of Chico, CA. There he first served as Chief Financial Officer and then was promoted to Assistant City Manager after having served as Administrative Services Director overseeing Finance, Human Resources, IT, and Risk Management. When arriving in Chico, Chris identified that the City was 8 months away from bankruptcy and developed the approach, budget, and policies necessary to turn the City around from imminent insolvency. Chris was instrumental in taking the City from being one of the five riskiest cities in California for bankruptcy to raising it 216th strongest city and bringing its financial reserves from a \$15 million deficit to achieving financial targets for the first time in decades.

During this time, the region experienced several natural disasters including the Oroville Dam failure and destruction of the Town of Paradise during the 2018 Camp Fire. Chris was instrumental in securing a new site for a Paradise school in a vacant commercial building in Chico, supporting and relocating Paradise Town Hall to a building next to Chico City Hall, and working with others to address moving Paradise residents from a large evacuation site in Chico to more proper shelter. Also, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Chris led the economic development efforts to balance keeping businesses open with the threat posed by the virus. As part of his work during the Camp Fire, in March 2022, Chris spoke alongside the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other international leaders about the local disaster challenges posed by climate change impact.

In 2021, Chris became the City Manager for San Dimas, CA overseeing all City operations of a medium sized suburban city in Los Angeles County. He has been modernizing technology and internal processes, strengthening financial controls, and bringing engineering systems and process thinking principles to operations. The City is developing a first of its kind financial resiliency plan to ensure financial sustainability and is also aligning internal operations to address quality of life priorities. The City is a wonderful place to live, and he is working to ensure it remains such a place for many years to come.

While he has served since 2001 in local cities, Chris has also volunteered in other public service activities contributing to primary and higher education and law enforcement. He spent 20 years in education as an elected official over two colleges in the Silicon Valley and as a regional accreditor of all 135 colleges in California, Hawaii, and the Pacific. More recently, he served on the board of the Chico Country Day School, a highly ranked project based learning K-8 institution. He also currently serves as a sworn, volunteer police lieutenant with the City of Hayward, CA and is an active defensive tactics/use of force instructor and served as an adjunct instructor for the National White-Collar Crime Center. On weekends, you can find Chris flying from Los Angeles to the Bay Area to visit family and volunteer at the Hayward Police Department.

Chris credits many of his successes to the knowledge and skills learned at SJSU's Industrial and Systems Engineering program as central to his success. He serves on the ISE Department Advisory Committee because he wants to ensure that the program has greater impact to areas not normally associated with Industrial Engineering – government operations and education.