

Biography: **Stephen D. Christensen**

Founder and President, **Faith and Work Life** www.faithandworklife.org

Executive Vice President, **Concordia University, Irvine** www.cui.edu

Founder, Concordia University's **Teen Entrepreneur Academy** www.cui.edu/tea

Stephen.christensen@cui.edu or Stephen@faithandworklife.org

1530 Concordia West, Irvine, CA 92612 USA (714) 272-7865

Since 2001, he serves as executive vice president for external relations and special assistant to the president at **Concordia University** in Irvine, California, USA. In 2002, he created the University's Faith and Business Forum. Over 8,500 business leaders have participated in the Forum events. He also founded Concordia's *Center for Faith and Business*. In 2007, his development team completed the university's \$22 million capital campaign.

In 2008 he established a non-profit discipleship ministry called **Faith and Work Life (FWL)**. As its founder and volunteer president, he oversees the ministry's that helps Christians better understand work from God's perspective and how to apply biblical principles to secular work. FWL offers seminars, workshops and the annual Faith at Work conference, helping Christians integrate their faith and their work. FWL works with businesses as well as churches and universities. At churches, he helps establish a work life discipleship program as well as teaches biblical entrepreneurship training through FWL's *Biblical BIZ Launch Academy*. He offers churches two entrepreneurship training programs: a *Biz Launch Weekend Boot Camp* (Friday evening and Saturday) and a more intensive 7-week (1-night per week) *Certificate in Biblical Entrepreneurship* Training. He also speaks leads adult bible studies on the topics of integrating faith and work, calling and entrepreneurship.

Stephen is an *entrepreneur catalyst* and business coach who passionately helps people and organizations achieve their God-given goals by starting and growing businesses utilizing best business practices and biblical principles. He is an encourager and certified entrepreneurship instructor who teaches a 2-unit MBA entrepreneurship class in the business school at Concordia University, "*Best Business Practices and Biblical Principles for Starting and Growing a Sustainable Business*." He is a frequent speaker regarding entrepreneurship.

Because of his passion for teaching entrepreneurship to young people and thereby preparing the next generation of business leaders, Stephen created Concordia's Teen Entrepreneur Academy (TEA), an annual summer camp held in July for 50 high school students who want to learn how to start a business www.cui.edu/tea. Students write business plans, coached by successful entrepreneurs.

He is both an intreprenuer and entrepreneur who helped launch five enterprises: a business communications company, a private equity investment company, a roundtable program for CEOs, a non-profit ministry and an entrepreneurship training program. As a business, ministry and educational leader, he draws upon his almost 30-years experiences in leadership, management, marketing and fund raising to design and implement new initiatives and innovative programs.

He also served as the vice president of marketing at **TeeHub, LLC** (Irvine, CA), a start-up video communications company. He developed the company's marketing and sales strategies that launching the business. He was also chief advancement officer at **Olive Crest Foster Homes and Services for Abused Children** (Santa Ana, CA), managing the external relations programs including 6 regional development officers in 3 states that raised \$6 million annually.

From 1995 to 2001, he served as vice president for university relations at **Chapman University**, (Orange CA). Under his leadership, Chapman increased annual giving from \$6 million to \$17 million and raised \$200 million including \$25 million for a new business school building. Prior to Chapman, he was senior vice president of the **Robert Sharp Company** (consulting). From 1983 to 1989, he worked in the development office at the **University of California, Irvine**.

He has taught campaign and fund raising classes at the University of California, Riverside and California Lutheran University in their Non-Profit Management and Fund Raising Certificate programs as well as at Cal State University, Long Beach. He also taught at the University of California, Irvine Certificate program. He has conducted training seminars and programs on campaigns, fund raising principles and techniques to the western regional chapters of the Habitat for Humanity, Olive Crest Foster Homes, the American Lung Association and the American Red Cross.

Born and raised in New York City, he also worked for **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center** and the New York Council, **Boy Scouts of America**. He is an Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America.