

PRESENTERS

Jim Kasch

Jim has more than twenty years business experience, most of which with credit unions. His roles range from teller to CEO. He spent more than ten years with Partners Federal Credit Union (formerly Vista FCU) which serves The Walt Disney Company, where he led marketing, business development, sales, and strategic alliances.

In 2010, Jim was hired to be the Chief Executive Officer for Darden Employees Federal Credit Union (DCU), chartered to serve the more than 200,000 employees of Darden Restaurants, Inc. In six months, he and his team built a primarily virtual delivery credit union offering a full suite of products and services. Since its launch, DCU has more than tripled its asset base, grown 6 times in loan balances, quadrupled income, and grown seven times in members served.

DCU's unique business model extends to its robust relationship with its sponsor which positions the credit union as a business partner rather than only a service or benefit to employees. Nearly 90% of Darden employees are Gen X or Gen Y, making DCU's field of membership one of the youngest and largest in the country.

In 2014, Jim helped orchestrate the merger between DCU and USF Federal Credit Union in Tampa, Florida. In 2015 he established his own consultancy.

Kevin Smith, Team Resources

Kevin Smith is Publisher and a consultant with TEAM Resources and brings extensive experience in designing and implementing professional development resources to grow leaders within the credit union industry. He also oversees the TEAM Resources board self-evaluation programs.

Previously, Kevin spent 10 years at the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), in the Center for Professional Development as Director of Volunteer Education. In that role Kevin developed and oversaw programs for credit union executives, boards, and volunteers. This included conferences and training events, webinars, print programs, and online courses, among others. During his tenure at CUNA, he created and brought several new programs to the credit union movement. One of these is the CUNA Volunteer Certification Program, an intensive, competency-based program for boards and supervisory committees, offered as a five-day onsite event or as a self-study program, both involving rigorous testing for completion. He also created the CUNA Training On Demand series of downloadable training courses, and the CUNA Pressing Economic Issues series featuring CUNA economists Bill Hampel and Mike Schenk.

Behind the scenes Kevin was involved with a team of CUNA leaders focused on creating a culture of innovation within the trade association, and working toward keeping the organization forward-thinking, to create new and better programs for its membership. This included participation in an IDEO design program.

Before joining CUNA, Kevin spent several years teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He holds a master's degree from DePaul University, Chicago and a Bachelor's degree from Miami University, Oxford, OH.