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MSEC SEMINAR AND COMMERCIALIZATION FORUM



INVITED SPEAKER:

MR. AL PEREZ

PRESIDENT AND OWNER

TEXAS HIGH ENERGY MATERIALS, LLC

“STARTING, OPERATING AND GROWING AN
INDEPENDENT MATERIALS SCIENCE RESEARCH
COMPANY: AN ONGOING 12-YEAR JOURNEY OF
A TEXAS STATE GRADUATE”



April 9th, 2021

1:30 – 2:30 PM (CST)

Biography:

Al Perez is President and owner of Texas High Energy Materials, LLC. He has over 33-years of experience conducting research, development, and commercialization of polymeric materials for automotive, aerospace, marine, department of defense, and general industrial applications. He has previously held product development positions with 3M, Dow, Durcon, Texas Research Institute, Huntsman, Sika, Chem-Trend, ITW, and Ciba Geigy. He has presented his research at conferences throughout the US and internationally. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Wayne State University in 1991, and his Master of Science degree in Chemistry, under the direction of the late Dr. Patrick E. Cassidy, from Texas State University in 2005. He is named inventor on two US Patents for his work in polyurethane coatings and sealants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT DR. SHANNON WEIGUM AT
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Abstract:

This presentation will chronicle the challenges and unexpected outcomes of a Texas State University science graduate who was forced by the great recession of 2008 to start his own contract research and development company. During his 20-year tenure working for some of the largest chemical companies in the world, he had briefly considered starting his own business, but the comfort of good and steady income, coupled with typical financial obligations, kept his ideas of business ownership distant. The bleak employment outlook during the severe global economic recession left him with few choices and fewer opportunities. However, he was fortunate to have previously worked for a company that prospered through the US Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. It was there that he learned how to write a competitive technical proposal that could lead to funding that could pay for salaries, equipment, facilities, and lab supplies to conduct research. The professional and academic relationships that he made and kept, coupled with his large company experience, and his fresh Master of Science Degree in Chemistry from Texas State University, made him competitive in the SBIR program. Over the past 12-years he has sustained his business and grown it to the level that supports graduate and undergraduate degreed scientists, technicians, and summer student interns. In this presentation he will share his experiences and hopefully encourage other scientists and students who have thought about starting and owning their own research company.

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