

What's Your Succession Plan?

Our Keynotes



Christine Specht
Cousins Subs - Chief Executive Officer

Christine Specht grew up with Cousins Subs — the sub sandwich chain her dad, Bill Specht, founded with his cousin two years before she was born. Before taking on the role of Cousins' human resources manager in 2001, Specht worked as a staff member of the Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau in Madison, Wisconsin. In 2008, she became the President and Chief Operating Officer of Cousins Subs and in 2015 assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer following her father's retirement. Specht earned a bachelor's degree in criminology and law studies from Marquette University. While she worked toward her master's degree in public administration from American University in Washington, D.C., she spent time in the human resources departments of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Academy of Public Administration in Washington. Specht serves on a number of boards in Wisconsin that focus on healthcare, senior care and higher education. She also serves as the president on the Cousins Subs Make It Better Foundation board. Specht lives in the Milwaukee area with her husband J.J. and their two sons, Reagan and Harrison.



Richard Leinenkugel
Leinenkugel Brewing Company - President and Chief Beer Merchant

Dick Leinenkugel is President and Chief Beer Merchant for the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company having been appointed October 1, 2014. Dick joined the Tenth and Blake Beer and Cider Company in 2010 as Manager – Business Development after serving as Wisconsin's Commerce Secretary from 2008 to 2010. Dick spent 21 years with the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company based in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, as District Sales Manager, Chain Account Manager and VP – Sales and Marketing. Before joining his family's business in 1987, Dick was the Tournament Director for the LPGA Women's Kemper Open golf tournament based in Hawaii. Upon graduating from Marquette University in 1980 with a B.S. in Business Administration, Dick served four years as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Dick and wife, Jean, of 34 years, have three grown children, Jeffrey, Katie and Lindsay and enjoy their cabin in Eagle River, WI, when not in Chippewa Falls.