

# 4 Pay Practices that **Kill** Employee Engagement





THE VISIONLINK  
ADVISORY GROUP

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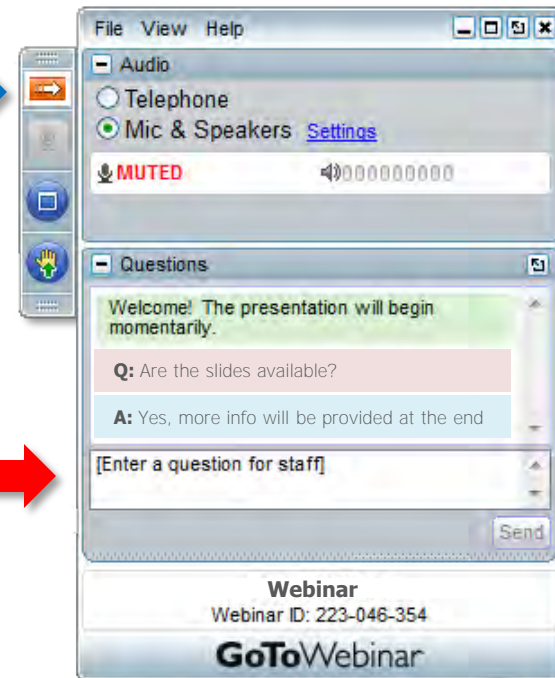
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# VisionLink's Focus: Help Business Leaders Build and Sustain a Performance Culture

Accelerate performance through pay strategies that transform employees into growth partners.





# If you do that...

- Quality of talent will improve.
- Employee engagement will expand.
- Performance will be magnified.
- Business growth will be accelerated.
- Shareholder value will increase.



# Turn This...





# Into This



# Theory of Jobs to be Done

“When we buy a product, we essentially ‘hire’ something to get a job done. If it does the job well, when we are confronted with the same job, we hire that same product again. And if the product does a crummy job, we ‘fire’ it and look around for something else we might hire to solve the problem.”

(Clayton Christensen, Theory of Jobs to be Done, Harvard Business School, Working Knowledge, Dina Gerdeman, October 3, 2016)



# Broader Application

**Let the Jobs-To-Be-Done Theory Guide You**

What if we applied this theory to all of the processes and systems we use in an organization including compensation?



# Pay: Take a More Strategic Approach

What job have you hired your *rewards strategy* to do?

What is the problem compensation needs to help solve in your business?

What is not happening organizationally now that needs to happen and how might a given pay strategy be a potential solution?




# Let's Talk About Engagement

1. Age of “employee empowerment”
2. Increasing competition for great talent
3. Engine of a performance culture

“Research suggests that the issues of ‘retention and engagement’ have risen to No. 2 in the minds of business leaders, second only to the challenge of building global leadership.”  
(Deloitte University Press)



# The Engagement Issue

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a white shirt and a dark grey blazer, is looking down at a white smartphone in her right hand. She is holding a blue folder under her left arm. The background is a blurred cityscape.

Employees today have increased **bargaining power**, the job market is highly transparent, and **attracting top-skilled workers is a highly competitive activity**. Companies are now investing in analytics tools to **figure out why people leave**, and the topics of purpose, engagement, and culture weigh on the minds of business leaders everywhere.

Deloitte 2015 Study & Report



# The Irresistible Organization

...The **employee-work contract has changed**: People are operating more like free agents than in the past. In short, the **balance of power has shifted from employer to employee**, forcing business leaders to learn how to build an organization that engages employees as sensitive, passionate, creative contributors. We call this a **shift from improving employee engagement to a focus on building an irresistible organization**.

Deloitte 2015 Study & Report



# The Irresistible Organization

**Figure 1. The simply irresistible organization®**

What we have learned: Five elements drive engagement



# What About Compensation?



- Ranks in top 5 drivers (Aon Hewitt)
- A “hygiene” factor (Deloitte)
- #1 reason people leave (Payscale.com)
  - As the economy is expanding, employees have more negotiating power
- Pay doesn’t impact *performance* (Misc. experts)



# Key Quote

"If you aren't talking with your employees about pay, chances are that they're talking to each other and creating their own story of what [the company's] compensation policy is. That's not a good thing."

(Aubrey Bach, senior manager of editorial marketing at PayScale)



# Therefore, What?

Make pay an  
engagement *asset*  
instead of a *liability*.



# 4 Engagement Killers

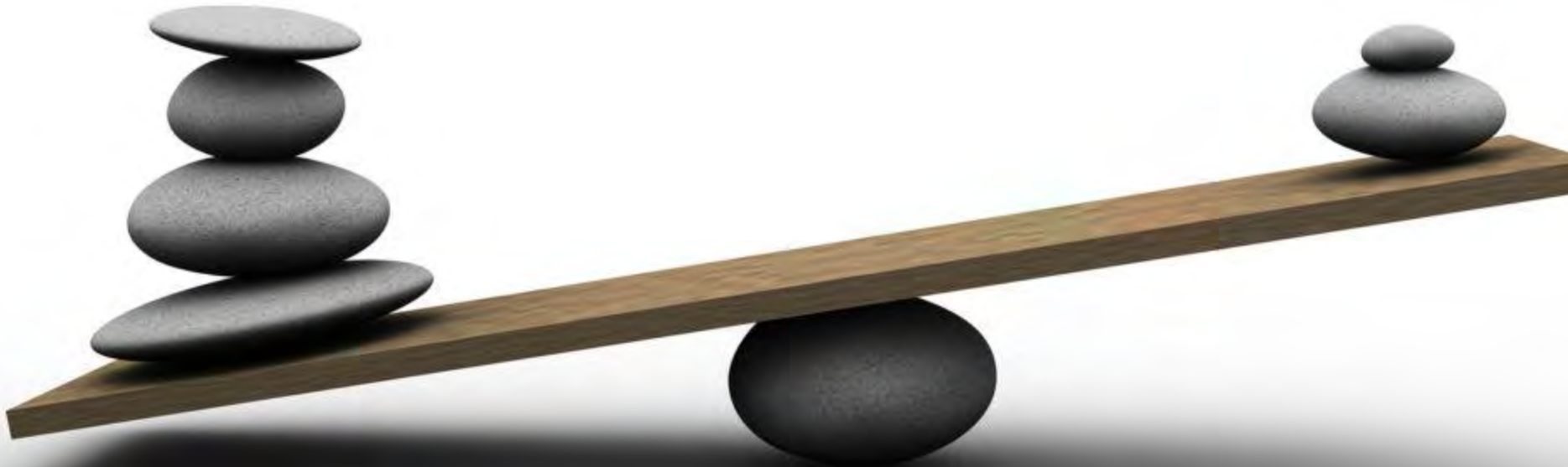
1. An Incomplete or Unbalanced Compensation “Portfolio”
2. Value-Sharing that Doesn’t Result in a Meaningful Payout
3. Performance Metrics that are Unattainable or Too Complicated
4. Ineffective Rewards Communication and Reinforcement






# 1. An Incomplete or Unbalanced Compensation “Portfolio”

- Too much emphasis on guaranteed over variable compensation
- Too much emphasis on short versus long-term value sharing



# Create an Aligned Pay Strategy



Alignment: The role of each pay component in relation to others within the comprehensive compensation strategy is coordinated and clear.

# Eight Components of Pay

## Benefits

- Core benefits
- Executive benefits
- Qualified retirement plans
- Supplemental retirement plans

## Compensation

- Salary
- Performance incentives
- Sales incentives
- Growth incentives

Incentives should be in the form of value sharing.



# An Aligned Compensation Strategy

## Salaries

Competitive with market standards?  
Tied to strong performance management process (merit)?  
Managed within a flexible but effective structure?

## Performance Incentives

Tied to productivity gains?  
Clear, achievable and meaningful?  
Self-financing?

## Sales Incentives

Challenging yet achievable?  
Reinforcing the right behaviors?  
Differentiating your offering?

## Growth Incentives

Linked to a compelling future?  
Supporting an ownership mentality?  
Securing premier talent?

## Core Benefits

Responsive to today's employee marketplace?  
Allocating resources where most needed?  
Evaluated to eliminate unnecessary expense?

## Executive Benefits

Flexible enough to address varying circumstances?  
Communicating a unique relationship?  
Reducing employee tax expense?

## Qualified Retirement Plans

Giving employees an opportunity to optimize retirement values?  
Operated with comprehensive fiduciary accountability?  
Avoiding conflicts and minimizing expenses?

## Nonqualified Retirement Plans

Optimizing tax-deferral opportunities?  
Aligning long-term interests of employees with shareholders?  
Structured to receive best possible P&L impact?





Form of Pay	Purpose	Standard	Investment	ROI
Salaries	Provide for the current cash needs of our executives	40-50th percentile for peer group	\$500,000	Achieve ROA standard of 0.75%
Short-term Incentives	Enhance current cash payments to executives for achieving top and bottom line annual goals	30-40% of base salary	\$168,000 (Target)	15% revenue growth and 12% margin
Long-term Incentives (Cash)	Retain execs; focus them on long-term earnings growth; align with shareholder interests; meet wealth accumulation needs	15-20% of base salary	\$84,000 (Target)	Long-term growth in earnings (double earnings = share 13% of new value)
Long-term Incentives (Equity)	Retain execs; focus them on long-term earnings growth; align with shareholder interests; meet wealth accumulation needs	15-20% of base salary	\$84,000 (Target)	Long-term growth in earnings (double earnings = share 13% of new value)
Core Benefits	Meet basic security needs of the executives	50th percentile for peer group	\$25,500	ROA of 0.75%
Executive Benefits	Enhance basic security needs and meet market standards for perquisites	50th percentile for peer group	\$24,000	ROA of 0.75%
Qualified Retirement	Provide wealth accumulation opportunity for executives	40th percentile (3% of salary)	\$15,000	ROA of 0.75%
Supplemental Retirement	Strengthen rewards value proposition to help recruit and retain executives; meet wealth accumulation needs	30th percentile compared to banks that have plans	\$135,000	ROA of 0.9%

# The Total Compensation Structure

Grade/ Band	Salary Range			Bonus Target	LTIP Target	% Phantom Stock FV	% Phantom Stock AO	401k Match Max %	Deferred Comp Eligible	Deferred Comp Max Match	Health, Dental, Life	Vacation Days	Sick Days	Financial Planning Perk	Annual Car Allow
	Min	Mid	Max												
1	203,531	271,375	339,219	50.0%	100%	50%	50%	5%	Yes	5%	\$11,141	Unlimited	Unlimited	15,000	20,000
2	150,078	200,103	250,129	35.0%	75%	50%	50%	5%	Yes	5%	\$11,141	Unlimited	Unlimited	10,000	12,500
3	119,497	159,329	199,161	25.0%	50%	100%	0%	5%	Yes	5%	\$11,141	25	5	5,000	8,000
4	102,632	136,843	171,054	20.0%	25%	100%	0%	5%			\$6,127	25	5	5,000	
5	81,293	101,616	121,940	15.0%				5%			\$6,127	25	5	5,000	
6	69,720	87,150	104,580	15.0%				5%			\$6,127	15	5		
7	58,564	73,205	87,846	10.0%				5%			\$6,127	15	5		
8	50,176	62,720	75,264	10.0%				5%			\$6,127	15	5		
9	44,038	51,809	59,580	5.0%				5%			\$6,127	15	5		
10	37,211	43,777	50,344	5.0%				5%			\$6,127	10	5		
11	30,784	36,217	41,649	5.0%				5%			\$6,127	10	5		
12	23,562	27,720	31,878	5.0%				5%			\$6,127	10	5		
13	19,529	22,975	26,421	0.0%				5%			\$6,127	10	5		
14	17,354	20,417	23,479	0.0%				5%			\$6,127	10	5		

# Creating a Balance

Total Compensation Structure											
Name	Title/Position	Tier	Salary	Short-term Incentive Target	Long-term Incentive Target	Total Direct Comp	H&W Annual Value	QRP Annual Value	Security Plans Annual Value	Total Indirect Comp	TRI
Jason Smith	CEO	1	\$ 300,000	\$ 120,000	\$ -	\$ 420,000	\$ 18,200	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ 26,200	\$ 446,200
Lucy Jones	VP Marketing	2	\$ 210,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 255,000	\$ 16,200	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ 23,200	\$ 278,200
Rick Miller	VP Sales	2	\$ 160,000	\$ 85,000	\$ -	\$ 245,000	\$ 9,200	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 15,200	\$ 260,200
Janice Johnson	CFO	2	\$ 195,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 235,000	\$ 10,200	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 15,200	\$ 250,200
Maria York	Director	3	\$ 160,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 170,000	\$ 12,200	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 16,200	\$ 186,200
Frank North	Director	3	\$ 150,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 160,000	\$ 11,200	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 14,200	\$ 174,200
Ricardo South	Director	3	\$ 140,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000	\$ 7,700	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 9,700	\$ 59,700
Simon Lewis	Director	3	\$ 130,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 140,000	\$ 8,700	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 11,200	\$ 151,200
			\$ 1,445,000	\$ 330,000	\$ -	\$ 1,775,000	\$ 93,600	\$ 37,500	\$ -	\$ 131,100	\$ 1,906,100

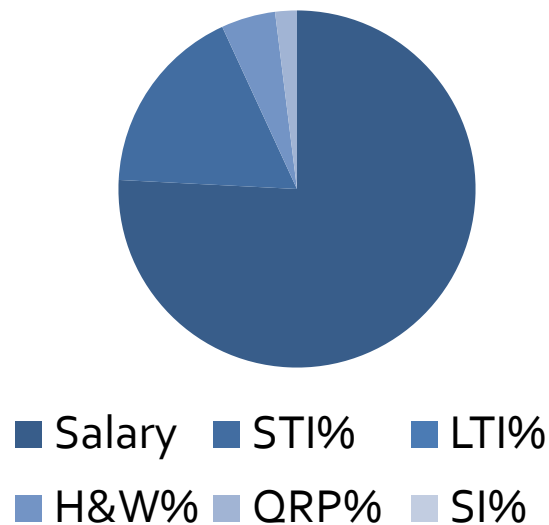
How are these values determined?

Why no LTI to balance the STI?

Should we be addressing these needs?

# What Does It Tell You?

Total Rewards Investment (TRI) Allocation								
TRI looks at each component of pay as a percentage of the total								
Name	Tier	Salary	STI%	LTI%	H&W%	QRP%	SP%	TRI
Jason Smith	1	67.2%	26.9%	0.0%	4.1%	1.8%	0.0%	\$ 446,200
Lucy Jones	2	75.5%	21.4%	0.0%	7.7%	3.3%	0.0%	\$ 278,200
Rick Miller	2	61.5%	53.1%	0.0%	5.8%	3.8%	0.0%	\$ 260,200
Janice Johnson	2	77.9%	20.5%	0.0%	5.2%	2.6%	0.0%	\$ 250,200
Maria York	3	85.9%	6.3%	0.0%	7.6%	2.5%	0.0%	\$ 186,200
Frank North	3	86.1%	6.7%	0.0%	7.5%	2.0%	0.0%	\$ 174,200
Ricardo South	3	87.7%	7.1%	0.0%	5.5%	1.4%	0.0%	\$ 159,700
Simon Lewis	3	86.0%	7.7%	0.0%	6.7%	1.9%	0.0%	\$ 151,200





# Balanced Structure

Total Compensation Structure											
Name	Title/Position	Tier	Salary	Short-term Incentive Target	Long-term Incentive Target	Total Direct Comp	H&W Annual Value	QRP Annual Value	Security Plans Annual Value	Total Indirect Comp	TRI
Jason Smith	CEO	1	\$ 300,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 18,200	\$ 8,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 41,200	\$ 491,200
Lucy Jones	VP Marketing	2	\$ 210,000	\$ 36,750	\$ 36,750	\$ 283,500	\$ 16,200	\$ 7,000	\$ 10,500	\$ 33,700	\$ 317,200
Rick Miller	VP Sales	2	\$ 160,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 260,000	\$ 9,200	\$ 6,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 23,200	\$ 83,200
Janice Johnson	CFO	2	\$ 95,000	\$ 34,125	\$ 34,125	\$ 263,250	\$ 10,200	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,750	\$ 24,950	\$ 288,200
Maria York	Director	3	\$ 160,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 192,000	\$ 12,200	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 24,200	\$ 216,200
Frank North	Director	3	\$ 50,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 21,700	\$ 201,700
Ricardo South	Director	3	\$ 140,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 168,000	\$ 7,700	\$ 2,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 16,700	\$ 184,700
Simon Lewis	Director	3	\$ 30,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 156,000	\$ 8,700	\$ 2,500	\$ 6,500	\$ 17,700	\$ 173,700
			\$ 1,445,000	\$ 263,875	\$ 243,875	\$ 1,952,750	\$ 93,600	\$ 37,500	\$ 72,250	\$ 203,350	\$ 2,156,100

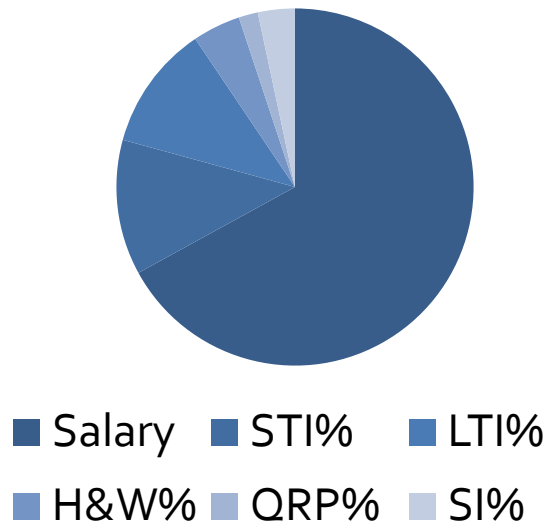
We've reduced the STI targets.

But we've balanced with a LTIP (wealth creation).

This can strengthen partnership and improve retention.

# A balanced approach will typically appeal to premier talent who hold a long-term view

Total Rewards Investment (TRI) Allocation								
TRI looks at each component of pay as a percentage of the total								
Name	Tier	Salary	STI%	LTI%	H&W%	QRP%	SP%	TRI
Jason Smith	1	61.1%	15.3%	15.3%	3.7%	1.6%	3.1%	\$ 491,200
Lucy Jones	2	66.2%	17.5%	17.5%	7.7%	3.3%	5.0%	\$ 317,200
Rick Miller	2	56.5%	37.5%	25.0%	5.8%	3.8%	5.0%	\$ 283,200
Janice Johnson	2	67.7%	17.5%	17.5%	5.2%	2.6%	5.0%	\$ 288,200
Maria York	3	74.0%	10.0%	10.0%	7.6%	2.5%	5.0%	\$ 216,200
Frank North	3	74.4%	10.0%	10.0%	7.5%	2.0%	5.0%	\$ 201,700
Ricardo South	3	75.8%	10.0%	10.0%	5.5%	1.4%	5.0%	\$ 184,700
Simon Lewis	3	74.8%	10.0%	10.0%	6.7%	1.9%	5.0%	\$ 173,700



## 2. Value Sharing Payouts aren't Meaningful



Is the payout significant enough to make employees want to achieve it?

The balance you are seeking is to have compensation that is meaningful and motivational to the recipient while respecting shareholder (financial, structural and organizational) goals and expectations.



# The Employee View of Compensation

## Personal

1. Lifestyle & Wealth Accumulation
2. Career Measurement
3. Contribution Ambitions

## Business

4. Roles, Expectations & Priorities
5. Partnership
6. Continuity & Fairness



# #1 Standard of Living



# Financial “Hierarchy of Needs”

Wealth Multiplier Commitment

4

Wealth Accumulation

Short & Long-Term Incentive  
Plans

3

Retirement Planning

Qualified & Executive  
Retirement Plans

2

Security

Comprehensive, Flexible  
Benefits Plan

1

Cash Flow & Living Standard

Salary & Bonus

Clear Pay Philosophy



## # 2 Career Measurement

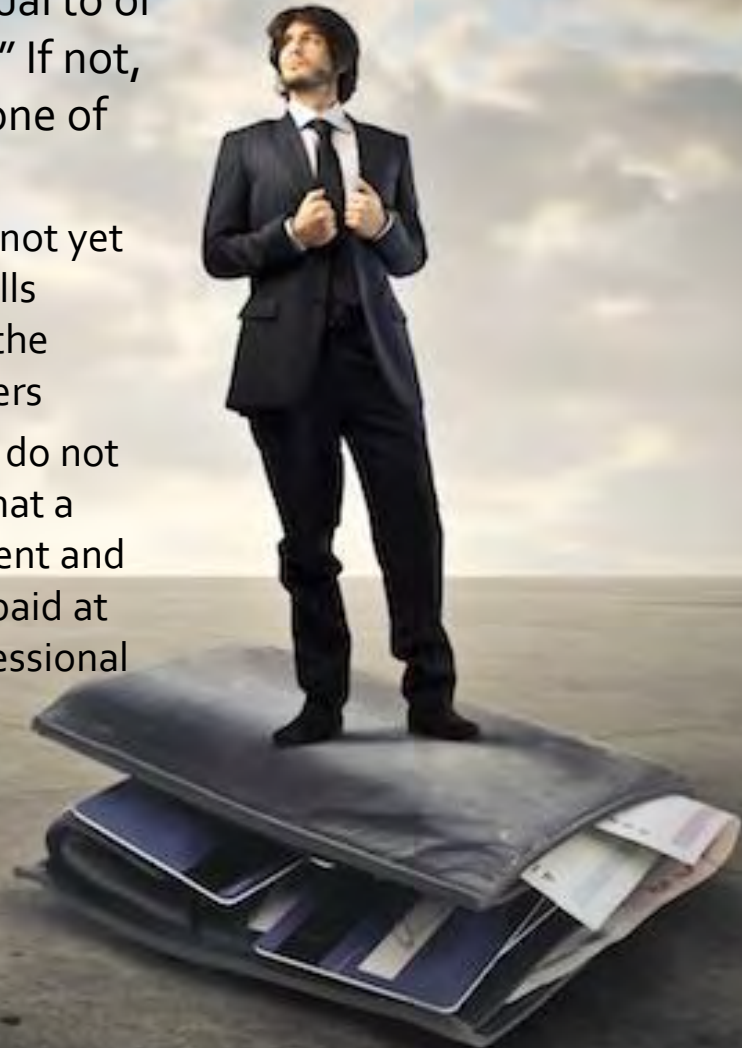
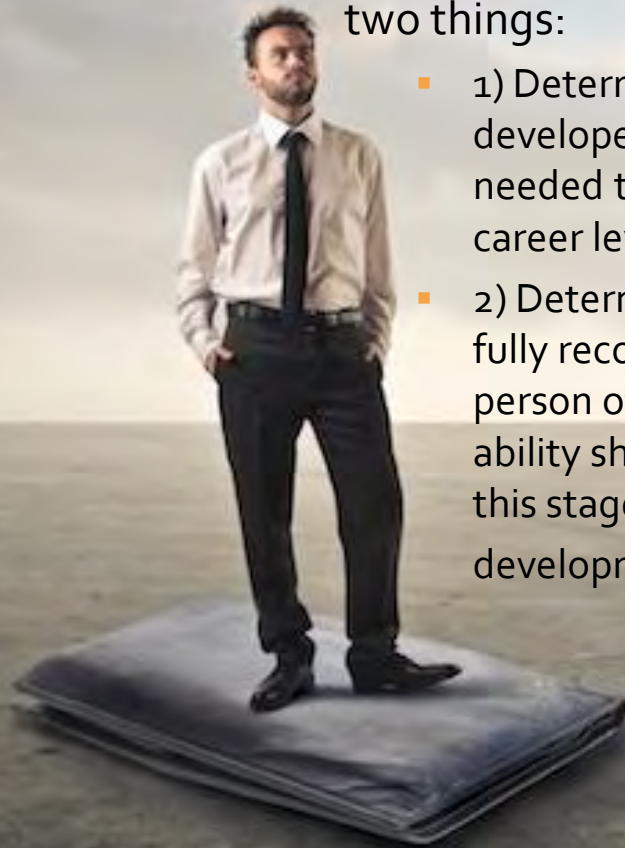
The pay level and programs in which an employee participates become a means of measuring where that person is in their career and where they need to go next.



# A Comparative Exercise

"Is my pay offering equal to or better than my peers?" If not, the employee will do one of two things:

- 1) Determine has not yet developed the skills needed to attain the career level of peers
- 2) Determine you do not fully recognize what a person of that talent and ability should be paid at this stage of professional development.



# #<sub>3</sub> Contribution Ambitions

## Personal Vision

- Most growth-oriented people aspire to make certain contributions in their personal and professional lives.
- The ability to achieve their contribution goals is the source of their motivation.





# Contribution Ambitions

## Different for Every Individual

- Causes and Charities
- Children's Education
- Family Well-Being
- Freedom to Build Something
- Control Over Time & Commitments

Vary by generation.

Vary by career stage.





# Contribution Ambition Fulfillment

Every contribution ambition has an economic requirement or driver.



# #4 Roles, Expectations & Priorities

Line of Sight

**Rewards**

*What's in it for me?*

**Roles and Expectations**

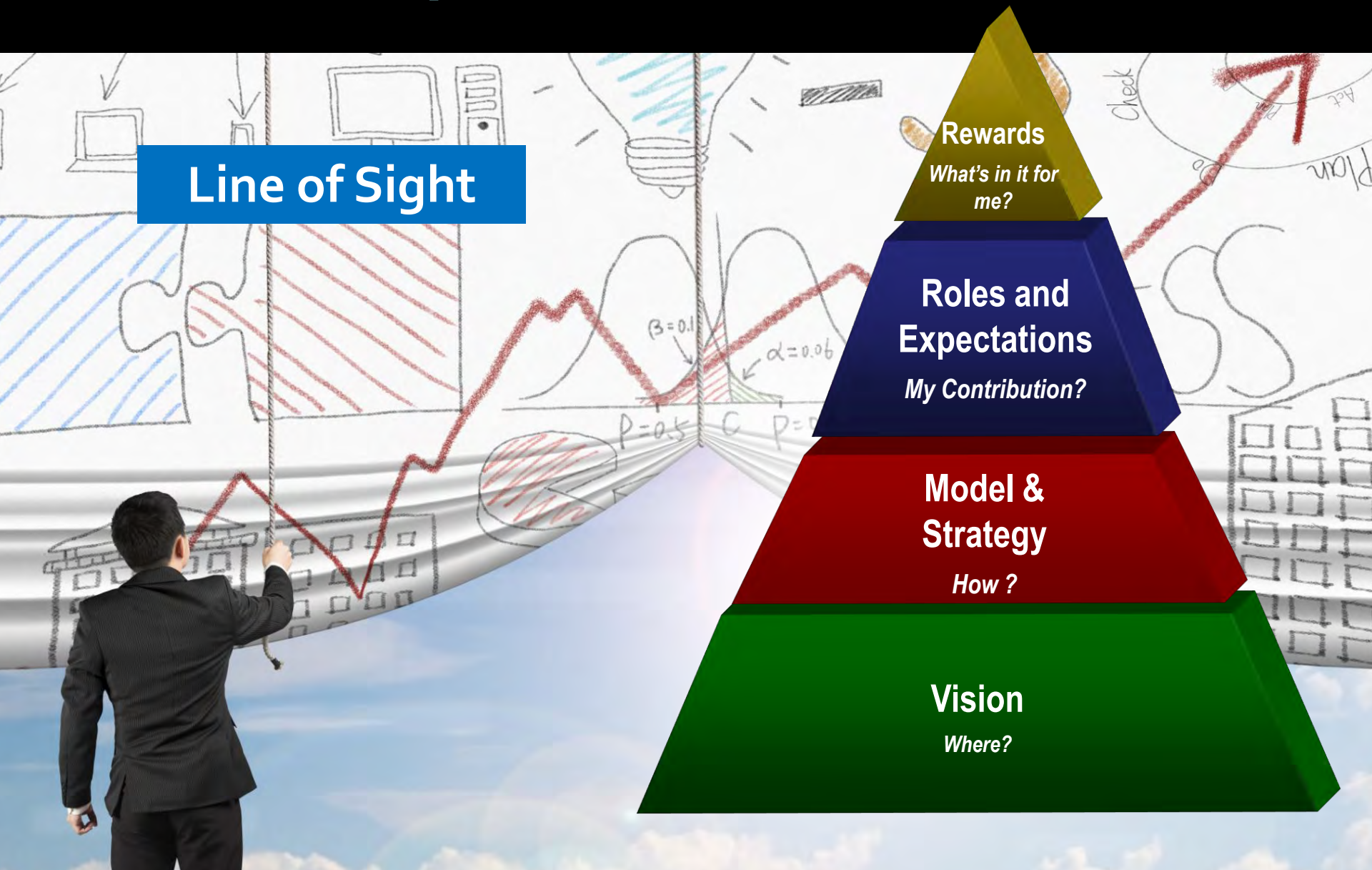
*My Contribution?*

**Model & Strategy**

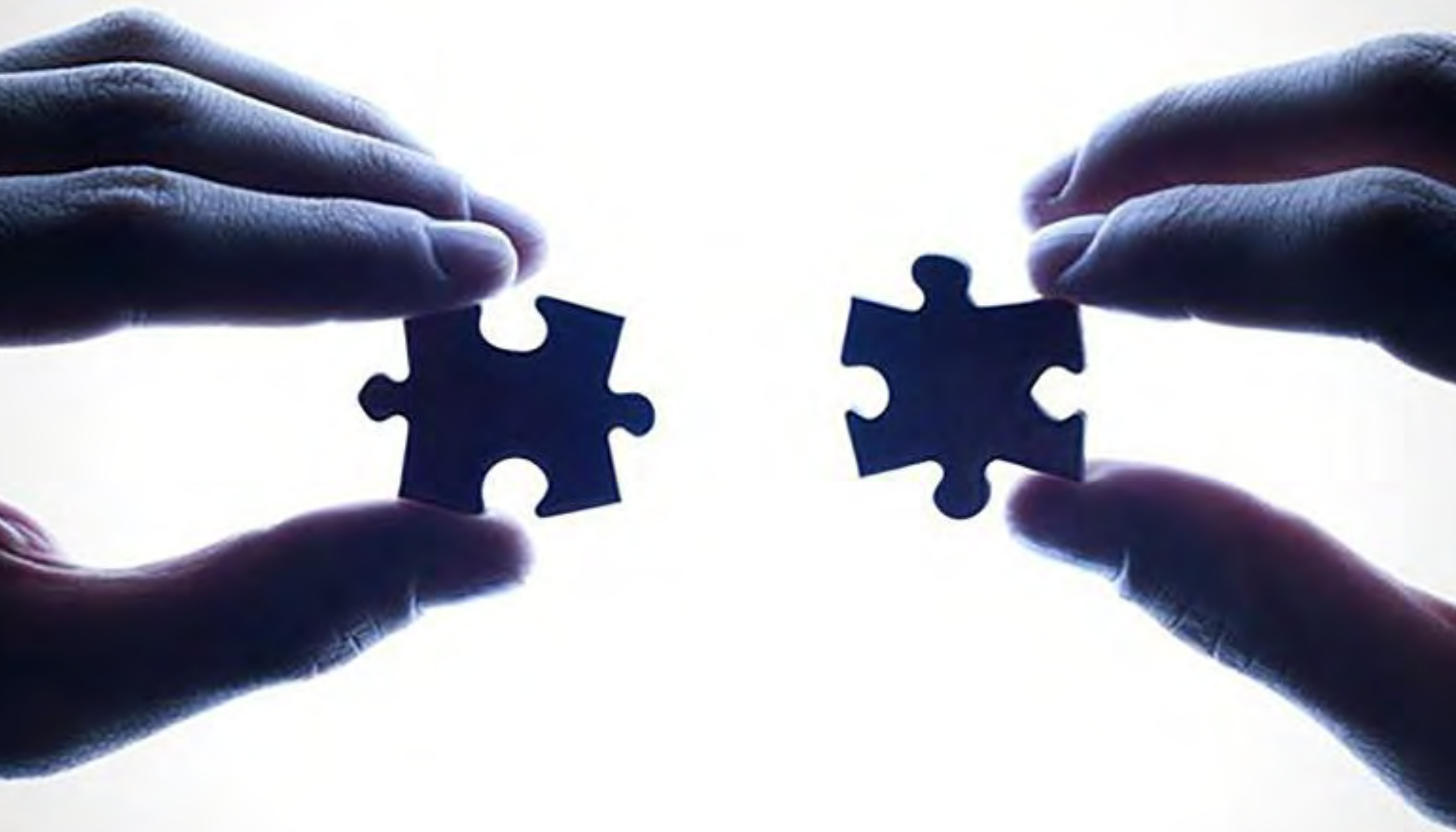
*How ?*

**Vision**

*Where?*



## # 5 Partnership



# Core Compensation Issue

Build a partnership relationship with employees by sharing financial value with those who help create it.



# Partnership Relationship

## Key to:

1. Avoiding manipulation
2. Eliminating entitlement
3. Stimulating innovation and stewardship
4. Creating alignment



# Reason # 6 Continuity & Fairness

Is there operational integrity between mission, vision, strategy, roles, expectations, results and rewards?



# Key Question About Pay

“If I participate in a rewards program that has no bearing on the outcomes and priorities I hear you emphasize—or is at odds with them—what level of confidence do I have in my role and in your leadership?”



# Value Sharing Instead of “Incentives”

Incentives imply a “carrot and stick” approach while value sharing is about reinforcing outcomes and forging a financial partnership.





# Force

This is the behavior that's expected and rewarded.

Do these things whether you like them or not (they're a necessary part of the job).

Our bonuses are reflective of our "market pay" analysis for your job classification

**Bad profits**

# Reinforce

These are the results that are valued and rewarded.

Assume stewardship for the outcomes we're striving for, determine the best ways to get them done. Here are our standards, patterns, expectations.

Our bonuses reflect the way we share value that you help create.

**Good profits**

# Performance Incentives (Value Sharing)



# Basic Construct

- All employees are told they will share in the creation of company value
- Every employee has a defined incentive opportunity aligned to forecasted company results
  - Base – Minimum performance
  - Target - Forecast
  - Superior - Overachievement

	Base Financial Performance	Target Financial Performance	Superior Financial Performance
<b>Company Profit</b>	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 55,000,000
<b>% of Target</b>	90%	100%	110%
<b>% of EE Salary</b>	5.0%	10.0%	15.0%
<b>\$ Opportunity</b>	\$ 3,750	\$ 7,500	\$ 11,250

# Incentive Calculation

- Actual incentive can be tied to actual company performance.
- If company results are halfway between Base and Target. Incentives will be calculated halfway between Base and Target
- Actual Results = \$47,500,000
- Calculated Incentive = \$5,625

	Base Financial Performance	Target Financial Performance
Company Profit	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 50,000,000
% of Target	90%	100%
% of EE Salary	5.0%	10.0%
\$ Opportunity	\$ 3,750	\$ 7,500



# Plan Weighting/Allocation

- Pool allocation to plan participants contingent on:
  - **Company Performance** – Employees should have all or a majority portion of their bonus based on company performance
  - **Org Unit Performance** – A portion of an employee's bonus can be allocated based on department, location, division, or business unit



# Plan Weighting/Allocation

- Make overall company performance the primary objective (e.g. ~60 - 100%)
- Organizational unit success should be secondary objective (e.g. ~40 - 0%)
- Weight the overall incentive:

	Base Financial Performance	Target Financial Performance	Superior Financial Performance
% of EE Salary	5.0%	10.0%	15.0%
\$ Opportunity	\$ 3,750	\$ 7,500	\$ 11,250
% Company - 75%	\$ 2,812.50	\$ 5,625.00	\$ 8,437.50
% Department - 25%	\$ 937.50	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 2,812.50

# Individual Performance



- Trend is to de-emphasize personal performance
- Performance Management
  - Managers more likely to be honest about performance if incentives are not directly correlated to performance rating
  - If performance is deemed “unacceptable” discretion can be exercised to eliminate incentive payment

# Growth Incentives (Value Sharing)





# Select the Right Plan Type

**Restricted Stock**

**Phantom Stock**

**Profit Pool**

**Performance Shares**

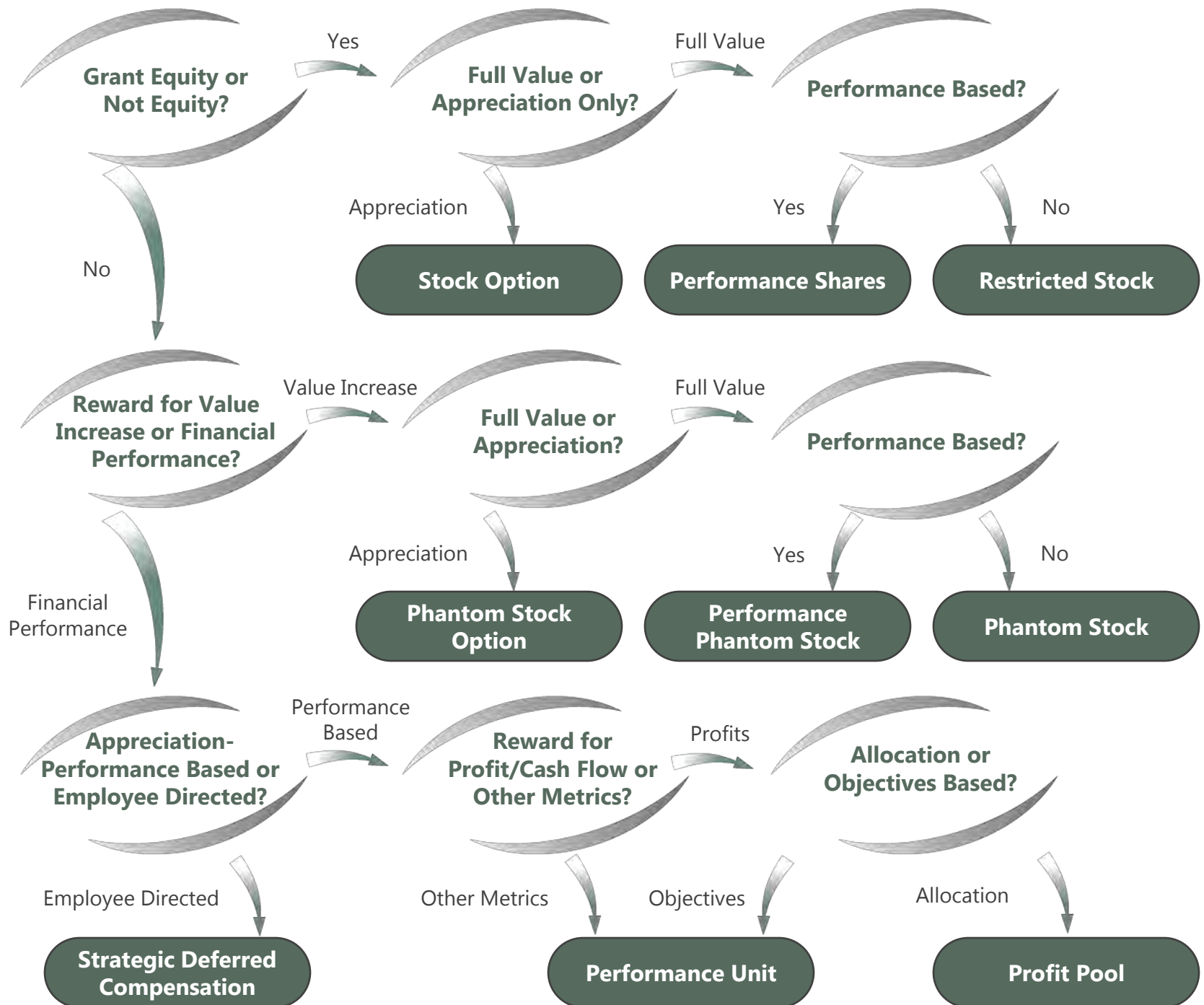
**Performance  
Phantom Stock**

**Performance Unit**

**Stock Option**

**Phantom Stock  
Option**

**Strategic Deferred  
Compensation**



# Rules of Thumb

## ■ Senior Executives

- Short-term--50%
- Long-term--50%

## ■ Management

- Short-term--60%
- Long-term--40%

## ■ Rank and File Employees

- Short-term--75-100%
- Long-term--0-25%





# What High Performers Want

- There is a philosophy that guides pay decisions and I relate to it.
- There is a mechanism for sharing value with those who help produce it.
- I have some control over how much I can earn if I produce.
- I feel a sense of partnership with ownership.





# Long-Term Value-Sharing & Catalysts

- Single most important component in attracting and retaining “catalysts”
- Should be used in every size organization
- Creates “wealth multiplier” mindset
- Ties employees to vision and growth plan of the company
- Most under-utilized plan in most private companies



# 3. Unattainable or Complicated Metrics



# Metrics Focus




## 8 Problems

1. Impossible to link every metric to true value creation.
2. Multiple KPIs create confusion and sap motivation.
3. A focus on behavior incentives can lead to the opposite behavior.
4. Difficult to find metrics for every position.
5. Results may be manipulated or loopholes exploited.
6. Impossible to equalize metrics across individuals and departments.
7. Unintended and unanticipated negative consequences.
8. Pursuit of “perfect” metrics is a time waster.



# Results, not Methods

A photograph of two women sitting at a desk in an office. The woman on the left, wearing a dark blue top, is gesturing with her hands while speaking. The woman on the right, wearing a light-colored blazer, is listening attentively with her hands clasped. A laptop, a desk lamp, and a pen holder are on the desk. The background is a bright window with a view of greenery.

"You cannot hold people responsible for results if you supervise their methods."  
(Stephen R. Covey)



# The Right Premise

Reward employees for achieving the shareholders' most important financial results and treat them as growth partners.



# Shareholder's Most Important Result

Sustainable and growing  
profitability



# Central Metric (for incentive plan funding)

Focus on One of These:

- Profit
- Increase in Profits (% or \$)
- (Sometimes: Revenue Growth)





# Not Just Profit but Productivity Profit

Productivity profit is that surplus that can be attributable to the productivity of your people, not just your capital at work.





# #4: Ineffective Communication

- Defensive posture
- No foundation philosophy
- No context for pay programs



# Communicate a Sense of Partnership



# Market a Future that's Relevant



- Here's our future.
- Here's how we're going to get there.
- Here's the role we picture for you.
- Here's how we encourage our people to grow and contribute.
- Here's our philosophy about pay and rewards.
- Here are our specific pay programs.
- Here's how our pay programs will work for you if we achieve our plan.

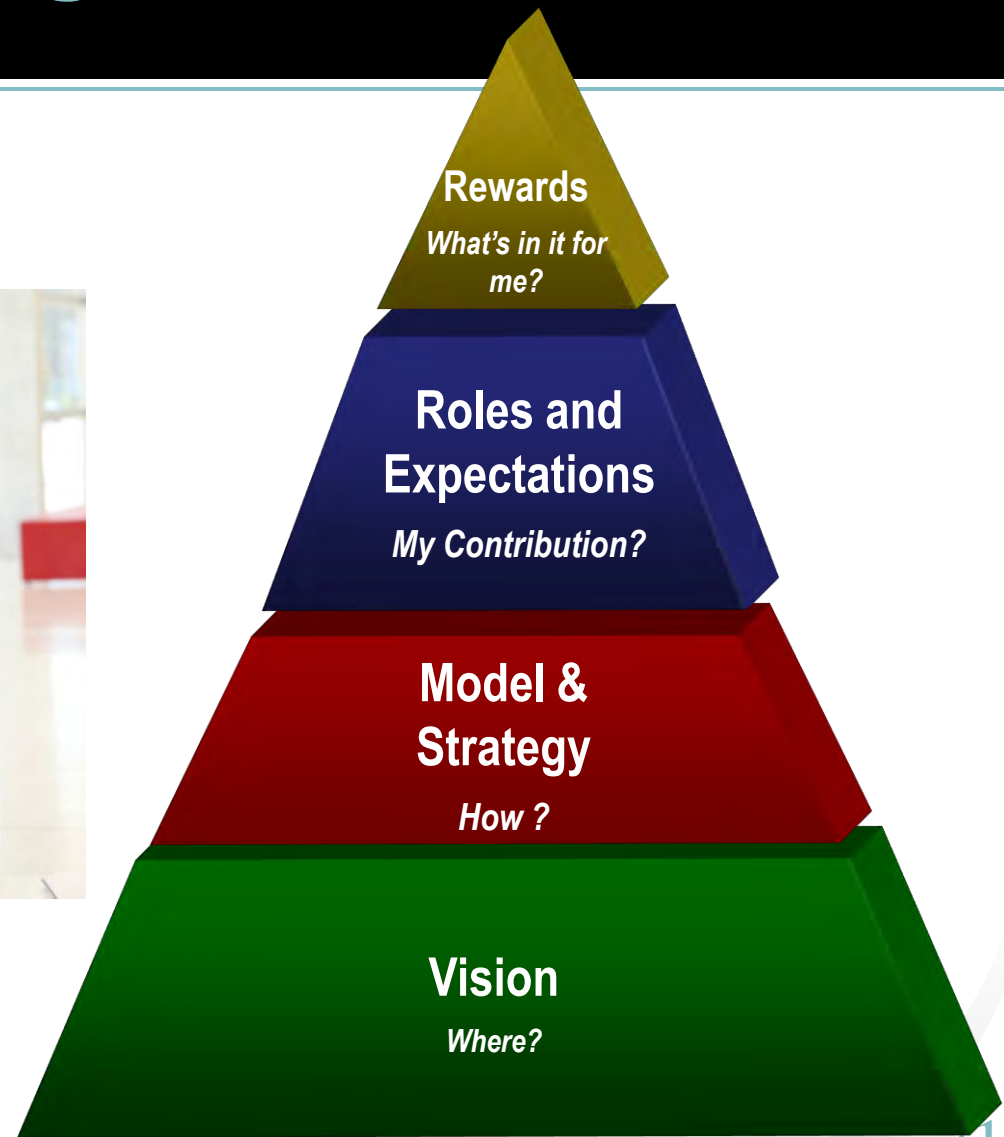
# Employee Value Statement



Year	1	2	3	4	5
Targeted Results	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Salary	\$160,000	\$166,400	\$173,056	\$179,878	\$187,177
STVS	\$64,000	\$66,560	\$69,222	\$71,991	74,871
LTVS (EOY)	--	\$74,000	\$186,000	\$311,000	\$448,000
401(k) @7%	\$17,120	\$36,123	\$57,169	\$80,428	\$106,086
Total Cash	\$224,000	\$232,960	\$242,278	\$251,970	\$262,048
Wealth Accrual	\$17,120	\$110,123	\$243,169	\$391,428	\$554,086
Total Value	\$241,120	\$567,083	\$942,407	\$1,342,636	\$1,767,343



# Focus on Line of Sight



# 4 Engagement Killers

1. An Incomplete or Unbalanced Compensation “Portfolio”
2. Value-Sharing that Doesn’t Result in a Meaningful Payout
3. Performance Metrics that are Unattainable or Too Complicated
4. Ineffective Rewards Communication and Reinforcement



# Engagement (Pay) Solutions

1. An Incomplete or Unbalanced Compensation “Portfolio”
  - Create an Aligned Pay Strategy
2. Value-Sharing that Doesn’t Result in a Meaningful Payout
  - Consider the Employee View
  - Share Value instead of Paying Incentives
3. Performance Metrics that are Unattainable or Too Complicated
  - Focus on Profit—Especially Productivity Profit
4. Ineffective Rewards Communication and Reinforcement
  - Build a Sense of Partnership
  - Market a Future that’s Relevant
  - Create Line of Sight





# Turn This...





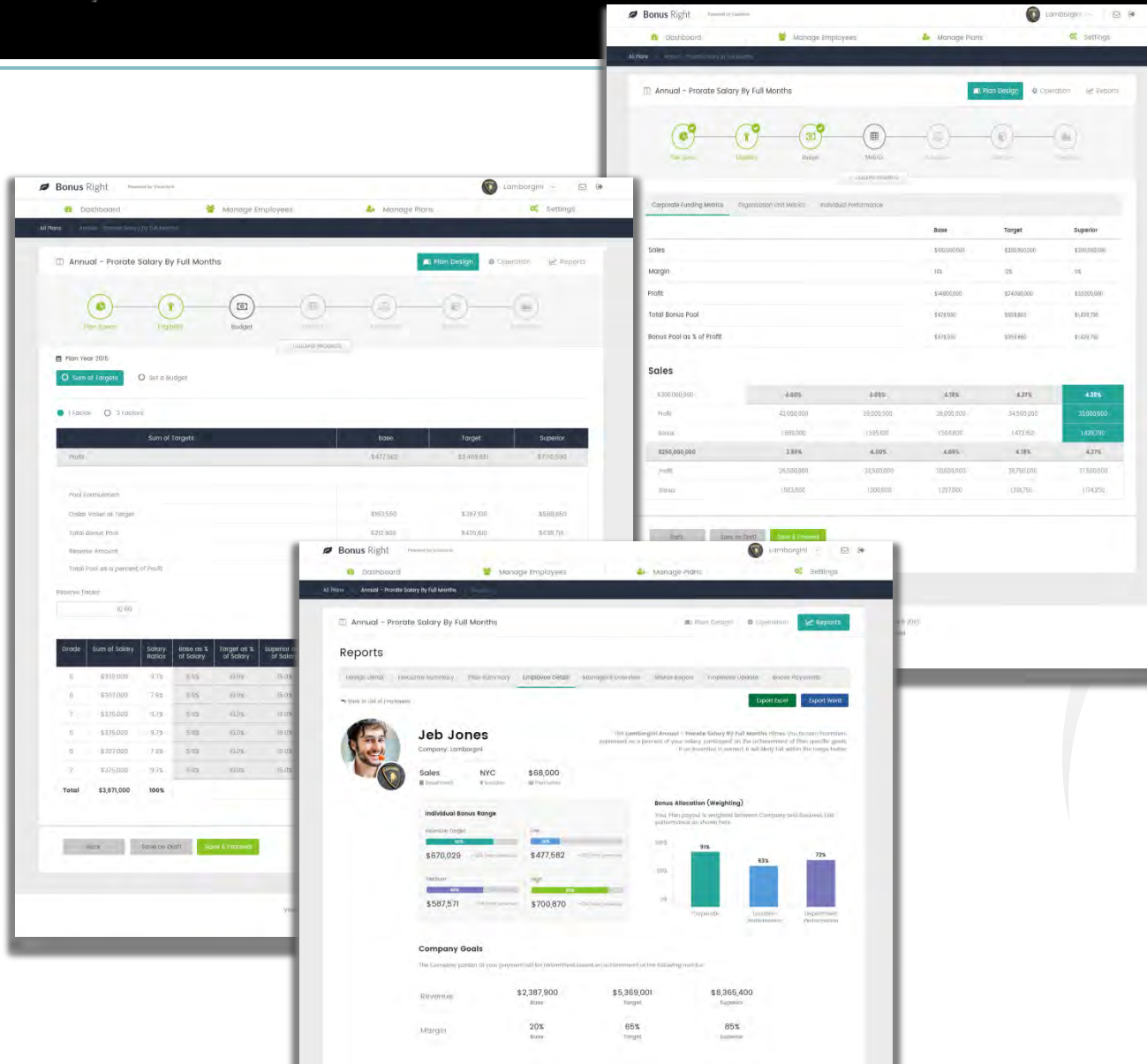
# Into This



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# Upcoming VisionLink Webinars:

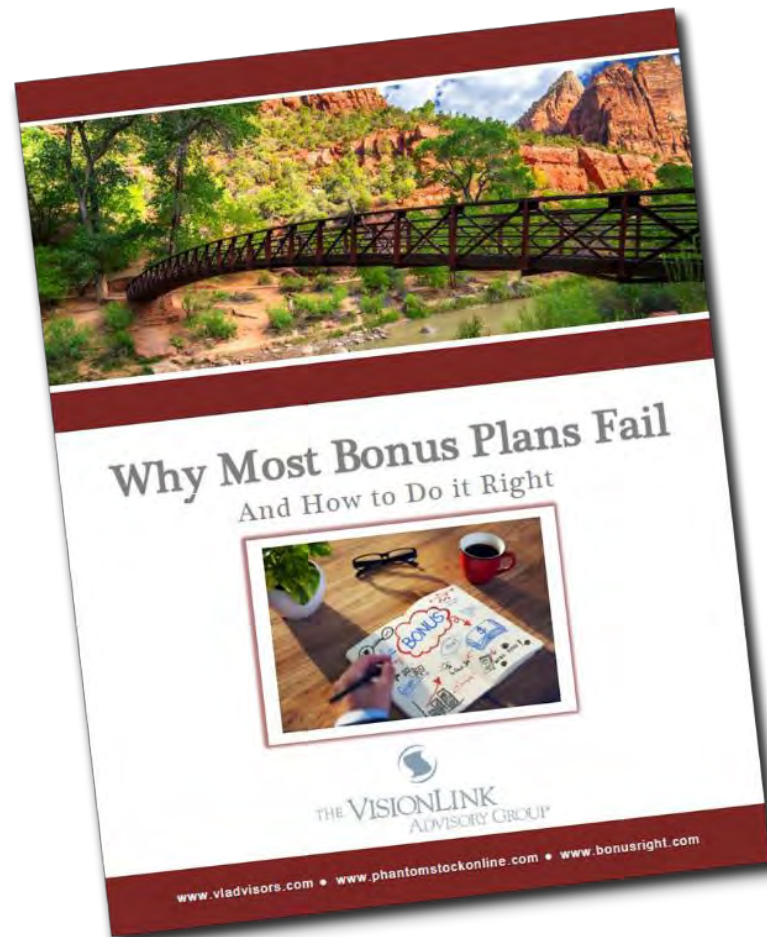
5 Pay Trends You Should Follow in 2018	January 24 <sup>th</sup>
How to Balance Salaries and Incentives	February 28 <sup>th</sup>
3 Ways to Hit a Home Run with Millennial Pay	March 28 <sup>th</sup>
New Rules for Incentive Planning – What Works & What Doesn't	April 25 <sup>th</sup>
4 Reasons Private Companies Love Phantom Stock	May 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Who CEOs Should Hire and How to Pay Them	June 27 <sup>th</sup>

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**Is Your Pay Strategy Conventional or Transformational?**

Conventional wisdom is a dangerous thing, particularly when it is used as a substitute for strategic thinking. In their book *Freakonomics*, authors Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner make the point this way: "It was John Kenneth Galbraith, the hyper literate economic sage who coined the phrase 'conventional wisdom.' He did not consider it a compliment. We associate truth with convenience," he wrote, with what most closely accords with self-interest and personal well-being or promises best to avoid awkward effort or unwelcome dislocation of life. We also find highly acceptable what contributes most to self-esteem." Economic and social behavior, Galbraith continued, "are complex and to comprehend their character is mentally tiring. Therefore we adhere, as though to a raft, to those ideas which represent our understanding."

**How Do You Make Incentive Plans "Self-Financing?"**

CEOs and business owners are always concerned about costs—because costs diminish profits. As a result, if you lead a company, one of the first questions you likely ask when an incentive plan is proposed is this: "What is it going to cost?" The question is understandable and appropriate; however, it starts a discussion about the merits of incentive plans on a wrong premise. In theory, an incentive plan shouldn't "cost" the company anything. Let me explain.

**Attracting and Retaining Top Talent: What the Best Expect**

Last week I attended the SaaS Conference in San Francisco. If you are not familiar, this event attracts about 10,000 attendees from the technology world to hear and learn from some of the industry's most successful SaaS company founders and leaders. These are individuals who have had to attract and develop talent in a highly competitive environment—and have succeeded in doing so on their way to building valuable companies. However, the principles and practices they apply in attracting and retaining top talent are not unique to their industry. They are what every successful organization does. So, let's learn from them, shall we?



**Q&A**





THE VISIONLINK  
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Today's Presenter:

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**Thank You!**

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