

JAMES HSI-JEN YEH, Ph.D., MBA

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Academic leader, engineer, researcher, and industry executive with more than 30 years of experience spanning higher education leadership, STEM education, applied research, technology innovation, and academic program development. Currently Dean of the College of Business and Technology at Seattle Pacific University, leading a multidisciplinary academic organization encompassing engineering, computing, mathematics, physics, applied sciences, business, data analytics, and design. Previously Associate Dean of Engineering at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Chair of Engineering and Computer Science at Azusa Pacific University.

Experienced in building interdisciplinary STEM programs, advancing experiential and career-connected learning, developing academic and research infrastructure, securing external funding, strengthening industry and community partnerships, supporting student success, and leading faculty and programs through institutional change. Industry experience includes more than 20 years in telecommunications, semiconductor, biometric, wireless, and advanced technology sectors. Inventor on seven U.S. patents.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DEAN

College of Business and Technology, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, WA
September 2025 – Present

Lead a multidisciplinary college encompassing eight departments, 34 full-time faculty, professional staff, and a \$5.7M operating budget spanning engineering, computing, data science, mathematics, physics, design, and business.

Selected accomplishments:

- Lead the development of new graduate programs in Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence in Business for strategic growth
- Created and expanded accelerated 4+1 BS+MS pathways connecting computer science, data science, business, and accounting to data analytics graduate education
- Chair the University Artificial Intelligence and Ethics Working Group for university-wide work in AI policy, curriculum integration, faculty development, and responsible AI
- Oversee the Center for Applied Learning and the Center for Faithful Business, strengthening experiential education, applied projects, and external partners
- Developed a proposal for donor-supported modernization of engineering building, including robotics, industrial control, HVAC, and senior design laboratories
- Oversee faculty scholarship and academic quality initiatives supporting ABET and AACSB accreditation, assessment, and research productivity

- Build partnerships with corporations, alumni, donors, and community organizations
- Managed college resources and budget priorities during significant institutional funding reductions, balancing academic quality, faculty needs, and strategic investment
- Oversee academic programs spanning technical, analytical, applied, and design disciplines, including Apparel Design.

ASSOCIATE DEAN

School of Engineering, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Buzzards Bay, MA
July 2024 – October 2025

Provided academic and administrative leadership for three engineering departments, including curriculum, faculty development, laboratories, experiential learning, research, and external engagement.

Selected accomplishments:

- Secured a \$310,000 Massachusetts Clean Energy Center grant supporting expansion of programmable logic controller, wind turbine, and advanced refrigeration laboratories
- Planned and staffed engineering curriculum for the new \$330 million training ship
- Participated in Massachusetts State University collective bargaining agreements
- Served on the management faculty workgroup on diversity in contract negotiations
- Initiated development of an Environmental Engineering degree program addressing environmental and sustainability challenges
- Collaborated with the Marine Biology program on interdisciplinary projects connecting engineering with marine and environmental applications
- Initiated development of an Engineering Technology degree program emphasizing applied, hands-on engineering education
- Restarted an international engineering experiential learning program in Costa Rica focused on renewable energy systems and power-generation infrastructure
- Led development of a \$400,000 proposal to the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
- Championed faculty-led curriculum innovation and laboratory enhancement
- Served as a bridge between engineering faculty and administration during significant institutional change, emphasizing communication and shared purpose

CHAIR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Department of Engineering and Computer Science, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA
August 2016 – July 2024

Provided academic and administrative leadership for engineering and computer science programs, with responsibility for strategic planning, curriculum, faculty development, accreditation, research, and student success.

Selected accomplishments:

- Achieved ABET accreditation for engineering programs

- Principal Investigator for a \$650,000 NSF S-STEM grant supporting first-generation STEM students and student success
- Principal Investigator for a \$200,000 W. M. Keck Foundation grant for IoT research
- Served as a National Science Foundation (NSF) proposal review panelist
- Established Mechanical and Electrical Engineering concentrations
- Created 4+1 pathways for computer science to data science and engineering to biotechnology
- Strengthened industry advisory boards and external partnerships
- Developed and taught courses involving AI, IoT, ethics, and engineering applications

EMBEDDED SOFTWARE CONSULTANT

Microwave Products and Technology (MPT), Murrieta, CA
May 2018 – August 2020

Provided engineering consulting for advanced defense and wireless systems

- Developed embedded software for a \$2M missile defense radar antenna program
- Contributed to synthetic aperture radar systems and drone vibration mitigation technologies

LECTURER

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA
August 2015 – August 2016

- Taught undergraduate engineering and engineering technology courses
- Mentored student design teams in applied engineering projects
- Supported ABET-aligned curriculum delivery and assessment

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Synaptics, Inc. (formerly Validity Sensors), San Jose, CA
April 2013 – July 2014

Led business development and commercialization programs for biometric authentication technologies.

- Managed R&D programs for fingerprint authentication in smartphones and PCs
- Coordinated engineering, manufacturing, marketing, and customer engagement teams
- Led successful programs with Samsung, HTC, Dell, Lenovo, Intel, and Qualcomm
- Strengthened strategic industry partnerships across the global semiconductor ecosystem
- Managed full product lifecycle from concept through production

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND TAIWAN COUNTRY MANAGER

Apple Inc. (formerly AuthenTec, Inc.), Melbourne, FL
January 2005 – November 2012

Led marketing, international business, technology commercialization, and strategic engineering partnerships in semiconductor and mobile systems.

- Built a profitable semiconductor module business serving global mobile manufacturers
- Established strategic partnerships with Samsung, Microsoft, Sony Ericsson, LG, HTC, Fujitsu, and others
- Led multidisciplinary teams and international business activities
- Supported transition of engineering innovations into commercial products
- Directed materials R&D and semiconductor packaging initiatives
- Contributed to intellectual property development and technology commercialization

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

Independent Consultant, Taipei, Taiwan

March 2003 – September 2004

- Advised financial institutions on evaluation of telecommunications investments
- Supported deployment of broadband networking infrastructure projects
- Consulted on cybersecurity, carrier networking, and broadband systems

SENIOR INVESTMENT MANAGER

WK Consulting, Santa Clara, CA / Taipei, Taiwan

June 2002 – March 2003

- Evaluated early-stage technology companies for investment
- Conducted technical and financial due diligence
- Supported investment strategy in networking and telecommunications sectors

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATE MARKETING DIRECTOR

Tecom Company Ltd., Taipei, Taiwan

August 1998 – May 2002

- Led Carrier Networking Business Unit and business development activities
- Secured and deployed a \$33M DSL telecommunications network
- Developed broadband products including ADSL, VoIP, and wireless systems
- Established global telecom carrier partnerships

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR / MEMBER OF TECHNICAL STAFF

AT&T Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ

June 1994 – July 1998

Conducted advanced research in RF systems, optical communications, and wireless networking.

Selected accomplishments include:

- Invented dual-band RF low-noise amplifier technology (U.S. Patent)
- Developed dynamic bandwidth allocation and QoS systems (U.S. Patent)
- Conducted research in RF circuits, optical systems, and wireless communications

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

University of California, Berkeley – Electronics Research Laboratory
August 1989 – June 1994

Conducted doctoral research in MEMS, semiconductor devices, and optoelectronics.

- Invented fluidic self-assembly for heterogeneous semiconductor integration
- Developed multiple patented microfabrication technologies
- Published research in optoelectronics and MEMS integration

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – University of California, Berkeley

M.S., Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – University of California, Berkeley

M.B.A., Finance and Marketing – Columbia University

B.S., Electrical Engineering – California Institute of Technology

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

University Leadership:

- ABET Accreditation Leadership
- AACSB Accreditation Leadership
- Chair, University AI Working Group, Seattle Pacific University
- Member, Academic Leadership Council, Seattle Pacific University
- Member, Massachusetts State University Labor/Management Committee on Equity

Community Leadership:

- Vice Chair, Evangelical Formosan Church Council Board
- Chair, Walnut Valley Unified School District Citizens Bond Oversight Committee
- Convener, East Valley Children's Choir
- Board Member, K-12 Foothill Consortium Engineering Advisory Board

HONORS AND AWARDS

- IEEE Green Energy and Smart Systems Conference – Best Paper Award
- Caltech FLoW Business Competition – Promising Idea Award
- Eta Kappa Nu Engineering Honor Society
- Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society

UNITED STATES PATENTS

5,545,291 – Method for Fabricating Self-Assembling Microstructures

5,625,617 – Near-Field Optical Apparatus with a Laser Having Non-Uniform Emission Face

5,783,856 – Method for Fabricating Self-Assembling Microstructures

5,824,186 – Method and Apparatus for Fabricating Self-Assembling Microstructures

5,904,545 – Apparatus for Fabricating Self-Assembling Microstructures

5,955,814 – Single-Stage Dual-Band LNA for use in a Wireless Comm System Receiver

6,690,929 – Dynamic quality-of-service and pricing in communication system

PUBLICATIONS

IoT-based biomedical sensing systems, Renewable energy systems for remote microgrids, Wireless and RF communication systems, Semiconductor and MEMS device integration, Engineering education and IoT-enabled learning systems

Selected publications:

- Sensors (2024) – IoT sensor-integrated chair systems
- BioMedInformatics (2023) – IoT continuous monitoring systems
- IEEE GreenTech (2020) – Load control systems for pico-hydro power
- IEEE Photonics Technology Letters (1994) – GaAs integration on silicon
- Applied Physics Letters (1994) – VCSEL integration on silicon

TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS EXPERTISE

Academic Leadership • Strategic Planning • Budgeting • Business Development • Marketing • Technology Commercialization • Strategic Partnerships • Venture and Investment Analysis • Fundraising and Grants • AACSB • ABET • Collective Bargaining • Shared Governance • Engineering Management • Artificial Intelligence • Cybersecurity • Data Analytics • Engineering Research

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent), Mandarin Chinese (Fluent), Taiwanese (Fluent)
Spanish (Conversational), Japanese (Conversational)
French (Beginning), Italian (Beginning), Korean (Beginning)