Office of Innovation and Incubation

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Geoffrey E. Cherry- Subject Matter Expert, Operations

Before founding Orbital, an organization specializing in the support and turnaround of Charter Management Organizations (CMO's), Geoffrey Cherry held various finance and operations rolls in both the for and non-profit sectors. As a turnaround executive, Mr. Cherry was brought in by a \$30M Chicago CMO as their Chief Operating Officer providing the leadership, management and vision necessary to ensure the organization had the proper operational controls, administrative and reporting procedures, and people systems in place to effectively grow while also ensuring its long term financial strength. Prior to this, Mr. Cherry was the CFO/COO of Meridian Sports Clubs of California, a \$35M health club organization with operations in northern and southern California as well as Hawaii. Prior to Meridian, Mr. Cherry was employed by the YMCA of Metro Chicago, a \$100M health and wellness organization. Mr. Cherry originally brought on board to develop the organization's strategic plan, subsequently focused on turning around the organization's largest health and human service operations and finally, was the organization's Treasurer and VP of Finance. As the VP of Finance, Mr. Cherry was the principal architect of the \$100M budget as well as managing: banking relationships, cash flow, purchasing, bond debt and financial reporting/analysis.

Prior to his Y experience, Mr. Cherry spent a number of years in the Aerospace industry, as a design and flight test engineering. During his time as an engineer, Mr. Cherry was awarded multiple patents from the US Patent Office.

An Illinois native, Mr. Cherry holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Illinois and a MBA (Finance) from Washington University in St. Louis.