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Rod Robinson, Founder & Chief Connector

As the founder and managing partner of consulting firm **Accel Advisors**, Rod has worked with Fortune 1000 companies to improve or create strategic sourcing and supplier diversity programs. He previously served as Chief Procurement Officer for **Cincinnati Bell**, where he drove more than \$14 million in annual purchasing cost reductions while increasing spending with minority business enterprises by 42%.

Before joining Cincinnati Bell, Rod was a management consultant with AT Kearney, Accenture, and Diamond Cluster International where he was a supply chain practice leader and sourcing subject matter expert. During his consulting career, Rod was involved in strategic sourcing and operations improvement initiatives that resulted in more than \$1 billion in savings delivered to his Fortune 500 clients.

Rod earned his MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the West Virginia Institute of Technology. He earned his CPA credentials as an auditor with Deloitte & Touche.



Chris Downie, Co-founder

Chris is currently the founder and chief executive officer of **SparkPeople.com**, America's most popular fitness and dieting website.

He founded SparkPeople in 2001 after spending five years as a special projects manager with **eBay**. Previously, Chris co-founded an online auction site called Up4Sale that grew into the second largest person-to-person auction site in the world. It was acquired by eBay in 1998 for approximately \$100 million. He started his career with consumer product giant **Procter & Gamble**.

Chris earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Cincinnati.

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