

## **Overview**

I am a seasoned leadership consultant, coach and strategist who specializes in aligning human talent for greater business impact. I identify core issues and facilitate authentic dialogue to drive clarity and decision-making. I bring insight and rigor to any process, and am all about ownership and action.

With more than two decades of experience as both an external advisor and a former leader/CEO, I have literally been in my clients' shoes—fully responsible for business and team performance. I'm a passionate change agent who knows how to engage leaders in their own development and secure genuine commitment to drive new outcomes. My approach is direct, energetic and highly effective.

## **Representative Clients**

I've amassed broad experience in a variety of industries and sectors including retail, technology, manufacturing, financial and professional services, higher education and healthcare. Select clients include:

Target Corporation, US Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Baker Tilly, YWCA, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, University of Minnesota Physicians, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, University of Minnesota, Thrivent Financial, Carlson Companies/Radisson Hotel Group, Entrust Datacard, Portico Benefits Services, Evereve, The Ordway, RedBrick Health, Boys & Girls Club.

## **Professional Background**

Founder & CEO, Sherry Essen | The Springboard Group, LLC, 2003-present  
Senior Consultant, Vander Zanden Inc., 2000-2003. Leadership coaching and executive communication for Accenture, Intel, HealthPartners, Target.  
President, College of Visual Arts, St Paul, MN. Tripled enrollment and revenue during tenure. Led rigorous 6-year process of securing regional accreditation.

## **Education + Service**

M.A., Higher Education Leadership, University of Minnesota, summa cum laude  
B.A. in literature and philosophy, University of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN  
Conversational Leadership certification, Invitas, Seattle, WA  
LifeForward, Hudson Institute  
Speech coach, YWCA Circle of Women, 2003 to 2017  
Reimagining Lives facilitator, AARP  
Founder, Momspring, leadership program for women transitioning back to work after time off  
Worship leader, Unity Unitarian Church, St. Paul, MN

References and recommendations available on request.