

Mentor Profile

Mentor Name **KEN JAMES**

Pen Portrait

Married with two children and three grandchildren, born in Gloucestershire but have lived in the Midlands for 25 years. Following a science degree at Cambridge I had a successful business career which involved living in many parts of the UK and extensive travel. Retired from a CEO role in 2008 but maintained a range of business relationships by working part time. Played rugby and hockey, now my interests include golf, petanque and cycling.

What is your greatest achievement so far?

Developing a Chartered Institute for which I was awarded the OBE

Name an organisation (other than your own) that you see as the perfect one and why

TESCO—It has consistently been successful in a competitive market and served customers well in many countries with a wide range of quality, well priced products

Name a business leader that you admire and why

ALLAN LEIGHTON he has a wide range of business skills is a very inspirational leader and has been successful in a wide range of roles, organizations and sectors

Why are you passionate about mentoring?

Because it can help individuals become more confident, organize their thought processes and identify innovative solutions to their business challenges.

Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?

My form teacher/mentor in the 6th form at grammar school who inspired me to aim high, be confident and be considerate of others

Professional Qualifications:

MA Cantab

Experience

Operated at CEO Board level for over 35 years in a wide range of organizations and sectors. Good understanding of SME market based upon my role as Director private companies at the IOD. For the last 3 years have developed a portfolio career as an academic (senior visiting lecturer at Southampton Business School) , NED and mentor/coach.

Skills and Expertise:

- Wide range of business skills –initial career in marketing, then export and distribution and then 25 years in general management/ CEO roles in private and public sectors.
- Good interpersonal skills
- Good mentoring/coaching skills