

Universal Technical Institute Further Strengthens Executive Leadership Team

Bart Fesperman named Senior Vice President-Chief Commercial Officer; Sonia Mason joins as Senior Vice President-Chief Human Resources Officer

PHOENIX, Aug. 4, 2020 /PRNewswire/ -- [Universal Technical Institute, Inc.](#) (NYSE: UTI), today announced two additions to its leadership team in support of the company's work to accelerate its growth initiatives, while continuing to deliver strong student outcomes and service to industry customers.

Bart Fesperman has joined the company in the newly created role senior vice president-chief commercial officer (CCO), while Sonia Mason has been named senior vice president-chief human resources officer. Both report to Jerome Grant, UTI's CEO.

"These exceptional additions to our team reflect our focus on building a body of strong, dynamic leaders who can take this organization to the future and help us deliver on UTI's significant potential," Grant said. "In the past year, we have bolstered our executive team with new leaders heading up corporate strategy, IT, finance and legal. Bart and Sonia complement and help round out this powerful group."

In his new role, Fesperman is accountable for UTI's marketing and student recruitment functions, and leads the company's integrated approach to student engagement, with a focus on optimizing interactions with students from lead generation through graduation.

"Bart is a strategic, data-driven leader with a long track record of delivering ROI and exceptional service to customers, while also generating substantial long-term growth," Grant said. "He is known for developing and guiding successful teams and building strong and enduring partnerships. As we continue to transform our business and deliver enduring opportunities for our students – now and post pandemic – Bart will play a vital role."

Fesperman brings to the role more than 20 years of experience in marketing and sales leadership. Most recently, he served as chief commercial officer for I.C.E. Enterprises, Inc., a leader in sales and service functions for brands such as American Express, USAA, and Marriott Vacations. There, he was responsible for the leading and executing key growth strategies, as well as the company's marketing and sales programs. Prior to that, he was executive vice president of sales & marketing for DirectBuy, Inc. Fesperman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Missouri.

As senior vice president-chief human resources officer, Mason will lead UTI's human resource function supporting all aspects of the business as the company continues to execute on its growth and diversification strategy. She will be responsible for talent acquisition and management, succession planning, performance management, training and development, and compensation and benefits.

"Sonia brings to the table a wealth and breadth of experience and is a sharp strategist and exceptional leader," Grant said. "She's a courageous and collaborative executive who is known for delivering results, building high-performing teams and creating an environment where people can thrive."

Mason has more than 20 years of experience in human resources leadership across multiple industries. For more than five years, she led human resources for Mesa Air Group (NASDAQ: MESA), a regional air carrier with more than 3,500 employees. There, Mason was responsible for a transformation initiative that delivered substantial improvement in the company's results. She has also held HR leadership roles with Celerion, a pharmaceutical research company, Special Devices, Inc., Safeway, Inc., and MCI WorldCom.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and is a certified Professional in Human Resources (SPHR), the senior-most certification for those who have demonstrated a strategic mastery of the HR body of knowledge.

About Universal Technical Institute, Inc.

With more than 220,000 graduates in its 55-year history, Universal Technical Institute, Inc. (NYSE: [UTI](#)) is the nation's leading provider of technical training for automotive, diesel, collision repair, motorcycle and marine technicians, and offers welding technology and computer numerical control (CNC) machining programs. The company has built partnerships with industry leaders, outfits its state-of-the-industry facilities with current technology, and delivers training that is aligned with employer needs. Through its network of 12 campuses nationwide, UTI offers post-secondary programs under the banner of several well-known brands, including Universal Technical Institute (UTI), Motorcycle Mechanics Institute and Marine Mechanics Institute (MMI) and NASCAR Technical Institute (NASCAR Tech). The company is headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona.

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