



## Announcement

### Khagram to step down as director general and dean at end of academic year

Sanjeev Khagram, director general and dean of Thunderbird since 2018, has announced that he will be stepping down from that position at the end of the 2023–24 academic year. Khagram has decided to return to a faculty position and has accepted a role as the carbon removal lead for the United Nations Climate Champions. His leadership was pivotal in many areas as Thunderbird has recaptured the momentum that made it one of the premier global leadership and management schools in the world.

Surrounded by a strong team that Khagram built during his tenure, including a new vice dean and deputy dean of executive education, Thunderbird has also stabilized and grown its alumni relationships through the creation of the Thunderbird Global Alumni Network.

“On behalf of our alumni around the world, we are grateful for Dean Khagram’s extraordinary vision as he helped transform Thunderbird to be what it is today – an exemplary leader in global management education. Thunderbird has truly never been better positioned for the future, thanks to his service. The impact that he has made on this institution will be felt for years to come. We stand stronger than ever as T-birds, united as we usher in the next chapter of our history,” said

Marius Haas '91, Jimmy Masrin '87, and Karen Simon '83, co-chairs of the Thunderbird Global Alumni Network Advisory Council. "As alumni, we look forward to working with university leadership as they commence the global search for Thunderbird's next leader."

Under Khagram's leadership, Thunderbird was globally recognized as No. 1 in international trade, according to the 2023 QS International Trade Rankings, ahead of Cambridge, Stanford and Harvard, as well as regained its No. 1 ranking by Times Higher Education/Wall Street Journal for its Master of Global Management degree.

"I have been with Thunderbird for over 30 years and experienced several recreations of the organization. When we found ourselves on the brink of closing our doors, we knew we needed to find someone who could lead a transformation and Sanjeev came in and re-invented Thunderbird," said Mary Teagarden, deputy dean of Knowledge Enterprise and professor of global strategy at Thunderbird. "Thunderbird now has a bright future ahead of it that it did not have when he came in. I am beholden to Sanjeev for everything he has done for Thunderbird."

Khagram shepherded the school's transition to ASU's Downtown Phoenix campus from its 70-year-plus historic home on a former military airfield in Glendale. Khagram led the school through that nostalgically sensitive departure and was instrumental in the design of the new Thunderbird Global Headquarters in downtown Phoenix, as well as the fundraising for it and many of its high-tech features.

"Leading an academic institution is hard at the best of times, but it is uniquely complex under challenging conditions. Dean Khagram took the helm of Thunderbird during such challenges. His dedication, creativity, resilience, and hard work have resulted in the new Thunderbird: Thriving, confident, global, and impactful. Today's Thunderbird enjoys the reputation and the standing that it deserves, its historical mandate," said Mansour Javidan, Garvin Distinguished Professor and executive director of the Najafi Global Mindset Institute at Thunderbird. "On a personal note, I have the highest respect for him and as a scholar in leadership, I have learned much from him. My best wishes for the next phase of his career."

Khagram will continue to serve as Thunderbird's dean and director general until the global search for his successor has been finalized.

[Read more](#)

## Thunderbird News



Charla Griffy-Brown



Lawrence Abeln

### Thunderbird welcomes two new executive leaders this fall

On the heels of recent accolades, including a No. 1 ranking in international trade and recognition as No. 20 worldwide for Executive Education custom programs, Thunderbird adds Charla Griffy-Brown and Lawrence Abeln to our leadership team this fall.

An experienced higher education leader with over 25 years in academia, Charla Griffy-Brown joins Thunderbird as the vice dean and professor of global digital transformation.

Further strengthening Thunderbird's commitment to providing world-class executive education, Lawrence Abeln has also joined as the deputy dean of Executive Education and clinical professor.

"We are thrilled to have attracted the exceptional talent of Charla and Lawrence to Thunderbird," said Director General and Dean Dr. Sanjeev Khagram. "Their remarkable expertise and accomplishments align perfectly with our mission to deliver world-class global leadership and management education. On behalf of our faculty and staff, we eagerly anticipate their contributions to our academic and executive education programs, as well as the broader Thunderbird community."

[Read more](#)



## Thunderbird to collaborate on propelling semiconductor, technology sectors in Taiwan

Thunderbird has launched the Taiwan Going Global Initiative, in collaboration with the StanShih Foundation and Soochow University, to proactively address the demand for global management and professional talent in Taiwan's semiconductor and technology industries as they expand globally.

"With the launch of this initiative, we envision a transformative path forward for Taiwan's semiconductor and technology companies and Taiwan as a country," says Director General and Dean Dr. Sanjeev Khagram.

Thunderbird, ranked No. 1 in the world for international trade by QS Quacquarelli Symonds International Trade Rankings 2023, will provide executive educational programs on global leadership and management topics.

[Read more](#)





## Partner with the Najafi 100 Million Learners Global Initiative to change access to higher education globally

As one of the most ambitious initiatives in higher education, the Francis and Dionne Najafi 100 Million Learners Global Initiative aims to offer online, global education in 40 different languages, at absolutely no cost to the learner. **Now, we need your help.** A key ingredient for the success of the Global Initiative is collaboration with partnerships at the global, regional, and national levels who can help us reach 100 million learners around the world.

[Email us today](#) to help spread the word about this program and to connect us to learners around the world and in all markets.

[Learn more](#)

**Alumni Spotlight**



## T-bird alumnus Luca Moldovan '22 paves the way for Arizona's global growth

Luca Moldovan, a recent T-bird graduate, is making remarkable strides in the world of international trade and diplomacy.

Originally from Bistrița, Romania, Moldovan now calls Phoenix his home and serves as a legislative research analyst for the Arizona House of Representatives House Committee on International Trade while concurrently serving as point person for international trade and affairs for Arizona House Speaker Ben Toma.

[Read more](#)

## Upcoming Events



## Save the date for Thunderfest

This October, Thunderbird School of Global Management is thrilled to launch **Thunderfest**, an exciting series of events that celebrates the Thunderbird Mystique, fosters global connections, and inspires international topics and conversations.

We are inviting chapters around the world to participate by hosting a Thunderfest event any day in October. It will be a great opportunity to get additional T-birds excited and involved in our chapters, and to connect with globally-minded individuals and globally-focused organizations interested in networking and learning more about Thunderbird.

**Stay tuned for more information as we share more details about Thunderfest in the coming weeks!**



## Get ready for Latin America Regional Night

*Friday, September 22 | 7 to 10 p.m. | Thunderbird Global Headquarters*

The next Thunderbird Regional Night is quickly approaching! Join us to celebrate the Latin America region this September at the F. Francis and Dionne Najafi Thunderbird Global Headquarters!

A long-cherished Thunderbird tradition honoring cultural diversity, Regional Night celebrations feature incredible cuisine, culture, traditions, art, and performances of a particular part of the world. The event is free and open to all Thunderbird and ASU students, faculty and staff, families, and the greater community.

For any questions about the event, contact [Olga Teran](#), assistant director of student engagement.

Save the date

## Lifelong Learning





## Accelerating Leadership and Management of Global Creative Industries

### Accelerating Leadership and Management of Global Creative Industries executive certificate

*October 6–7 (Munich, Germany) or January 20-21, 2024 (Dubai, UAE)*

Global Creative Industries are driving dramatic and far-reaching changes in business, culture, and society. As a vital source of transformative ideas, these industries are also remaking themselves as new technologies emerge and talent is mixed with deep and enriching traditions of creativity and innovation.

Thunderbird's executive certificate in Accelerating Leadership and Management of Global Creative Industries features leading academic faculty and coaches, creative business leaders, and valuable learning materials customized for those transforming the creative industries and themselves.

**Save 50% with code: BDA15E**

[Learn more](#)



## **Blitzscaling:** Identifying and Managing New Hyper-Growth Initiatives

### **Blitzscaling: Identifying and Managing New Hyper-Growth Initiatives professional course**

*October 9–11 (Phoenix, AZ)*

Since the book was released in 2018, [Blitzscaling](#) has taken the world of startups and innovation by storm. In it, co-authors Reid Hoffman and Chris Yeh lay out the company-building and scaling strategies developed by Hoffman over the course of his legendary career in Silicon Valley.

In the three-day course taught by Thunderbird alumnus Jeff Abbott '92 and Blitzscaling co-author and serial entrepreneur Chris Yeh, participants will walk through the stages, techniques, and strategies that make blitzscaling work for both traditional or established companies and start-ups.

**Save 50% with code: BDA15E**

[Learn more](#)



## Space Leadership, Business and Policy Executive Certificate

### Space Leadership, Business, and Policy executive certificate

*November 5–9 (Washington, D.C.)*

Space is booming. Learn to lead in the new space economy. An increasing number of commercial startups and emerging entrepreneurs are building their business models around products or services for space markets. From NASA's budget expanding for the first time in decades to the establishment of the United States Space Force, the space sector is boldly making new commitments to the final frontier. This certificate features powerful guest speakers, valuable learning materials, and more.

Taught by globally recognized space leaders and distinguished academic faculty, participants will learn from experts and practitioners how to discover growth opportunities in the space industry.

**Save 50% with code: BDA15E**

[Learn more](#)

## Stay Connected

### Update your contact information

Be sure to update your preferred contact information on T-bird Connect to receive the latest communications from Thunderbird and your local alumni chapter. Need assistance with activating or accessing your T-bird Connect

account? Contact the Thunderbird Office of Alumni Engagement by [email](#) or phone at +1 602-496-7125.

[Update here](#)

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## Download the T-bird Connect app

Download the T-bird Connect app and access a suite of alumni resources right from your mobile device including the ability to find a fellow T-bird, access the roster of alumni chapters and affinity groups, and participate in signature programs including the Thunderbird Mentorship Program.

Activate your T-bird Connect account today by clicking [here](#).

You can also watch our [step-by-step guide](#) for more details on signing up.

[Download for iOS](#)

[Download for Android](#)

## Request your Thunderbird alumni email address

All alumni have access to a Thunderbird alumni email account. If you haven't received one or need assistance logging in, please contact the Thunderbird IT department via the button below. You can log into your Thunderbird alumni email account [here](#).

[Request an alumni email account](#)

## Estate planning resources: Available to Thunderbird alumni at no cost

Are you ready to plan your will or trust? We would like to give you a free Estate



Planning Guide. This information can help you successfully plan your estate and avoid an accidental disinheritance. Click below to request a copy today.

Request guide



Activate Your T-bird Connect Account

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