

BISMAN ARORA PAULINE STEVENSON

Executive Director Excel Career College

Pauline founded Excel in 1989 and since has developed extensive relationships with employers across key industries to customize Excel's programs to ensure students receive superb hands-on learning to prepare them for a range of careers. An exciting compliment to that history occurred in 2021, when

Q: Why do you get up every morning?

- **A:** We get up knowing there are many students from such diverse backgrounds- they are all seeking ways to improve their futures. To help them acquire that is what helps us get up every morning.
- $\ensuremath{\mathbf{Q}}\xspace$. What is the one skill you possess that helped shape your success?
- **A:** To be able to understand the needs of our students is a critical skill and the various stages to help them hold fast to their vision of their future, and then execute new perspectives that we learn through that.
- Q: What was the last achievement you celebrated (yours or another women's and how did you celebrate?
- $\mathbf{A}\textsc{:}$ Excel and Arora joining forces; we celebrated each other by going out to a favorite local restaurant.
- Q: What is the best decision you ever made?
- **A:** When we decided that we are more innovative and efficient by collaborating with others.
- **Q:** How did you turn a past mistake into an opportunity which had significant impact on your business?

Founder and President Excel Career College

Excel was acquired by the Arora Group that brings 25 years in the International student recruitment and Canadian immigration sector. Together Pauline along with Bisman Arora, Excel's new Executive Director are leveraging this bright past to create an exciting future.

- **A:** We view mistakes as learning opportunities we grow from, that mindset helped us create new opportunities.
- $\ensuremath{\mathbb{Q}}\xspace$ How do you create a work-life balance and create boundaries for yourself?
- **A:** We prioritize time with family, friends, and the simple things that have become even more precious since the pandemic.
- **Q:** Who do you turn to when you need motivation or inspiration?
- $\ensuremath{\mathbf{A}}\xspace$. We have incredible people around us who have our backs everyday.
- **0:** How has COVID affected you and your business?
- **A:** We had to pivot to ensure we could continue to move our students through their education pathways while keeping them and our staff safe.
- Q: What legacy do you think you'll leave behind in your business?
- **A:** Thousands of alumni, from around the world, who were able to achieve success in their education and careers through the support of Excel.