

Serial Entrepreneurs Launch Thrivers Integrative Mentoring Program for Triangle's Leaders & C-Level Executives

Growth-Stage Leaders to Thrive Professionally and Personally

The Triangle has long been a hotbed for startups with business incubators nurturing companies from startup to the growth stage. But then the process gets tricky as entrepreneurs tend to become “goldminers” focused only on the money or “martyrs” whose dreams died for lack of sustainable cash flow. Somewhere between the two is the ultimate goal of thriving as a maturing organization to an exit or large company stage while keeping personal lives in balance.

In January 2018, serial entrepreneur Tim Oakley launched Thrivers Integrative Mentoring Program (TIMP). This mentoring arm is part of a larger platform led by his long-time friend and business partner Vance Brown. Oakley and Brown are Durham natives and schoolmates that have started, grown, funded, and sold or taken public more than their share of businesses with combined transactions of more than \$1.5 billion dollars. Three of Oakley's successes have been Triangle companies each with exits over \$100M including: Opensite (2000), iContact (2012), and Appia (2015). He also partnered with Brown at Cherwell Software, a KKR backed company valued at hundreds of millions in value. Brown is the founder and Chairman of Cherwell as well as the CEO of the National Cybersecurity Center.

Triangle-based C-Level leaders joined Thrivers not only for collaborative insight into scaling their businesses with talent, capital and execution know-how but also for skills to ensure they don't lose sight of family, friends and community. Oakley integrates his proven business acumen with credentials in healthcare and psychology. He has a MA in Counseling, a coaching certification from Duke Medicine and he continues to provide executive coaching services at UNC.

“In the Triangle there are a number of mentoring programs to consider but Thrivers has bottled something unique because they are really addressing the entire package of executive needs in their process,” said Mitch Heath, chief growth officer of Teamworks and Duke graduate. “Obviously, business success is a key goal, but execs also want to be physically fit, mentally strong, spiritually attuned and enjoying healthy relationships with their family and friends. The opportunity to hear a broad range of speakers from Steve Nelson, founder and former CEO of Unicorn Carbon Inc. discussing scaling for growth to Luke Powery, Dean of Duke Chapel, exploring the diversity of spirituality in the work place has been invaluable. I have been working with Tim for for many years and no one really offers a program akin to this one.”

“I've been a member of Tim's Integrative Mentoring program for over three years now, and in that time have come to know him as both a trusted advisor and friend. His thoughtful guidance and wisdom on matters related to both my personal and professional journey have made him

an incredible collaborator on helping me write the story I wish to live. Tim's partnership was particularly invaluable as I lead my team through Atlassian's recent IPO and the related growing pains of scaling a company to over 3,000 employees," said Jake Brereton, head of Jira Product Marketing at Atlassian.

Summary:

- Thrivers is meeting the Triangle's needs for holistic mid-stage business executive coaching with an integrative mentoring approach including all business aspects as well as personal, physical, and relational growth.
- Tim Oakley delivers a hands-on approach based on years of personal experiences growing, funding, and exiting businesses over a 30-year career and over \$1 billion in transaction history combined with unique credentialing in healthcare and psychology.

"The vast majority of high performance leaders experience conflict as they pursue their work, family relationships and personal meaning. Tim is uniquely equipped to spearhead this innovative integrative mentoring program now and is bringing value to a focused, collaborative group of executives who are seeking to grow holistically in all aspects of their life."

Vance Brown
Thrivers

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