

Do the Numbers: Matadors in Finance

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TIM NOONAN

On the surface, it's tough to spot the connection between Tim Noonan's college major and his career achievements. Noonan '81 (History) serves as CEO of the Pacific Series of Lockton, the world's largest privately held, independent insurance broker. But listening to his philosophy on work, philanthropy and current affairs, the lifelong impact of CSUN on this executive is clear.

Since taking his top post at Lockton in 1996, Noonan has developed unique insurance and risk-management programs for Fortune 500 companies, and he led Lockton Pacific Series in a 23-year growth trend from \$6.9 to \$185 million in revenue. The brokerage has eight offices throughout the Western United States. Noonan also has served as advisor to the Los Angeles Workers' Compensation Task Force. He was appointed chairman of the California State Athletic Commission by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and he serves on the executive committee of the L.A. Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Noonan's public service and community involvement are rooted in his CSUN pedigree. As an undergraduate, Noonan was profoundly influenced by "the collegial and thought-provoking environment in the classrooms of the late Dr. James Sefton," he said. Sefton taught history at CSUN for more than 50 years until his death in 2018. "Doc," along with other history professors, "extended our education outside the classroom, providing greater connectivity and perspective to our experience," Noonan said.

"The professional and career counseling I received through Jim, as well as my membership in Phi Alpha Beta and Omicron Delta Kappa, created a large part of how I lead my company today," Noonan added. "It instilled the importance of character, integrity and community service in becoming a strong leader. It also promoted the importance of collaboration and the exchange of ideas and learning in advancing leadership in others."

A strong advocate of public service and community involvement, Noonan has supported a wealth of causes and organizations for more than 35 years, before and throughout his leadership at Lockton. He serves as trustee of the ALS Association Golden West Chapter, Vision to Learn (a group that delivers vision care to elementary school students in need), and the UCLA Longevity Center. He also has held leadership positions with the Young Presidents' Organization global leadership network, and he serves as education chair for the Los Angeles chapter of the World Presidents' Organization. Noonan is a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, where he collaborates with other leaders, thinkers and experts on international affairs.

"As a history student, I learned the importance of researching numerous points of view on any subject matter before forming my opinions," he said. "A good historian analyzes primary and secondary sources and pays careful attention to the perspective of the source, because perspective affects the interpretation of historical events. This disciplined approach is particularly important in today's highly polarized environment. It is critical that we get all the facts and seek as many opinions as possible to gain insight and understanding before commenting about them. We all have a role in forming public opinion and creating the historical context of our community and nation."

—by Linda Kossoff