

LAURIE TAYLOR-HAMM

DIRECTOR

INSTITUTE FOR FAMILY BUSINESS

Tell us a little about your career to your current position.

Left home on my 18th birthday and began a career in banking, working in various roles in the banking industry. After leaving the banking industry, worked in accounts receivable for about 16 years, mostly for small businesses in the Central Valley.

After deciding to further my formal education I attended Fresno State as re-entry student, with the goal of becoming a "business teacher" in some form. Participated in the Craig School Honor's Program as an undergraduate and moved on to graduate from the MBA program. Taught my first class at the Craig School of Business in the summer of 2003; since then have participated in teaching various courses including traditional, online, service learning, summer session and accelerated undergraduate courses. A sample of the courses taught include: Administration and Organizational Behavior, Administrative Principals of Management, Nonprofit Management and Corporate Social Responsibility, and Operations Management. Additionally, I have taught various seminars to business groups on general business management topics.

I also have done some small business consulting for various industries.

What brought you to the academic world?

Throughout my career I really enjoyed training and teaching others — my first professional experience in an academic setting was teaching, "Teller Training School" for a bank in Southern California. From that point on, I was hooked on training others and enjoyed helping them through the learning process.

What intrigued you about the Institute for Family Business?

Family businesses face unique challenges that require a special touch. Each is unique, and special, requiring just as unique an approach to problem solving. Working with family businesses is always different. I enjoy the challenges and love to see the successes of multi-generational family businesses.

The dynamic of business succession from generation to generation is quite fascinating. No two companies manage it the same as each organization has such unique needs and members. My grandfather owned his own business, and while I spent very little time with him, perhaps that is the root of my interest.

What's in the future for the IFB?

The IFB is already a wonderful organization. With the help of many active members it has become a great resource to family businesses in the Central Valley. My goal as director is to further the great work of those who have already done so much to build the IFB. Currently, we are working on expanding the IFB's ability to provide quality research, and educational training options to the family business community in the Central Valley. This includes creating a \$1 million endowment to ensure the future of IFB and help family businesses throughout Central California. We want to create an Online Learning Hub that would be available to family businesses about various topics. We would like to host a National Family Business Conference at the Craig School of Business sometime in the future. Additionally, we hope to expand academic and industry research, and provide our community with Next Generation Retreats, networking and professional development opportunities.

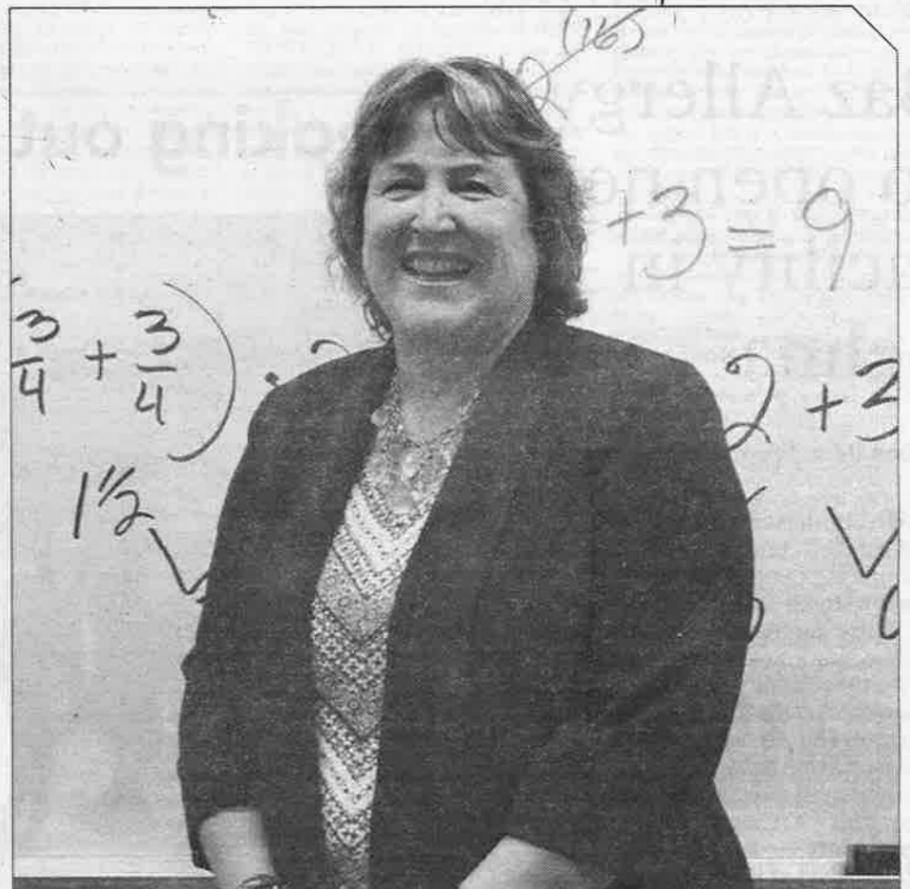
I want to invite the family business community in Fresno to participate in the IFB and help us to shape what the future holds for our community.

Do you have a favorite class/topic that you teach and why?

First and foremost I am just a geek for business. No denying it, I enjoy a great deal of the materials that I am lucky enough to share with students. Anytime I get to interact with students about real-time business activities and processes is when the most valuable learning takes place. I am so fortunate to be able to do this in a couple of courses that I teach. I love Organizational Behavior because it helps us to understand how people respond to the business environment. It also allows us to take inefficiencies in business and turn them into successful processes. Like I said...a geek, really!!

What other causes/organizations are close to your heart?

Well this is a long list! But, most recently I am working with a wonderful group to start a Fresno Chapter of Dress for Success International. This not-for-profit organization helps women to achieve independence by providing a professional network of



What we do: The Institute for Family Business is a unique cooperative between a great group of concerned community members, the Craig School of Business, and support from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. We focus our membership on family businesses but also recommend involvement from organizations that support family businesses, as they need to understand the unique issues families face in business.

Education: Master of Business Administration With Distinction from Fresno State Craig School of Business

Age: Let's keep them guessing on this one...okay?

Family: Husband Richard celebrating 33 years this week. Two kids born and raised in Clovis, CA. Daughter Kayla Tice, Victoria Secret Manager, married 6 years, lives in Columbia Maryland. Kristina Hamm, RN - Critical Care Nurse, Springdale Arkansas.

support. This includes services providing assistance with resume building, interview techniques, and providing assistance with professional attire needed to thrive in the work place?

I am also a proud supporter of the Food Security Project and the Student Cupboard on campus, which helps students gain access to proper nutrition in various ways.

Additionally, I work with the Fresno State Student Closet which provides a way for students to access free professional clothing for career fairs, interviews, and to begin the process of building their professional clothing needed in the workplace.

Fortunately, the Nonprofit Management course I teach allows me the opportunity to help and support many nonprofit organizations in the Central Valley. We work closely with both the Fresno State Student Cupboard and the Fresno State Student Closet assisting with managerial projects. This service learning course allows me the opportunity to provide student lead project support to many nonprofit organizations in the Central Valley. We have worked with the Highway City Community Development, Boys & Girls Club of Fresno County, SPCA, San Joaquin River Parkway, Bully Rescue, and the list goes on.

What are your roots in the Central Valley?

I am a Southern California transplant. I moved to Fresno about 35 years ago and married a wonderful man that was born and raised in Reedley.

What was your very first job and what did you learn from it?

McDonalds fry cook — still the worst job of my life. Sorry McDonalds franchise owners, I am sure it has changed a lot since "way back then." I was 16 years old at that point. I had never worked so hard in my life.

I learned that it takes a great deal of energy and patience to work with the public.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love the outdoors. Picnics and hiking in the mountains or at the beach — love them both! But, my favorite places are Mammoth and Yosemite. Hiking is my all-time favorite thing to do.