



PITT BUSINESS
IMPACT SERIES CONFERENCE
ON SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

AI-ENABLED SUPPLY CHAIN TRANSFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
**2025 PITT OHIO Supply Chain
Management Symposium**

MARCH 21, 2025

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the **2025 PITT OHIO Supply Chain Management Symposium** scheduled for March 21st. We are grateful to **PITT OHIO** for being a naming sponsor for the 9th Annual Symposium organized by the Center for Supply Chain Management. It is the fourth time they have honored us by doing so. Thank you, **PITT OHIO!**

This Symposium is the signature event of the Center and is a part of the **Pitt Business Impact Conferences Series**. Our theme this year is **AI-Enabled Supply Chain Management**—a theme that I am sure resonates with everyone in the audience. The complex processes of bringing products and services to customers are being automated using analytical and generative AI, potentially enabling better decision optimization, transparency, agility, and resilience. End-to-end supply chain functions are being disrupted. How extensive are these changes? Are some functions seeing the benefits of AI more than others? Is AI-enablement of supply chains a reality or is it currently just hyperbole? How can we exploit these innovative technologies? Led by our invited thought leaders, the symposium will offer us a platform to engage in meaningful discussions, share insights, and foster collaborations that will undoubtedly contribute to our understanding of this important topic.

Our outstanding speaker lineup this year includes: **Sasha Pailet Koff**, former SVP, Digital Supply Chain, Dell; **Shashi Mandapaty**, former Chief Procurement Officer, Johnson & Johnson; **Snehashish Sarkar**, EVP & CIO, Company Officer, Owens & Minor Inc. and **Eric Topp**, WW Head, AWS **Transportation & Logistics Solutions and Strategy, Amazon**. New this year is an interactive training session—on prompt engineering for supply chains—by **Ashley Hetrick**, Principal, Sourcing and Supply Chain Segment Leader, BDO USA, LLP. **Christopher Gormley**, General Manager, MedAnalytics will moderate a panel discussion with **Vin Matozzo**, CEO and Managing Partner, Paradigm Venture Group and **Anthony Montagnolo**, Vice President, Supply Chain Technology, Premier (Conductiv).

We are delighted that **Paul Page**, former Editor, Logistics Daily, *The Wall Street Journal* is back this year as our moderator for the day. He will also have a fireside chat with **Lisa Scales**, President and CEO, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank where Lisa will discuss the Food Bank's successes and also the continuing challenges that it is facing. **Sandra Scardetta Turko**, Director, Manufacturing and Commercial Industries, NTT Data NA and **Meredith Williams**, Senior Director, Solutions Design, DHL will be the event presiders and introduce our speakers.

Our Symposium activities start on Thursday, March 20th with a tour, hosted by **Katie Pacanowski**, Senior Director, Transportation, Giant Eagle, of the newly launched, automated Giant Eagle Micro Fulfillment Center. We will wrap up the activities on Friday with our annual inter-college student poster competition, and a networking event/happy hour. Do plan to stay for the entire day.

My sincere gratitude goes out to our speakers, event presiders, and poster competition judges who have volunteered their time and effort to make this event possible. Your contributions are deeply appreciated.

Our annual Symposium is our marquee event and is integral to the Center's mission. By facilitating an exciting congregation of industry leaders and the academic community, we create an environment conducive to networking and knowledge sharing. Beyond the Symposium, we invite you to participate in the Center's many activities. Our **case competitions**, judged by industry leaders, provide students with firsthand experience in real-world issues. Our information sharing and networking events—the **Breakfast Speaker Series**—hosts industry experts who lead the discussion and idea exchange on contemporary supply chain issues. Our **Pittsburgh Women in Supply Chain Group** organizes mentoring sessions and dinner-and-discussion events. We would be honored if you would join in these activities and your organization would sponsor the Center. For more information, please speak with me or connect with the Center at scmcenter@katz.pitt.edu.

I offer my sincere thanks to all our sponsors and board members for making the Center's activities possible. Special thanks go to our Platinum Sponsor, **PITT OHIO** and its President, **Chuck Hammel**. Chuck was also our Board Chair until last year. Thank you, Chuck, for leading our group over the past several years. I want to welcome **Steve Myers**, our new Board Chair. I also want to welcome our new Board Members **Kelly Coxon**, **Jose Manuel Sanchez**, and **Bruce Sullivan**, and thank **Tom Balzer**, **Anne Herman** and **Jim Szilagy** who provided us with valuable counsel and support as Board Members until their recent retirement.

We deeply appreciate the generous support of our other annual sponsors: **ARMADA**, **FedEx**, **MSA**, **UPMC**, **AHN/Highmark**, **PNC**, and **Summit Packaging Solutions**. Many thanks to our student poster competition sponsor, **Traffic Club of Pittsburgh** and our lunch sponsor, **LegalSifter**; our preferred-level event sponsor **CatalystConnection** and their **Digital Bridge Program**; and my special gratitude to our signature-level event sponsors: the **University of Pittsburgh School of Business** (thank you, **Dean Gene Anderson** and **Amy Buxbaum**) and the **Business Analytics & Operations Area** (thank you, **Dr. Jen Shang**). Your help to the Center is deeply appreciated! I am especially grateful to GENCO and its Executive Chairman, **Herb Shear**, for providing the seed funding to establish our Center.

I would also like to express my gratitude to my colleagues at the Center—Associate Director and Clinical Associate Professor **Eric Paljug** and Program Manager **Janice Trygar**—as well as the members of our Breakfast Speaker Series Planning Committee and Corporate Advisory Board. Many of them are attending the Symposium and supporting the related activities in a variety of ways. A special thank you to **Ash Brady**, IT Business Partner at the University of Pittsburgh. I also want to thank **Amy Benscoter** for her creativity in designing our promotional materials. Many thanks also to **Joshua Litvik** and **Hobbs White** and other members of our Center for Executive Education for their help with the Symposium logistics. I am grateful for their support and invaluable contributions to the planning, coordination, and execution of the Symposium.

Finally, THANK YOU for attending. I am confident that your day will be filled with valuable learning, networking, and reconnecting with fellow supply chain industry professionals and friends.

Best regards,
Prakash

AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

7:15 - 7:50 AM | Check-in, Breakfast, and Coffee and Networking

7:50 - 8:10 AM | Welcome Session

- Welcome by Prakash Mirchandani (7:50 - 8:00 AM)
- Dean Gene Anderson's Welcome (8:00 - 8:05 AM)
- Speaker Introductions by Sandy Turko (8:05 AM - 8:10 AM)

8:10 - 9:28 AM | Morning Sessions

- **Business-Led, Digital-First Supply Chains with Shashi Mandapaty (8:10 - 8:38 AM)**
- Q&A (8:38 - 8:48 AM)
- **AI-Enabled Supply Chains – Man, Machine, and the Future of Work with Sasha Paillet Koff (8:50 - 9:18 AM)**
- Q&A (9:18 - 9:28 AM)

9:28 - 9:50 AM | Coffee + Networking

- Virtual attendees network in Zoom Breakout Rooms
- Post-Break Speaker Introductions

9:50 - 9:55 AM | Speaker Introductions by Meredith Williams

9:55 - 11:13 AM | Mid-Morning Sessions

- **AWS Supply Chain A-Z: Leveraging AWS Solutions to Solve Complex Supply Chain Challenges with Eric Topp (9:55 - 10:23 AM)**
- Q&A (10:23 - 10:33 AM)
- **Leveraging AI and Innovation: A Strategic Overview with Snehashish Sarkar (10:35 - 11:03 AM)**
- Q&A (11:03 - 11:13 AM)

11:15 - 11:30 AM | Late Morning Session

- A Fireside Chat with Lisa Scales led by Paul Page
 - Food Bank Update by Lisa Scales

11:30 AM - 12:25 PM | Lunch and Networking

- Visit the Poster Competitors (11:45 - 12:25 PM)

12:30 - 1:48 PM | Afternoon Sessions

- **Prompt Engineering for Supply Chain: A Hands-on Training Session | Interactive Session with Ashley Hetrick (12:30 - 1:08 PM)**
- **Panel Discussion: Generative AI in Action - Real-World Applications for Sourcing & Supply Chain in Services**
- Moderator: Christopher Gormley. Panelists: Vincent Matozzo and Anthony Montagnolo (1:10 - 1:48 PM)

2:00 - 3:15 PM | Poster Competition & Awards; Mentoring Sessions

- Poster Competition (2:00 - 2:40 PM)
- Judges Deliberate (2:40 - 3:05 PM)
- Awards Presentation (3:05 - 3:15 PM)
- Mentoring Panels meet with students during Poster Competition (2:00 - 3:00 PM)

3:15 - 4:00 PM | Closing & Networking

- Wrap-up (3:15 - 3:20 PM)
- Thank You Message and Survey Link (3:20 - 3:20 PM)
- Happy Hour/Open Networking (3:20 - 4:00 PM)
 - Meet with Board Members and Speakers

ESTEEMED SPEAKERS



[ASHLEY HETRICK](#) | PRINCIPAL, SOURCING AND SUPPLY CHAIN SEGMENT LEADER | BDO USA, LLP

Ashley Hetrick is the Principal, Sourcing and Supply Chain Segment Leader at BDO USA. She is a procurement and supply chain leader with more than 15 years of experience working with companies across industries, with a focus on automotive, semiconductor, high-tech manufacturing, and life sciences companies. Her expertise and experience includes pre- and post-deal supply chain assessments, supply chain strategy and transformation, developing and executing high-stakes complex negotiation strategies, identifying and securing access to proprietary supplier ideas and technologies, and managing complex supplier and other third-party relationships.



[SASHA PAILET KOFF](#) | FORMER SVP, DIGITAL SUPPLY CHAIN | DELL

Sasha Pailet Koff is a supply chain transformation expert with 25+ years of experience across technology, CPG, medical devices, pharma, and specialty chemicals. As Founder & President of So Help Me Understand LLC, she advises C-suite executives on strategic and digital supply chain initiatives. She co-chairs the Digital Supply Chain Institute, shaping industry research and best practices. Previously, Sasha was SVP of Digital Supply Chain at Dell and spent 20 years at Johnson & Johnson, leading large teams and multimillion-dollar budgets. Recognized as a “Top 100 Woman in Supply Chain,” she has co-authored Harvard and MIT case studies and lectures at top universities. Sasha holds degrees from GWU and Columbia, numerous certifications, and serves on nonprofit boards. She lives in New Jersey with her family.



[SHASHI MANDAPATY](#) | FORMER CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER | JOHNSON & JOHNSON

Most recently, as Chief Procurement Officer at Johnson & Johnson, Shashi led global procurement with accountability for over \$30B in spend across 35,000+ suppliers, driving enterprise-wide impact through strategic procurement and operations. With a career spanning three continents, industries (CPG, Pharma, MedTech), and functions (Procurement, Global Operations, Marketing, IT-enabled Transformation), he brings a unique end-to-end perspective to driving enterprise-wide impact. Guided by business-centricity and digital acumen, Shashi has built global organizations that harness cutting-edge technology to align Procurement and the supply base with broader business operations—enhancing resilience, driving agility, and delivering measurable outcomes. His work at Johnson & Johnson and Procter & Gamble has earned industry recognition and driven transformative impact. Shashi envisions Procurement and Operations as strategic enablers of innovation, sustainability, and economic opportunity, creating lasting enterprise value. Shashi was named #1 CPO in Healthcare and #2 Overall globally by Procurement Magazine in March 2025.



[SNEHASHISH SARKAR](#) | EVP & CIO, COMPANY OFFICER | OWENS & MINOR INC.

Snehashish Sarkar is a transformational leader with more than 20 years of global experience in enterprise and technology information systems and applications. Snehashish currently serves as the Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer at Owens & Minor, where he is responsible for O&M's entire technology enterprise for fostering a competitive advantage for the company that benefits its customers and patients. Previously, Snehashish was Chief Information Officer and Head of the Business Transformation Office at Varian, a Siemens Healthineers Company, where he was responsible for optimizing IT operations, continuous improvement across commercial applications, ERP systems, infrastructure, and software development. Snehashish began his career with Wipro Technologies and Deloitte Consulting, LLP. Snehashish holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and graduated with Distinction from Nagpur University in India.

ESTEEMED SPEAKERS



LISA SCALES | PRESIDENT AND CEO | GREATER PITTSBURGH COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Lisa Scales has been President and CEO of Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank since 2012, leading the organization in distributing food for more than 47 million meals annually through a network of nearly 1,000 community partners in 11 counties of southwestern Pennsylvania. She holds a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Boston University School of Law and Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences from Seton Hill University, from which she received the 2019 Distinguished Alumna Leadership Award. A member of the Allegheny County Board of Health and Chair of the Board of Directors of Adagio Health, Scales is an advisory board member of the Center for Supply Chain Management at the University of Pittsburgh, the Centers for Community Engagement at Robert Morris University and the University of Pittsburgh Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership. Scales also currently serves on the Boards of Feeding Pennsylvania, a statewide association of Feeding America food banks and Hunger-Free Pennsylvania, where she serves as Secretary.

A recipient of numerous recognitions and awards, Scales was presented the Governor's Keystone Award by Governor Josh Shapiro and First Lady Lori Shapiro in 2024 in recognition of the significant contributions she has made to our community. She was also named Pittsburgh Magazine's 2020 Pittsburgher of the Year.



ERIC TOPP | WW HEAD, AWS TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS AND STRATEGY | AMAZON

Eric M. Topp has 33+ years of experience in the Transportation & Logistics space leading Operations, IT, Transformations, and Sales/Business Development. He worked for the U.S. Army, IBM, a startup in Silicon Valley that was acquired by Cubic, APL (CMA/CGM), Bollore Logistics, Crowley, and Longbow Advantage before joining AWS as the Head, Worldwide Solutions and Strategy, Transportation & Logistics. He is currently assigned to support the sales, marketing, and product development of AWS's newest offering to market, AWS Supply Chain. Eric travelled extensively for his previous roles working/living in Europe, Africa, Middle East, and Asia Pacific. He attended the University of Tennessee (B.S., Transportation & Logistics) and the Pennsylvania State University (M.B.A., Supply Chain/Digital Transformation).

DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS



CHRISTOPHER GORMLEY | GENERAL MANAGER | MEDEANALYTICS

Chris Gormley is a pioneering force in supply chain technology innovation, currently serving as General Manager, Employer Solutions at MedeAnalytics after SubPop Health's (which he cofounded) 2023 acquisition. He's applying strategic sourcing expertise to transform the \$1.4 trillion healthcare benefits market. As CEO of Medpricer and later Premier Inc.'s Conductiv business unit, Chris implemented AI-driven analytics that revolutionized supply chain purchasing of outsourced services. At FreeMarkets, he managed a \$120+ million SaaS portfolio through acquisition by Ariba. His supply chain journey began at McKinsey, where he led teams addressing defense sector supply chain integration challenges. Chris holds several patents and an MBA in Finance & Strategy from the Wharton School and a BS in Chemical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.



VIN MATOZZO | CEO AND MANAGING PARTNER | PARADIGM VENTURE GROUP EXPERT IN AI-ENABLED SUPPLY CHAIN TRANSFORMATION & PROCUREMENT AUTOMATION

Vincent Matozzo, CEO & Managing Partner of Paradigm Venture Group, is a leader in AI strategy, focusing on supply chain transformation and procurement automation. He has spearheaded groundbreaking AI integrations in logistics, healthcare, and finance and helped achieve \$65 million in cost savings and reduced supply chain shortages by 90%. Under his leadership, Paradigm Venture Group has become a leader in AI-native solutions, embedding Krista AI and Terzo AI into procurement and finance ecosystems. With over 15 years of experience, he has optimized procurement, automated risk assessments, and enhanced compliance frameworks, driving 400% ROI on AI investments. Vincent has held executive roles at Yale New Haven Health, NYU Langone Health, and Vizient Inc. He holds an MBA from the University of New Haven and is Six Sigma Black Belt certified. As a thought leader, he speaks at industry conferences on AI adoption in supply chains.



ANTHONY MONTAGNOLO | VICE PRESIDENT, SUPPLY CHAIN TECHNOLOGY | PREMIER (CONDUCTIV)

Anthony Montagnolo, Vice President of Supply Chain Technology at Premier, leads initiatives to enhance healthcare procurement and supply chain operations. His teams develop tools that improve insights into third-party purchased services, utilizing AI models to summarize and label contracts, enabling healthcare professionals to prioritize sourcing efforts. Previously, Tony was at World Bank, aiding its COVID-19 supply chain response, and spent two decades at ECRI as COO and EVP, overseeing global operations. He holds dual degrees in Biology and English from La Salle University and a Master's from Rutgers University, actively serving on boards. Tony is a seasoned communicator, and has delivered over 150 presentations at industry conferences, and his insights have been featured in leading publications such as Trustee magazine.

EVENT PRESIDERS



PAUL PAGE | FORMER EDITOR, LOGISTICS DAILY | THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Paul Page was until this January the editor of The Wall Street Journal's Logistics Report. He helped launch the Journal's dedicated site for all things supply chain and logistics in 2015 and retired from the paper this year. His 45-year career as a reporter and editor included many years in business journalism, including nearly 20 years at The Journal of Commerce, where he was editorial director from 2009 to 2012. He started his career at The Associated Press and along the way was also economic policy editor at Congressional Quarterly.



SANDRA SCARDETTA TURKO | DIRECTOR, MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIES | NTT DATA SERVICES

Sandra is an accomplished supply chain and IT professional. Her 25+ year experience spans a broad range of supply chain, IT and sales functions across technology, utility, manufacturing, and healthcare industries. Sandra currently works for NTT Data and leads the advancement of IT Project Delivery Services for her client. She is accountable for leading cross-functional teams to define and effectively implement innovative systems and processes to build out world class information technology solutions for a growing organization. Prior experience also includes serving as lead internal ISO 27001 auditor for the first self-driving car company to achieve global ISO 27001 Certification, building/rebuilding PMOs and working closely with the CIO and CFO to evaluate IT Contracts/Services and transfer of assets for a \$200+Million USD divestiture. She actively volunteers for youth sports programs, local charities and serves as the EMBA Ambassador supporting recruitment events for the Katz EMBA Program. Sandra earned her B.A in Philosophy/Pre-Law from St. Bonaventure University and MBA from the University of Pittsburgh's Katz Graduate School of Business.



MEREDITH WILLIAMS | SENIOR DIRECTOR, SOLUTIONS DESIGN | DHL

Meredith Williams is an accomplished supply chain leader with a proven ability to design and implement complex distribution networks, supporting business and financial objectives. As Senior Director of Solutions Design North America and Global Lead for Solutions Design Automation Practice for DHL Supply Chain, she supports regional design teams to ensure innovative technologies are being researched and designed within the DHL Supply Chain network. She has over fifteen years of experience initiating and delivering sustained results and effective change across a wide range of industries including consumer, healthcare, retail and technology. She is a passionate innovation seeker, who has led key initiatives that have increased speed to market, reduced supply chain costs, and improved accuracy. Meredith graduated from Loyola University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and received her MBA from the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business, with a concentration in operations. She resides in Pittsburgh, PA with her family.

ABSTRACTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

ASHLEY HETRICK | PROMPT ENGINEERING FOR SUPPLY CHAIN: A HANDS-ON TRAINING SESSION

Nearly 50% of organizations have formalized or are in the process of formalizing a policy around generative AI. Join us for a hands-on session where we'll explore common uses of generative AI across supply chain organizations, understand the nuances of language that drive AI responses, and learn best practices for crafting prompts that boost productivity and accelerate data-driven decision-making for supply chain professionals.

SASHA PAILET KOFF | AI-ENABLED SUPPLY CHAINS – MAN, MACHINE, AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

AI is revolutionizing supply chains, transforming all its functions. But what happens when AI-driven decisions conflict with human expertise? Who is truly in control—man or machine? In this session, we will explore the intersection of AI and human leadership in supply chain management. Through real-world examples, we will examine where AI is having the greatest impact, why adoption remains a challenge, and how leaders can integrate AI as a co-pilot rather than a replacement for human decision-making. We will discuss where AI is proving most effective while highlighting the irreplaceable role of human expertise in refining execution and managing exceptions. Addressing the leadership challenges of governing AI-driven decisions, we will explore how AI is giving rise to new positions, e.g., AI ethicists, data translators, and automation strategists. AI will not replace supply chain leaders—but those who embrace AI will outpace those who do not.

SHASHI MANDAPATY | BUSINESS-LED, DIGITAL-FIRST SUPPLY CHAINS

Over the past 25 years, supply chains have evolved from cost-focused functions into strategic, technology-driven ecosystems. This talk will explore that transformation, including the role of data, digitization, and the latest narratives on AI and GenAI. Beyond technology, true transformation must be anchored in business needs—particularly in industries where accelerated progress is critical, such as healthcare. Achieving this requires ecosystem-wide collaboration, with large and small organizations creating multiplier effects that drive innovation and resilience. Finally, we will connect these ideas to broader themes of digital transformation, health sciences, and societal impact, challenging us to view supply chains not just as operational engines, but as catalysts for global change.

SNEHASHISH SARKAR | LEVERAGING AI AND INNOVATION: A STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Today's discussion will introduce my organization, Owens & Minor Inc., and provide context for our conversation. We will begin with an overview of our challenges and the general technological strategy we have adopted to address them. Next, we will explore how we are driving data and AI-related initiatives. We will highlight key projects that implement AI at scale, showcasing its transformative impact. A significant portion of the discussion will focus on the supply chain, where we will examine specific AI use cases that enhance efficiency and performance. Finally, we will conclude with a forward-looking perspective, outlining our future direction and the opportunities ahead.

ABSTRACTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025

ERIC TOPP | AWS SUPPLY CHAIN A-Z: LEVERAGING AWS SOLUTIONS TO SOLVE COMPLEX SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES

Amazon runs one of the world's largest, most intricate, and efficient supply chains. This is only possible using advanced technologies to solve complex problems. These technologies are powered by Amazon Web Services (AWS), leveraging cloud computing, advanced analytics, and AI/ML/GenAI. In this session, learn how you can benefit from our capabilities and learnings.

PANEL DISCUSSION

CHRISTOPHER GORMLEY (moderator) | VIN MATOZZO | ANTHONY MONTAGNOLO

GENERATIVE AI IN ACTION: REAL-WORLD APPLICATIONS FOR SOURCING & SUPPLY CHAIN IN SERVICES

Generative AI is no longer a future promise—it's transforming sourcing and supply chains today. In this panel, we'll move beyond the hype to explore real-world, rubber-meets-the-road applications of AI. Learn how companies are leveraging AI to streamline contract analysis, optimize procurement, and drive smarter decision-making in industries like healthcare and logistics. Our panelists—a healthcare GPO deploying AI for contract understanding and a technology and data services firm implementing multiple commercial applications—will share concrete use cases, lessons learned, and the ROI they're seeing today. Whether you're looking to cut costs, improve efficiency, or reduce risk in sourcing, this discussion will give you the actionable insights you need to stay ahead. Join us to see how AI is reshaping service procurement—now, not later.

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Paul Page | Former Editor, Logistics Daily | *The Wall Street Journal*

Sandra Scardetta Turko | Director, Manufacturing & Commercial Industries | NTT DATA NA

Meredith Williams | Senior Director, Solutions Design | DHL

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CENTER NEWS

Thank you to **Chuck Hammel** of PITT OHIO for his service as Chair of the SCM Board!

Welcome to **Steve Myers** of FedEx who is our new Board Chair!

In deep gratitude to our former board members: **Tom Balzer, Anne Herman and Jim Szilagy**. Congratulations on your retirement!

Welcome to our new Board Members **Kelly Coxon, Jose Manuel Sanchez, and Bruce Sullivan!**

Adobe Analytics Challenge – Katz MBA students placed **1st Globally (2024)**

GET INVOLVED

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The Center was established with funding from **GENCO** and its former Executive Chairman, **Herb Shear**.