UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
Robins School of Business™

ROBINS EXECUTIVE SPEAKER SERIES

October 19, 2022
University of Richmond
Robins School of Business

6:00 P.M. | Program
7 :00 P.M. | Networking Reception

Vafa Akhavan
Chief Executive Officer
World Pediatric Project

Vafa Akhavan is a global executive with experience in change & transformation within complex environments, profitable growth, operational excellence, and customer ecosystems. His career has covered 7 sectors across 16 countries having led businesses comprising offices in Boston, New York, Houston, Denver, Buenos Aries, London, Dubai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai, Singapore, and Sydney.

Half of Vafa's career has been in operating executive roles and half in boutique management consulting firms. He has held CEO / SVP positions and has covered the span of startups to conglomerates, and has worked with such companies as SITEL, HP, Citi, Barclays, Xerox, Experian, MetLife, Dallas Love Field, State farm, Hertz, Exxon, Virgin Australia, Comcast, T-Mobile, Telecom Italia, Chrysler, LAX.

He is currently Chief Executive Officer of World Pediatric Project, an international non-profit based in Richmond, VA addressing the tertiary care of children in underserved countries. He also serves on the Board of Directors, as well as the Governance Committee and the Audit & Risk Committee, for Children Believe, a Canadian based global non-profit focused on Health and Education of young children, particularly young girls, in underserved communities.

Previously he was President & CEO at NueBridge, providing advisory and consulting services to Corporate and Private Equity clients. Vafa has served as Interim CEO & Executive Board member at SwissVBS, an international e/mLearning company based in Switzerland, exited to BTS in 2019. He served as President & CEO of The Forum Corporation, a global L&D firm born out of Harvard based in Boston focused on leadership development, now Achieve Forum, acquired by Korn Ferry. Prior Vafa was Vice President Global Operations at the Information and Media segment of McGraw Hill, now S&P Global, based in New York. He moved to that position after McGraw Hill's acquisition of J.D. Power & Associates where he served as Executive Director Solutions through which he built the consulting practice in all non-automotive industries.

The Gallup Organization's benchmark of executives identifies his key strengths as Strategic, Command, Activator, Ideation, and Adaptability. He has been a public speaker and an opinion contributor to Canada's premier business publication, the Report on Business section of The Globe and Mail. Vafa is also a senior faculty member at the Schulich Executive Education Center, Schulich Business School, York University, Toronto, Canada.