



Dana Leavy-Detrick is founder of Aspyre Ventures Inc (AVI), one of two venture investors financing technology in Michigan in the 1980's from the University of Michigan and Michigan State University including Neogen (NEOG: NASDAQ), AISI Inc. (acquired by ESI, ESIO: NASDAQ, USA), and Personal Bibliographic Systems (acquired by Thompson Financial, NYSE: TRI). Her work focuses on driving global initiatives to overcome the cultures of risk to unlock and mobilize local funding for more investment, technology, and entrepreneurship.

“No Safety Net...”

Dana has worked off of her own energy and resources to build international recognition for her impactful work that has resonated with a wide global audience. Following a career in technology product development and planning for organizations including Ford Motor Company, she left Michigan in 1992 with a lot of energy and only a few coins in her pocket. Without a mentorship model or a safety net behind her, she began a global initiative to create international and emerging market funds and financing expansion opportunities. She raised \$300 million and successfully led IVI's international expansion into Canada, Europe, Africa, and later into Kazakhstan and Russia, creating new venture funds and grant programs to finance technology and entrepreneurial ventures in these countries and regions.

Cultural Immersion Spurs Global Contribution

Having lived, invested, and worked side-by-side with entrepreneurs and investors across diverse regions, Dana brings a unique first-hand experience with the subsequent risks and barriers, and what it takes to survive and thrive in varying economic climates. Her successes, failures, and detours have provided her with a deep understanding of the issues around investing, execution, and entrepreneurship that one faces in countries with different economic environments and legal regimes, developing financial markets, and differing cultural attitudes around risk and failure.

Dana has served on the Board of Directors of multiple private and public institutions and created early stage financing initiatives for entrepreneurs, technology and science in the emerging markets. With 6 other directors, she managed the \$85 million technology commercialization project in Kazakhstan, making grants to finance commercializations, and investing \$22.5 million to-date in 21 development stage SMEs and R&D groups in 2011 and 2012, with an average grant of roughly \$1 million. She led the creation of the first technology commercialization office in Kazakhstan, playing an integral role in intransferring Kazakh tech to market, establishing key performance metrics and all tasks for commercialization, and staffing 4 international experts and 5 Kazakhs to execute commercialization under a \$2.8 million budget.

As a mentor, Dana has advised over 80 entrepreneurs from 36 countries around cultivating technology to address global challenges through Silicon Valley-based Singularity University. She has engaged stakeholders for greater innovation, venture capital, and entrepreneurship through Master Classes on ‘Scaling Up Entrepreneurship’ and ‘Path to Commercialization.’