

Corporate News



Madison H Gunter III
Manager, Diversity Business Practices
Cisco Systems, Inc.



Madison leads Cisco's corporate wide diversity business practices initiative, which includes groups that support the planning and implementation of transformational change throughout the worldwide sales strategy and operations organization including stakeholders change adoption and utilization of programs, services and solutions.

As the leader of the company's global supplier diversity initiative, he is responsible for developing and facilitating relationships between diverse suppliers and partners and Cisco customers whereby promoting economic growth and sustainability on a global basis.

Madison oversees the following programs at Cisco that support the utilization, development, recruitment and support

of diverse-owned businesses:

- **Partner Mentor Program (PMP):** helps diverse businesses build their capabilities and provide additional support to Cisco channel partners. PMP is intended to be a mutually beneficial business relationship between Cisco diverse-owned and nondiverse partners to create opportunities with Cisco customers.

- **Executive Mentor Protégé Program (EMP2):** two year program that leverages Cisco executives to mentor CEO's of diverse-owned businesses and navigate the barriers within Cisco.

- **Cisco Protégé Program (CP2) Executive Speaker Series:** program by which protégés continue to gain insightful, practical, relevant and timely information from proven business executives, including Cisco senior executives.

- **Partner Operations Diversity Forum:** focuses on building relationships with Cisco diverse-owned channel partners and Cisco customers.

Since Cisco formalized its supplier diversity efforts into a global program in 2000, Madison and his team's work continue to be recognized worldwide. Madison was recently recognized as a Top 30 Champions of Diversity awardee.

Madison has 20 plus years of experience in IT applications/solutions, marketing, management operations and business development. He received his Masters of Business Administration from University of Santa Clara (Leavey School of Business), a Bachelor of Arts from California State University Chico, and is certified as a telecommunications engineer from University California, Berkeley.