



Mechanical Engineering
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

Jacob Cordova

Outstanding Young Mechanical Engineer, 2017

BSME, The University of Texas at Austin, 2007

Managing Director
PWJ Strategies

While a student at UT Austin, Jacob Cordova was active in organizations and participated in internship programs. He was a member of the Roden Leadership Program, secretary and corporate relations officer for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), a Freshman Interest Group mentor, and a supporter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). In 2005 he interned with the remanufacturing division of Caterpillar, and in 2006 he interned with the Atlas Centaur rocket propulsions team at Lockheed Martin. Jacob is a LeaderShape graduate and served as a student cluster facilitator before graduating.

After graduation, Jacob joined Lockheed Martin in Houston as an engineer on the NASA Orion manned spaceflight program. In this role, he supported design, test, analysis, manufacturing, and systems engineering of spacecraft interior components, habitation accommodations, heat transfer systems, and astronaut seat structures. During this time Jacob also supported the Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program (SATOP) as an engineer and later served as regional manager for Lockheed Martin relations. In this role he built and led teams of engineers and scientists to assist startups, entrepreneurs, and university faculty members with product development of their innovations.

In 2010, Jacob supported the NASA Johnson Space Center advanced planning office, where he cofounded the Sandbox, an Innovation Design Center built to facilitate the creation, transfer, and

commercialization of technologies developed by the American space program. As chief architect, Jacob oversaw facility design, infrastructure layout, machine selection, and user experience. Lessons learned were shared with UT Austin during the concept design phases of the EERC Longhorn Maker Studio.

In 2011, Jacob joined Lockheed Martin in Denver as a manufacturing engineer and production coatings laboratory engineering lead. In 2013 he founded PWJ Strategies to support research, development, and commercialization of advanced technologies. Today, PWJ is working to synthesize molecular biology with physics and engineering to increase crop yields. Jacob is also director of venture capital analytics for Rockies Venture. In this role he established a Kauffman Foundation Research-based due diligence program and leads analyst teams with engineering, law, investment banking, and business backgrounds.

Jacob is grateful for the catalyzing experience UT Austin had in his life and has continued to support and engage with UT Austin and the Cockrell School. He serves the Engineering Advisory Board (EAB), is cofounder and vice president of strategy for the Longhorn Engineering Advisory Delegation (LEAD), and cofounder and managing partner for the UT Austin Genesis Program. He and his wife Lauren, also a UT Austin BSME 2007, provided founding capital for the Genesis Program and enjoy contributing time, treasure, and talents to UT students.