HELEN ACOSTA

Redmond, WA | (425) 755-9265 | helen.acosta@hotmail.com | www.linkedin.com/in/helen-acosta

Senior Finance & Accounting Executive

Accomplished financial leader able to optimize the effectiveness of corporate finance/accounting operations via a combination of CPA credentials, public accounting background, and 20+ years of hands-on management experience. Skilled at breaking down complex business problems into clear, achievable action plans and leading cross-functional teams in brainstorming and implementing sustainable solutions. Acknowledged repeatedly by peers for integrity, accountability, and trustworthiness. Demonstrated strengths helping companies scale for growth, maintain stability during industry turbulence, and continuously raise the bar on performance.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- ✓ **Finance department leadership**; history of building, mentoring, and leading teams of up to 25 employees in size—and in creating accountable, service-focused work cultures
- ✓ **Strategic planning & goal-setting**; able to provide expert fiscal perspective to executive teams and help set long-term strategic vision
- ✓ **Corporate growth & expansion**; extensive experience conducting due diligence/analysis to support M&A and global expansion efforts
- ✓ **Multi-disciplinary business savvy**; history of supporting an enormous variety of internal departments including Sales, Marketing, IT, Finance, Purchasing, HR, and Distribution
- ✓ **Cost controls & efficiency**; skilled at analyzing/streamlining internal processes to eliminate expense, waste, and inefficiency
- ✓ **Technical accounting expertise**; history of producing highly accurate financial statements and ensuring compliance with GAAP standards

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

VP of Finance | SIMPSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY *Seattle, WA: 04/15 – Present*

- Supervise a 15-member team in the performance of all accounting/finance activities, including the preparation of consolidated financial statements for 6 foreign subsidiaries and 2 U.S. entities (~$400M annual gross sales)
- Monitor all Accounts Payable and Collections activities, processing $14M in monthly foreign wire transfers and $8M in ACH/check transactions; advise executive team on ongoing fiscal health and cash flow management
- Ensure appropriate financing is in place to support ongoing operations, including securing a $96M corporate credit line in early 2019 and acquiring $30M in long-term debt of owned property
- Supervise annual 401k plan audit, in addition to holding accountability for the annual financial statement audit and preparation/filing of all Federal corporate tax and State sales/use tax returns
- Manage relationships and negotiate agreements with outside vendors, including the coordination of monthly reporting with bank/vendor factoring organizations and negotiating leases and real estate contracts
- Oversee all monthly borrowing base filing, bi-annual bank auditing, and annual inventory cost accounting
- Administer 401k conversions, in addition to managing self-funded medical and workers compensation plans
- Lead the processing of $1.5M in biweekly payroll for the company's 530 global employees
- Analyze and monitor risk across the enterprise, overseeing the purchasing/renewal of all needed insurance policies to mitigate potential liability; experienced includes handling insurance claims and negotiations related to $25M+ in tornado damage, $7M in earthquake damage, and $4M in fire damage to properties over the years
- Company sold in February 2021 to a private equity firm, Jupiter Capital; currently leading a series of planning, analysis, and change management activities needed to integrate the combined $830M entity

Director of Accounting | SIMPSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY *Seattle, WA: 08/08 – 04/15*

- Recruited out of public accounting to manage a broad mix of finance and accounting functions during a period of rapid corporate expansion; supervised a team of 7 accountants in performing all accounting activities
- Company grew from 3 to 6 individual entities during tenure, based largely on acquisitions, in addition to expanding internationally into Japan, Russia, Germany, UK, and the Czech Republic
- Took on role as Interim HR Director during a 5-month span—handling all benefits, compensation, employee relations, recruiting, and payroll functions during the company's search for a permanent replacement

Employment History & Accomplishments (cont'd)

Senior Audit Manager | PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) *Seattle, WA: 12/09 – 08/08*

- Initially hired as Staff Accountant; received multiple promotions, culminating in Senior Audit Manager role
- Supported top clients including Pacific Industries, Boeing, Weyerhaeuser, and Banner Bank
- Played an instrumental role in the recruitment, mentoring, and onboarding of junior staff members
- Reviewed corporate financial records for accuracy and GAAP compliance; assisted in preparation for audits
- Gained exposure to cutting-edge accounting/auditing principles, as well as numerous industry best practices

Additional Experience

Prior experience includes **Bookkeeping/Accounting** roles serving small businesses in over 12 different industries—including banking, construction, financial services, manufacturing, retail, healthcare, and non-profits.

Additionally serve as **Co-Owner** for Calypso Consulting—advising small business owners on entrepreneurial decision-making practices, financing options, human resource functions, and general management principles.

Education, Training & Certifications

BA Degree, Accounting | University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
Certified Public Accountant (inactive) | Washington State (passed on first attempt)
Software Proficiency | MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), SAP, QuickBooks

Memberships & Affiliations

Member | North Shore Financial Executives Coalition
Former Finance Committee Member | UO Alumni Association (served 3 consecutive terms)
Founding Member | Kenmore Golf Association (120-member organization)