



Pyxera Global

Board and Executive Leadership

India Visit - 2025

Executive Leadership Bios



Deirdre White

CEO

Deirdre White is a globally recognized leader in forging multi-sector partnerships to tackle the world's most pressing challenges. Since joining PYXERA Global in 2002, she has transformed the organization into a premier convener for maximizing social impact through strategic collaboration.

A widely cited thought leader at the intersection of international development and corporate citizenship, Deirdre serves on the Board of Directors for the Coalition for Racial and Ethnic Equity in Development (CREED) and advisory councils for the Millennium Challenge Corporation and Better World Leadership. With a diverse background spanning the private, public, and social sectors, her expertise includes international trade, corporate restructuring, and global development. She has played key roles in leading post-privatization restructuring in Eurasia, advising major government agencies, and shaping impactful initiatives such as the Clinton Global Initiative's Employee Engagement Action Network. A champion of corporate engagement for social good, Deirdre remains dedicated to fostering sustainable, high-impact partnerships worldwide.



Gavin Cepelak

Executive VP

Gavin Cepelak is the Executive Vice President at Pyxera Global. Gavin has experience in team leadership, client management, and implementing corporate leadership, CSR, and business development programs in Asia and Sub-Saharan and North Africa. He has worked at Pyxera Global since 2009 on program design, management, and business development and played a lead role in managing and building the Global Pro Bono practice.

Prior to working at Pyxera Global, he was a United States Peace Corps volunteer assisting small businesses in Morocco and a business development manager and World Bank liaison at the Australian Trade Commission, where he assisted Australian firms to win development contracts and establish partnerships with US-based prime contractors. Gavin has worked or lived extensively in several countries, including Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Morocco, South Africa, Kenya, Sri Lanka, China, and India.

Board Member Bios



Lynne Weil

Chair of the Board

Lynne Weil is the founder of Citrus Strategies, a strategic communications and fractional marketing consultancy for the public sector, nonprofits, and purpose-driven, socially-minded companies. She previously served as director of external affairs at Georgetown's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET).

She spent a dozen years on Capitol Hill—moving from congressional fellow to Senate Foreign Relations Committee press secretary to communications director for the House Committee on Foreign Affairs—and four years in the Executive Branch, as a State Department senior advisor and a senior executive with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, now the U.S. Agency for Global Media. Lynne teaches policy skills to graduate students as adjunct faculty at American University's School of International Service and George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. She serves as chair of the Pyxera Global board of directors and a board member of the Partnership for a Secure America. Previously, Lynne was a journalist for NPR, the BBC, The New York Times, and others. She earned a master's in Public Policy at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs and a bachelor's in Communication Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



Peg Willingham

Board Member

Peg Willingham is the senior managing director for food and agriculture partnerships at Save the Children, bringing extensive experience in global advocacy, policy, and development. She previously served as executive director of Fairtrade America and led advocacy and policy efforts at the International Food Policy Research Institute's Harvest Plus program. Prior to that, she was the executive director of Shot@Life at the United Nations Foundation, spearheading a campaign to increase awareness and resources for childhood immunizations in developing countries. Her career also includes leadership roles at the Aeras Global TB Vaccine Foundation, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), where she focused on external affairs and public sector development.

Peg began her career as a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State, serving in Latin America, the Middle East, and Washington, DC for thirteen years, earning five Superior Honor Awards. She holds a master's degree in English from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in English and History from the University of Virginia, where she also completed the Sorensen Institute's Political Leadership Program.

About Pyxera Global

Pyxera Global is a community-driven nonprofit committed to bridging global resources with local expertise to address complex societal challenges. By collaborating with businesses, governments, and nonprofits, Pyxera Global seeks to reshape global systems, ensuring that communities have the necessary tools and resources to drive their own solutions and create lasting impact.

With a focus on food security, the circular economy, global health equity, and digital inclusion, Pyxera Global leverages corporate skills-based volunteering, technical assistance, and strategic advisory services to strengthen leadership and capacity-building efforts. For over 30 years, the organization has worked to dismantle systemic inequities by uniting diverse perspectives and fostering local stewardship. Guided by principles of integrity, collaboration, and regenerative impact, Pyxera Global envisions a world where all communities can thrive within just and sustainable systems.

BY THE NUMBERS



30+
Years of Experience



100+
Government Institutions



50,000+
Community Partners



40+
Corporate Partners



100+
Countries

PARTNERS



Focus Areas

- **Circularity & Regeneration**
- **Economic Equity**
- **Global Health Equity**
- **Digital Inclusion**
- **Food Security**

Our Initiatives: Global & India

Global Pro Bono (Skills-Based Volunteering)

Pyxera Global's Skills-Based Volunteerism programs facilitate collaboration between the private, social, and government sectors to address critical challenges. With partnerships involving over 40 multinational corporations across 110+ countries, these programs are designed to empower corporate leaders while strengthening community capacity. Notable initiatives such as SAP Pro Bono for Economic Equity and Mastercard's Racial Justice Program highlight a commitment to advancing economic inclusion and social justice through corporate engagement.

PRIDE Coop for Waste Management

In partnership with the PepsiCo Foundation, Pyxera Global is developing a waste cooperative in Guwahati, Assam, in collaboration with local citizens and waste collectors. This initiative aims to enhance the community's quality of life by promoting dignified work opportunities and implementing recycling, developmental, and environmental projects.

Critical Minerals and Circular Supply Chain Coalition

The Circular Supply Chain Coalition (CSCC), in partnership with Metabolic, CKIC, Virginia Commonwealth University, First Mile, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, is dedicated to developing critical mineral remanufacturing hubs across the US, Europe, and Australia. Through urban mining—refurbishing and harvesting e-waste—the coalition seeks to build sustainable local supply chains and mitigate reliance on disrupted global markets. The CSCC has been recognized by the Clinton Global Initiative, further reinforcing its role in advancing a circular economy.

Our Initiatives: Global & India

Partnership for Digital Justice

Pyxera Global, in collaboration with the Mario Baeza Foundation, Tropix Media, Justice Capital, and Blue Planet Alliance, has launched the Partnership for Digital Justice. This initiative is focused on protecting cultural heritage, archives, and artifacts that are at risk due to climate change, conflict, and time—especially within communities across the Digital Divide. By ensuring the security and preservation of these invaluable resources, the initiative safeguards marginalized communities' ownership of their cultural histories.

Systemic Climate Action Collaborative (SCAC)

The Systemic Climate Action Collaborative (SCAC) is a pioneering initiative that brings together 15 diverse partners, including Pyxera Global, spanning six continents with a combined global track record of over 250 years. This coalition unites leading foundations, philanthropists, corporations, and public institutions in a collective effort to address climate inaction and fragmentation. Partners include Climate KIC, Club of Rome, Bankers without Boundaries, others.

JIVA and Rayuwa

JIVA in India and Rayuwa in Nigeria are flagship initiatives led by Pyxera Global that exemplify regenerative agriculture and community stewardship. Developed in partnership with John Deere, these projects emphasize meaningful community engagement by working directly with smallholder farmers in rural Rajasthan, India, and Northern Nigeria, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices and livelihood improvements.

Pyxera India Team



Rajesh Varghese
Country Director



Yash Ranga
Director, Innovation
& Partnerships



Shilpa Ahluwalia
Director, Program
Delivery



Nancy Charaya
Circular Economy
Expert