

# Carson Stephen Kahn

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△ CREATIVITY   ▽ DEDICATION   ▷ INNOVATION

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Summary

**Carson Kahn** has spent the last half-decade turning digital media, education, advertising, healthcare, and consumer tech inside-out. As a consultant and three-time entrepreneur, his uncommon, cross-disciplinary experience in marketing, computer information systems, strategic management and design has touched hundreds of thousands of lives across the public and private sectors, and is changing the way consumers and organizations interact with their world.

### Bio / Résumé

Carson was most recently **Associate Partner** in startup strategy consultancy **MOSAIC International** (a spinoff of Entrepreneurial Operating System Worldwide), whose clients include Facebook, Ashoka, the CDC, Chick-fil-A/Windshape, Leadercast, the WHO, and Coca-Cola. When the company relocated, Carson was contracted to serve as **Technology Lead** for **TACIT**, a \$6-million NIH clinical comparative efficacy study in the field of sensory development teletherapy (the largest telemedicine grant ever enacted by any research agency).

Previously, he was **cofounder** of **Keystone Learning Systems LLC**, a cutting-edge educational technology startup dedicated to overcoming far-reaching problems in secondary education through creative applications of cloud-computing and social technology. Keystone, which specialized in user-friendly, adaptive learning platforms for school districts across the country, was acquired by a California-New Mexico venture rollup in fall 2013. Carson's two cofounders at Keystone have since dropped out of Stanford and Harvard to launch new startups in big data and biotech respectively.

Carson has also worked in higher education: as **Deputy Director for Marketing & Operations of Online Learning** at **CUNY/John Jay College of Criminal Justice** in

New York City, he helped spearhead MOOC initiatives at the largest urban university system in the U.S. Carson was responsible for co-managing the marketing mix and budget, as well as developing API middleware for the enrollment management and CRM systems used by the school. Around that time, he also began delivering original business, instructional design, law, and IT instruction to students and faculty at **Columbia**, the **CUNY**, and **CU Boulder**, as well as program mentorship and seminars at Watson University.

## Other Work

From 2012 to 2014, Carson served as a **founding Advisory Board member**, **product strategy adviser**, and **go-to-market consultant** for Finish App and its parent company, Basil LTD. Under his guidance, Finish became one of the most popular productivity tools in the App Store, and won an Apple Design Award in 2013. It has been featured in the U.S. and international App Stores over 230 times, became the #1 ranked and top-rated productivity app in the U.S. Store on several occasions, and is currently being ported to iPad, Mac, Android, and the web.

From 2009 to 2011, he enjoyed serving as a **founding-team designer, developer**, and eventually **junior partner** in **Vetica Interactive Inc** (based in Vancouver). With his help, Vetica produced the popular **DraftboardApp.com**, one of the web's first realtime collaboration tools for freelancers and their clients, which was acquired by UK investors when it reached 100,000 paying and nonpaying users in 2011. During his tenure, Vetica also began to produce **PlanboardApp.com**, a curriculum planning and instructional design web application, which later became the company's flagship due to its snowballing popularity in Canada and the northwestern U.S. It merged with Chalk.com in 2014.

Carson also **cofounded** the **IDEA Media Cooperative**, a hub-and-spoke network of sustainable design agencies with constituents on four continents. IDEA operated for several years as a distributed brand consultancy, but eventually became a commercial market study in the coworking industry when a subgroup, **IDEA Coworking**, received research funding from industry service providers under Carson's leadership. IDEA closed its doors in summer of 2013 with the conclusion of a program it helped make possible, **The Design Institute**, a human-centered design accelerator for student-professionals at CU Boulder.

Carson's other former marketing, product strategy, software development, and education clients and experiences include **Google** (2010, 2014), **Wells Fargo** (2013), **Excal Visual** (2010-2014), and dozens of independent entrepreneurs, artists, nonprofits, and SMB-owners in Denver, NYC, Silicon Valley, and abroad.

## EDUCATION & INTERESTS

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### Formal Education

Carson holds a **Certification in Business Education and Computer Information Systems** from **CCCS**, and a **Certificate in Social Enterprise** from **Watson University for Entrepreneurship**. Since receiving an International Baccalaureate Diploma from Fairview High School in 2012, he has chosen not to attend an undergraduate college, but is currently weighing graduate degrees/certificates in intellectual property law at the University of Colorado, artificial intelligence at Stanford, and marketing psychology at Duke.

### Other Activities

In his spare time, he writes articles and editorials on **Medium.com** which have attracted over 150,000 new readers, received 10 Editor's Choice awards, and have been reposted or retweeted by CNN, the Miami Herald, and Disney. He also plays **racquetball** enthusiastically, exercises compulsively, writes **poetry** inadequately, and moonlights behind a **jazz piano**.

## TWO TRUTHS & A LIE

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1. Carson's first elevator pitch **actually took place in an elevator**.
2. It is unknown whether Carson is **older or younger** than his brother.
3. Carson is a citizen of three countries **he has never visited**.