

JOSEPH J. HARWOOD

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Management consultant turned ecosystem builder and venture strategist, with thirteen years connecting founders, operators, and institutional partners across the innovation economy. At EY, built InnVenture from 120 to 1,800 product-focused professionals across North America: a network designed to bring ideas to market by connecting the right people to the right capital, talent, and advice. Led strategy and operations engagements across 20+ Fortune 500 clients in manufacturing, life sciences, technology, agribusiness, and CPG, including the \$63B Bayer-Monsanto merger and a \$165M+ global digital product portfolio. Currently supporting a Chicago food startup through a targeted \$2.5M seed raise and platform buildout, while completing a Kellogg MBA and building across Chicago's startup and innovation ecosystem. Focused on work at the intersection of venture strategy, ecosystem development, and commercial growth.

EDUCATION

Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Master of Business Administration

Evanston, IL

Expected June 2027

Michigan State University

Bachelor of Arts, Finance

East Lansing, MI

2009 to 2013

EXPERIENCE

Uncle May's Produce

Venture & Product Strategy Intern

2026 to Present

Chicago, IL

- Supported a targeted \$2.5M seed raise: engaged local institutional partners, developed market research articulating Uncle May's positioning with its target demographics and geographies, and prepared pitch materials for active VC conversations.
- Designed operating model and platform architecture for the Uncle May's Ecosystem Platform: mapped stakeholder roles, process handoffs, and integration requirements across CPG brand and farmer supplier relationships, translating primary research into product specifications.

Intuitive Surgical

Digital Product Lifecycle Manager

2021 to 2026

Sunnyvale, CA

Building the product decision infrastructure for Intuitive's CDO division, from scratch.

- Designed, wireframed, and built the digital product lifecycle governance framework and its supporting execution system in Jira: a stage-gate model with KPI architecture and go/no-go decision infrastructure that gave 500+ functional stakeholders their first structured, end-to-end view of a \$150M+ digital portfolio.
- Led annual strategic planning for the CDO division: gathered operational input from product managers across the portfolio, synthesized customer commitments and cross-BU dependencies into executive-ready decisions and visualizations, and defined the division's investment priorities for the following year. Trained product managers in resource planning, DVF framework application, and development rank-and-stack.

Comcast

Business Process Manager, Strategy and Operations

2020 to 2021

Philadelphia, PA

Designing and standardizing the operating model for a \$1B business vertical.

- Facilitated 70+ executive workshops across sales, finance, operations, customer care, product, and digital to move senior leaders toward a shared operating model: aligned and standardized processes, tools, systems, and organizational strategy across the \$1B Comcast Business Mid-Market and Enterprise verticals.
- Built and managed the cross-functional program migrating 40,000 legacy customers to the Orion business platform, coordinating across product, engineering, and customer-facing teams from requirements through launch.

Ernst and Young (EY)

Consultant to Manager, Strategy and Operations

2013 to 2020

New York, NY | Berlin, Germany | Chicago, IL

Seven years delivering strategy and operations engagements across 20+ Fortune 500 clients in the US, Germany, and Japan, across manufacturing, life sciences, CPG, media, and technology.

United States | Manager, New York | 2018 to 2020

- Founded and built EY InnVenture, the firm's internal product innovation and entrepreneurship network: designed the concept from nothing and grew it from 120 to 1,800 product-focused professionals across North America, connecting operators, founders, and institutional partners to the resources they needed to bring ideas to market.

- Led a strategy engagement for a Fortune 250 SaaS company: diagnosed root-cause gaps across Lead-to-Quote processes in Enterprise, Mid-Market, and SMB segments, synthesizing qualitative and quantitative data into a prioritized roadmap with measurable revenue growth, cost reduction, and NPS targets.

Germany | Promoted early to Manager, Berlin | 2016 to 2018

- Led the program management workstream for the \$63B merger of a Fortune 150 life sciences company and a Fortune 500 agribusiness conglomerate: directed integration workstreams across three continents, delivered EUR 50M in post-merger operational gains, and managed a direct team through the full integration lifecycle.
- Authored and presented quarterly merger integration status to the client's Board of Management across four consecutive quarters, maintaining executive alignment and stakeholder confidence through the most complex phase of the integration.

United States | Consultant to Senior Consultant, Chicago | 2013 to 2016

- Acted as de facto Chief of Staff to the Global EY Agribusiness Lead: owned account activation, sales pipeline management, and market forecasting across CPG and Agribusiness verticals for a \$300M+ sector practice spanning six continents.
- Optimized the allocation of a \$6B global advertising and marketing spend for a Fortune 50 Consumer Products company, synthesizing market research and trend analysis to redirect investment decisions across emerging markets and new technologies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Core Skills: Venture Strategy and Ecosystem Development, Innovation Network Building, Startup Commercialization and Fundraising Support, Strategic Partnerships and Business Development, Go-to-Market Strategy, M&A Integration, Operating Model Design, Cross-Functional Program Management, Executive Stakeholder Engagement.

Systems Experience: Jira, Confluence, Trello, Tableau, PowerBI, Miro, Adobe Code, Vercel, Github, Salesforce, Figma, Ona, SAP, Oracle, Lucidchart, MS Visio, Google Workspace, MS Office

Languages: English (native), German (professional proficiency), Japanese (conversational). International experience across the United States, Germany, and Japan.

Hobbies: Second City alumnus. Improv and comedy performer in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Berlin. World traveler and Bourdain-acolyte; 40+ countries, 46 states. Self-taught home chef and baker. Enthusiastic new Dad, begrudging new suburbanite.

Philanthropic:

- *Diverse-Abilities Employee Resource Group, Social and Community Connection Lead, Intuitive Surgical:* built and ran a 100+ member community, raised \$60,000 for Common Roots Farm in Santa Cruz, CA, and led a company-wide mental health awareness panel with 60% of employees attending.
- *Kellogg Impact Consulting Club:* partnered with Chicago Jesuit Academy on growth strategy for vocational training programs spanning secondary and post-secondary education.
- *STRT 615 – Strategic Growth Markets:* Pro-bono consulting project for STRT 615 at Kellogg under Karin O'Connor, Executive Director of the Heizer Center for Private Equity and Venture Capital, defining and recommending core growth strategies for a black-owned community center in Evanston (the AUX).

Ventures:

- ⇒ *stifledcreative:* Personal website and creative portfolio; built with React, Next.js, and Claude Code, deployed on Vercel.
- ⇒ *1pride:* NFL data query training tool; natural language interface for exploring football statistics and training analytical workflows; built with Claude API, React, and Claude Code. (assuming Claude API — correct if wrong)
- ⇒ *ferment-ed:* Fermentation education platform for home and craft fermenters; built with React, Next.js, and Claude Code, deployed on Vercel.
- ⇒ *tumbly:* Consumer gut health concept for a better antacid brand; led market research, competitive positioning, and pitch deck development. First place, New Venture Discovery, Kellogg School of Management.
- ⇒ *geflecht:* Interactive network visualization tool for mapping and exploring relationship graphs; built with D3.js, React, and Claude Code.