Boards of Directors are playing a much bigger leadership role in the corporate world today than they have in the past.

In this class, “CEO and Board Leadership”, you will have a chance to hear 15 prominent board members and CEO’s explain why and how things have changed, the impact that Boards have on the strategy of a company and how good Boards add value. **Of special importance to previous classes, you won’t just hear these business leaders speak; you will have a chance to ask them questions and network with them.**

**Why is this important to you?**

- You may work directly for a Board or you may have to present to a Board;
- You may wish to establish a Board for your own business and you will want to ensure that it is structured and operating effectively; or
- You may be asked to serve on a Board and you should know what to consider before accepting.

This class will combine lectures, relevant readings, an off-campus visit to a corporate board room and outside speakers who serve or have served on the Boards of companies, such as:

- F5 Networks
- Alaska Airlines
- American Apparel
- Group Health
- Puget Sound Energy
- Nordstrom
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Delta Airlines
- Anadarko Petroleum
- UK’s Tesco

You will also hear from a venture capitalist, a past Board Chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the CEO of the largest United Way in the U.S. and former student in the class who is now CEO of the successful Blue Dog Bakery.

In the anonymous evaluation of the class last spring, students wrote:

- **This class was fantastic. The outside perspective was intellectually stimulating and was an excellent complement to academic learnings. Lots of diversity of external perspectives---young, old, men, women---and from VERY successful executives/board members.**

- Great speakers and the trip to F5 Networks really contributed to my learning. Great variety of viewpoints made this class intellectually stimulating.

- The class allowed me to think about board governance in new and interesting ways. The guest speakers were great. The textbook was very helpful.

You will get all of these speakers (and more) in one class Spring Quarter, which is being taught for the 15th year by Neil McReynolds, president of a Seattle-based governance consulting firm. He has served on more than 60 boards and has been chosen as the leader for many of them, in addition to having been a long-time business executive in several industries.