

Michele R. Weslander Quaid

Michele is the Founder and President of Sunesis Nexus LLC, an independent consulting company, and the Co-Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Global Nexus Alliance, a nonprofit humanitarian organization. Her career has been at the nexus of National Security, Domestic and Foreign Policy, and Technology. Michele is a gifted communicator and consults globally with both the public and private sectors, utilizing her experience and expertise in executive leadership, strategic planning, coalition building, technology, innovation, leading change, organizational transformation and operations.

Most recently, Michele served as Google's Chief Technology Officer for the Public Sector and Chief Innovation Evangelist. Prior to joining Google in 2011, she served in both industry and government, collaborating with talented people of diverse backgrounds and cultures, from corporate boardrooms to combat zones. She started her career as an image scientist and systems engineer, where her innovative technology applications proved to be prescient solutions for operational needs, and she soon became the youngest chief engineer in the history of her company. Post-9/11/2001, Michele was recruited into public service to lead change, innovation, and organizational transformation, and became one of the youngest people ever sworn in as a senior executive in the US Government. As a government official, she led the cultural and technical integration of the national security community, establishing and serving in senior leadership positions to include: Deputy Technical Executive for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency; Intelligence Community Deputy Chief Information Officer for the Director of National Intelligence; Chief Technology Officer for the National Reconnaissance Office; and, the DNI's senior representative to the Secretary of Defense's Intelligence - Surveillance - Reconnaissance (ISR) Task Force leading information sharing and collaboration initiatives in support of global coalition stability operations. Michele's perspicacious leadership -- both in industry and government -- has had a lasting positive impact on the US and its Allies, and her support of the troops both at home and abroad earned her the call sign "Warrior Goddess."

Honors and awards Michele has received include:

- National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation (2001)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Meritorious Civilian Service Medal (2005)
- Seattle Pacific University Medallion Award (2014)
- "DC's Top 50 Women in Tech" (*FedScoop*, 2014)
- "Power 100" list of influencers (*Washington Life*, 2014)
- "The 7 Most Powerful Women to Watch" (*Entrepreneur Magazine*, 2014)

Michele earned a B.S. in Physics and Engineering Science with honors from Seattle Pacific University, and a M.S. in Optics from the University of Rochester. She is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government program for Senior Managers in Government, and a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff CAPSTONE Fellow.

In addition to advising high level leaders in both the public and private sectors, Michele serves on various commercial and non-profit Board of Directors and Strategic Advisory Boards. Her non-profit roles include: DigitalGlobe Foundation Board of Directors; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Advisory Committee for Commercial Remote Sensing; DHS Blue Ribbon Panel (cyber security); AFCEA Intelligence Committee; University of Rochester Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean's Visiting Committee; Naval Aviation Museum Foundation and National Flight Academy Board of Trustees; Mid-Atlantic Girls Collaborative (MAGiC) Project Champion's Board. She is active in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and leadership outreach for students in K-12 and at universities.