

ALUMNI PROFILE

Arif Shakeel President and CEO, Western Digital Corporation

Herff College of Engineering Experience

"My experience at the University of Memphis formed an invaluable foundation for my professional life and personal life. As a new international student I was learning the American way of life, and the University was an ideal community for my assimilation into society. The Herff College of Engineering was my "Ellis Island," socially and academically. I can attribute a large part of my success to the education I received from a group of extremely caring teachers who not only made me a good engineer but instilled the work ethic that has served me well. My career has offered me many opportunities, and my education from the Herff College of Engineering has applied to all of my professional roles on a regular basis—from my initial engineering days to my senior management responsibilities today."



Professional History

From 1978-1982, Arif Shakeel served as a defense contractor for Western Gear in Lynwood, California. He then moved on to become a hard disk drive manufacturer for Pertec Peripherals Corp. in Northridge, California from 1982-1985. Shakeel left the company in 1985 to become President and CEO of Western Digital Corporation in Lake Forest, California.

Significant Accomplishments

- Joined Western Digital as Product Manager in 1985
- Western Digital senior management roles:
 - Chief Operating Officer from 2001-2005
 - President beginning in 2002
 - Elected to Board of Directors in 2004
 - Chief Executive Officer beginning in 2005
- Western Digital is the fastest growing company in the more than \$20 billion hard drive industry and reached \$4.0 billion in market capitalization in 2004
- Western Digital added to S&P MidCap 400: 2005
- Western Digital doubled revenue, from \$2 billion annually in 2000, to over \$4 billion in 2005, and has posted the most consistent profits and highest returns on invested capital in the hard drive industry in that time frame.
- With customers such as Dell, HP, Cisco, Lenevo, Apple, and Fujitsu, WD has become the world's second largest manufacturer of hard disk drives based on a reputation for supplying high quality products that store data securely.

Education

- Bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering, 1977, University of Memphis
- Master's degree in business administration, 1981, Pepperdine University



Dreamers. Thinkers. Doers.