



# DONALD THOMPSON, CDE

CEO | DEI CHAMPION | BUSINESS ADVISOR | AUTHOR

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**Donald Thompson**, a multi-exit CEO with over two decades of experience growing companies, founded The Diversity Movement to fundamentally transform the modern workplace through diversity-led culture change. Advising executives across the globe, Thompson builds on his experience as a multi-exit CEO and board member across diverse sectors, including technology, manufacturing, healthcare, marketing, and professional services. Thompson is author of the award-winning leadership memoir “Underestimated: A CEO’s Unlikely Path to Success” and co-author of the “Inclusive Leadership Handbook,” a vital resource for leaders aiming to foster inclusive work environments. Trusted guidance and transformational results are the hallmarks of Thompson’s unique ability to drive innovation, navigate complexities and shape industries, setting the standard for excellence in global business.

## EXPERTISE

- » People: Talent Strategy & Acquisition, Inclusive Leadership, Conflict Resolution
- » Product: Go-to-Market Planning, Innovation, Product Lifecycle Management
- » Sales: Sales Strategy, Selling to C-Suite, Building High-Performance Sales Teams
- » Marketing: Marketing Strategy, Inclusive Marketing, Branding (Personal, Corporate, Employer)
- » Branding: Personal Branding, Corporate Branding, Employer Branding
- » Operations and Strategy: Team Building and Leadership, Board Effectiveness, Strategic Decision-Making

## ADVISORY

- » ECU Health: Board of Trustees
- » Earfluence: Chair Of The Board Of Directors
- » EasterSeals UCP NC & VA: Vice Chair Board of Directors
- » NCSU CSC Department: Strategic Advisory Board
- » Walk West: Board Chair
- » Swing Racquet + Paddle: Board of Directors
- » CyberAlliance: Board of Directors

## PUBLICATIONS

Author, Underestimated: A CEO’s Unlikely Path to Success  
 Co-Author, The Inclusive Leadership Handbook  
 Columnist, WRAL TechWire  
 Host, High Octane Leadership Podcast

## DONALD’S WORK

The Diversity Movement, CEO and Cofounder  
 Data-driven, technology-enabled, DEI solutions

2019 - Present

*acquired by Workplace Options*

Walk West, CEO  
 Digital marketing agency

2018 - 2021

iCiDIGITAL, Chairman and Interim CEO  
 Data-driven customer experiences

2014 - 2017

*acquired by Beringer Capital*

KPIT, SVP, Head PLM North America  
 Autonomous mobility software company

2014 - 2015

I-Cubed, President and CEO  
 Engineering software company

2005 - 2014

*acquired by KPIT*

## AWARDS

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2023 Southeast Winner  
 Raleigh Chamber 2023 Phil Freelon Award  
 Raleigh Magazine 2024 Impact 50 Award  
 Fast Company 2022 World-Changing Ideas  
 Inc. Magazine 2021 Best in Business List  
 Forbes Next 1000 List Honoree  
 3x Inc. 5000 Fastest Growing Companies Winner  
 Business North Carolina Power 100 List Honoree  
 Independent Press 2023 Distinguished Favorite Award