FROM AI CURIOSITY TO REAL RESULTS: A CEO'S PLAYBOOK FOR WHAT'S WORKING NOW

presented by the San Diego CEO Summit

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Doors open at 1:30 p.m., Speaker Presentation 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Optional happy hour immediately following.

San Diego Marriott La Jolla, Coronado Room, 4240 La Jolla Village Dr, La Jolla, CA 92037

Program Description

CEOs don't need another AI hype talk. They need to know what's actually working, where to focus first, and how to get their teams to adopt strategically. In this interactive three-hour session, Riley Stricklin, Founder & Chief Strategy Officer of Cadre AI, will walk us through step-by-step proven strategy, as well as real use cases delivering measurable ROI in mid-market companies. Working in small groups, attendees will map where AI fits in their own business, prioritize the opportunities with the biggest impact, and leave with a clear, practical plan they can put into motion right away.

About Our Presenter—Riley Stricklin



Riley Stricklin is the Founder & Chief Strategy Officer at Cadre AI, where he helps leadership teams turn artificial intelligence from a buzzword into a measurable growth engine. He guides companies from early curiosity to full enterprise adoption that drives revenue, increases operational efficiency, and builds durable competitive advantage across sales, marketing, operations, and finance—focusing not on experimentation, but on EBITDA impact. This frameworks help organizations move from scattered pilots to scalable implementation, empowering leaders to build internal confidence, governance, and long-term capability around AI transformation.

Before founding Cadre AI, Riley built a distinguished entrepreneurial career as the co-founder of Lume Cube, a pioneering consumer technology brand that transformed lighting for mobile creators, photographers, and videographers. Under his leadership, Lume Cube grew from startup to a globally recognized brand, generating over $100 million in lifetime revenue, securing national retail distribution across major chains, and ultimately achieving a successful exit. His firsthand experience scaling operations, navigating rapid growth, and building high-performance teams informs his pragmatic, operator-focused approach to AI strategy today.

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