

## KENT S. BELASCO, CPA, CFP, CGMA, ChFC

6530 Saddle Ridge Lane  
Long Grove, IL 60047

Cell: 630-817-8270  
kent.belasco@att.net

---

### PROFILE

University Professor, financial services expert, corporate operations and IT executive and board director, with over four decades of experience driving growth and sustainability for multi-billion dollar banking institutions. Adept at motivating high-performing teams, streamlining organizational processes, securing and managing partnerships and client relations, turning around underperforming business units and establishing new curriculum and programs in higher education. Broad-based expertise includes strategic planning, budgeting and forecasting, risk assessment and management, financial reporting and analysis, process improvement, organizational restructuring, P&L oversight, HR, facilities management, teaching, board of director governance and compliance oversight. Dedicated to building effective relationships and providing support to students, stakeholders, investors, executive teams and boards of directors.

### EXPERIENCE

#### MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, Milwaukee, IL 2016 - Present

*One of the largest Jesuit universities in the US, with an endowment over \$552M*

##### **Assistant Professor of Finance, Director Banking Program**

Responsible for developing the curriculum, teaching both finance and banking courses, internships, mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, assessing student performance, serving on various committees and cultivating a competitive and healthy educational environment and culture

- Developed the banking track for the business school, which will be available to students in 2017

#### ELMHURST COLLEGE, Elmhurst, IL 2003 - 2016

*A comprehensive private liberal arts college, with over 3,300 students*

##### **Adjunct Professor of Finance, Business Department (2003 - 2016)**

Assisted in the development of a financial core course for an MBA program and a Certificate/Master's Program in Project Management and taught undergraduate and graduate finance courses

- Spearheaded faculty training in the development of online and hybrid courses

#### FIRST MIDWEST BANK, Itasca, IL 1986 - 2016

*A \$10B Chicago-based, bank providing commercial expertise, wealth management and banking services*

##### **Executive Vice President/Chief Information and Operations Officer**

Oversaw all operations, IT, facilities management and project management, developed and implemented business growth strategies and evaluated and streamlined operational processes

- Saved \$2M in expenses associated with interest payment expense by evaluating organizational processes and assessing earnings and opportunities for improvement
- Established a project management structure and discipline that guided the integration process for all mergers and acquisitions and ultimately became a strategic advantage for the bank
- Smoothly coordinated over 30 synergistic bank acquisitions
- Secured a strong top rating from the Federal Reserve's Safety and Soundness Committee which encompassed all aspects of information technology, including cyber security
- Built the Information Technology Division and became the first CIO in the company
- Grew the IT division from supporting only 300 users to supporting over 400,000 customers

#### DELOITTE, Chicago, IL 1985 - 1986

*A \$36.8B multinational, professional services firm and one of the "Big Four"*

##### **Manager, Midwest Banking Consulting Practice**

Managed client relationships and advised banking and thrift institutions on achieving growth targets, effectively evaluating company processes and spearheading solutions and better operational management

**EXCHANGE NATIONAL BANK**, Chicago, IL **1980 – 1985**  
*A former subsidiary of Exchange Bancorp that was acquired by LaSalle National Bank for \$420 in 1989*  
**Vice President of Operations**

Directed bank-wide productivity, investment and deposit operations, systems conversions, commercial credit and collections, developed and implemented the company vision, secured crucial clientele and strategic partnerships and improved bank-wide operational efficiency

- Turned around the struggling Deposit Operations by correcting an imbalance of key reconciliation accounts that occurred as a result of a failed merger with Central National Bank

**CITICORP, INC.** (now Citigroup), Rosemont, IL **1976 - 1980**  
*One of the Big Four banks in the US with revenue exceeding \$76B*  
**Collection Manager**

Oversaw collection recovery efforts, supervised and mentored staff, drove process improvements, maintained relationships with clients and supported the Chief Financial Officer

*Prior experience: Assistant Corporate Collection Manager at Goldblatt Brothers Inc. (1976 - 1979)*

## PUBLICATIONS

*Increasing Profitability and Growth: A Blueprint for Thriving in the Financial Crisis, 2010*  
*Bank Systems Management: The Project Management Guide to Planning and Implementing System Installations, Conversions and Mergers, 1998*

*Analyzing Banking Staff Levels: A Model for Establishing and Maintaining Optimal Employee Performance, 1992 (a Best Seller)*

*The Professionalization of Commercial Banking: “The inauguration of the Marquette University Undergraduate Banking Program” Illinois Banker Magazine, 2016*

## PROFESSIONAL

**Past Board Director**, First Midwest Bank,  
**Past Executive & Strategic Risk Management Committee Member**, First Midwest Bank  
**Executive in Residence Committee Member**, Elmhurst College, 2003- Present  
**Technology Advisory Committee Member**, State of Illinois Treasury, 1993 - 1996  
**Accounting Curriculum Advisory Board Member**, DeVry Institute, 1995 - 2001

## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Education (EdD)**, Business, 1997  
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL

**Master of Business Administration**, Finance, 1982  
Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, Lake Forest, IL

**Bachelor of Arts**, Sociology & Art History, 1975  
Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL

**Current:** CPA, PFS, CGMA, CFP, ChFC

**Past:** CCP and CCCE