

Our Leadership



Clayton Wood
CEO



Clayton Wood is CEO at Seattle-based Picnic Works and is responsible for overall development and growth for the company. Clayton's passion as CEO is to build high performance teams and fully realize the financial and business potential of the company for all constituents.

Clayton has served in key leadership positions in organizations ranging from startups to Fortune 100 organizations, across a variety of technology industries, including renewable energy, robotics and software. He has successfully taken companies from scratch to global publicly traded businesses or to successful acquisition.

Prior to Picnic, Clayton served in C-suite positions as COO at IUNU, an award winning, venture-backed precision agriculture startup; CEO and President of Synapse Product Development; COO at Naverus; and COO/President at Xzeres Corp., a publicly traded global leader in small scale wind energy. Clayton spent 12 years at AlliedSignal and Honeywell where his roles included stewarding both the airborne radio and flight data recorder business units.

Clayton holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Washington, as well as Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M.

Tim Talda
VP Engineering



Tim Talda has successfully led engineering teams developing complex electro-mechanical products for mass production across a wide variety of industries, from rugged computers to Stirling engines to E-commerce packaging systems. He believes in achieving the fastest schedule of development by identification and robust mitigation of potential product issues utilizing accelerated learnings about these concerns.

Tim joined Picnic in November of 2020. Previously, he launched three different packaging machines for mass production internally at Amazon.com. Tim has led product development teams for Infinia where the first commercial scale solar powered Stirling generator field was installed and operated. He also led multiple rugged handheld/tablet/

laptop customizable computers for various rugged computer customers at Itronix as well as development, installation, and startup of extremely large, customized mining equipment in Chile, Indonesia, and China.

Tim earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon, a Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology, and a Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

Lamont Glendinning
VP Sales



Lamont Glendinning's career has evolved with one thing in mind: the customer experience and relationship building. From owning and operating his own restaurants at a young age, to managing multiple restaurant concepts and executive level food sales, Lamont has always strived to build trust and deliver complete satisfaction to his customers.

Lamont has been with Picnic since July of 2020. After seeing a Picnic press release on television and being amazed at the technology being developed, he immediately contacted the CEO to discuss an executive sales position. Previously Lamont was the VP of National Accounts and Business Development at Orion Landmark for over 16 years, helping grow the organization into the largest supplier of pizza and pizza components for the convenience

store industry. Lamont has been on various food and retail advisory boards, and he has provided food service solutions to thousands of operators around the country in the convenience, retail, food service, military, and big box retailers.

Lamont earned a Bachelor of Business Management from Kaplan University.

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Scott Erickson
SVP Marketing



Scott Erickson has worked across startup and established organizations, crafting marketing and brand initiatives that drive awareness, engagement, and advocacy. From global TV advertising to Xbox incubation, and from Four Seasons Resort marketing to Fortune 50 global business expansion, Scott's experience fuses creative intuition with real-world practicality.

As Senior Vice President, Marketing at Picnic, Scott manages marketing and branding, product management, design, and business development.

Prior to Picnic, Scott was a Partner and General Manager at Microsoft where he launched the world's first holographic computer, reimagined the future of entertainment on Xbox, and created worldwide advertising for Nokia. As CEO of his business and research consultancy,

he has advised clients across hospitality, technology, tourism, and healthcare on how to develop robust brands and sustainable marketing initiatives. Scott's background in omnichannel marketing, consumer research, brand development, and design are central to his holistic approach to marketing and business growth.

With an academic background from the University of Puget Sound, Northwestern University, and Cornell University, Scott has concentrated studies on International Affairs, Executive Management, and Hospitality Marketing. He holds a U.S. patent on brand design, serves as a startup advisor, and consults students, companies, nonprofits, and boards on effective strategies for growth.

Haritha Vaddadi
Director of Customer Success



Haritha Vaddadi has learned over her 20-year career that creating exceptional customer experiences comes from listening to customers' desires, building strong relationships and understanding their unmet needs. As Director of Customer Success Haritha brings a background in analytics and personal empathy to understand patterns in human behavior and build products that customers will love.

Before joining the Picnic team, Haritha worked in the food industry at Zume, using real-time food consumption data to help food companies better predict demand and make conscious decisions to drive down the food supply chain. Other past roles include Senior Director of Customer Success at SiteSpect, Inc., and Global Analytics and Customer Service Manager with Barefoot Books.

Haritha received a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Andhra University, located in Andhra Pradesh, India, and a Master of Business Administration from Hult International Business School, a global top-ranking school for international experience and business education.

Gabriella Mendes, Ph.D.
Senior Food Scientist



Dr. Gabriella Mendes is an innovation-driven scientist, award-winning food engineer, published author, and trusted peer reviewer of renowned scientific journals. She has extensive experience in innovative food process technologies, food safety, food chemistry, and food quality.

Gabriella joined Picnic in October of 2021, driving strategic research and innovation initiatives. She is co-creating automation with the goal of developing the mechatronic devices required for the complete range of food ingredients. Prior to Picnic, she led and executed initiatives on food safety systems to ensure compliance of ingredients and products with legal regulations.

At USDA research centers in Washington D.C. and Philadelphia, Gabriella oversaw multiple projects to support food safety and

quality assurance. She ensured accelerated progress of the Quality and Food Safety (Q&FS) systems and collaborated with stakeholders to create a competitive advantage that protected and enhanced their corporate reputation in the U.S. Gabriella previously worked at Anheuser-Busch in Brazil, where she managed and updated the HACCP plan, conducted audits, and monitored Q&FS strategies and policies to protect manufacturing plant reputation and performance excellence.

Gabriella received a Bachelor of Science in Food Engineering and earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Food Process Engineering from Purdue University. At Purdue, Gabriella was the recipient of several honors and awards, including the prestigious ABE Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award.