

Derreck A. Ford

Derreck Ford is founder and CEO of JETEC Corporation. The company is headquartered in Costa Mesa, California and can be found at www.jetec.com

JETEC was started over 25 years ago to provide industrial manufacturing companies world-wide with the highest quality and most reliable product identification solutions available. Simply put, our mission is to provide our customers with a one-stop shop for state of the art, turnkey parts marking solutions equipment, services and accessories.

JETEC's suite of integrated industrial ink jet, laser and dot peen marking solutions have been designed to meet the unique and changing needs of aerospace & defense, automotive, electronics, medical, pharmaceutical and PCB manufacturers. Our motto is, IF YOU CAN MAKE IT WE CAN MARK IT.

My quest towards entrepreneurship started while growing up in the Soundview projects in the South Bronx, NY. My first exposure was being a paperboy where I had to deliver the morning paper and perform monthly collections.

I held various positions in supermarkets while attending high school and college. I ended up getting a BSIE degree and later an MBA. I was fortunate to work for such prestigious companies as Armstrong World Industries, McDonald Douglas, Rockwell and Hughes Aircraft Company before embarking on my entrepreneurial venture.

Giving back to the community has always been a very important part of my life. For over 15 years I mentored African American males who participated in the Passport to the Future Program offered by the Orange County Chapter of the 100 Black Men of Orange County. In 2003 Dr. Ames asked if I would be a mentor at CSUF's entrepreneurial program and I have been participating off and on ever since.

Currently I am a motivational speaker and personal coach for high school and college students, as well as individuals with a desire on becoming an entrepreneur. I am author of "The Entrepreneur's Survival Handbook, A Deck of 52 Insightful Pointers from an Experienced Entrepreneur".

My advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to:

1. Prepare yourself to have the skills to run your enterprise. This means master your strengths and plan on hiring your weaknesses;
2. Observe and study other entrepreneurs;
3. Serve your community. Jump at the opportunity to Pay it Forward.

