

# Tony Polito, MBA, Ph.D.

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Dr. Polito earned a Ph.D. in Management from The Terry College of Business at The University of Georgia, with concentration in the area of Operations Management. His dissertation topic, within the subarea of quality management, was "A Study Regarding the Organizational Climate Prescribed by the Philosophy of W. Edwards Deming." He also earned an MBA from The Fuqua School of Business at Duke University as well as a double undergraduate major in Mathematics and Statistics from Radford University.

Dr. Polito's professional/practitioner experience prior to entering academia includes:

- material control, data control and major component expediting for Volvo Trucks,
- cost control, scheduling, and general administration for the Minerals and Mining Division of Kellogg, Brown & Root (then a subsidiary of Halliburton),
- Manager, Information Services and master scheduling for American Drew, a division of La-Z-Boy, and
- Forecasting, master scheduling support and personal computer systems management for the Furniture Division of Singer Corporation.

Dr. Polito's academic instructional affiliations include The University of Georgia, University of Northern Iowa, East Carolina University, Wake Forest University, Roseman University of Health Sciences and Brenau University. During his academic career, Dr. Polito has directly instructed nearly 6,000 undergraduate or graduate students of management; the majority of his students evaluated the quality/effectiveness of his instruction above 4.5 on a 5.0 scale, over 80% evaluated such above a 4.0.

Dr. Polito has contributed to academic/intellectual knowledge in the form of 15 journal publications, 34 conference proceedings and 26 conference presentations. In addition, Dr. Polito's brief comments/thoughts on management, quality and improvement have seen ink within the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, *Wall Street Journal Marketwatch*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Fortune* magazine, *SmartMoney* magazine, *Autocar* magazine, the *Detroit Free Press* and *USA Today*.

Dr. Polito has also provided significant service to both academic discipline (eg, Decision Sciences Institute) as well as institution, the latter including University-level committees such as Chair of Committee for Student Appeals for Policy Exception (e.g., suspensions, graduations), Chair or member of numerous Academic Integrity Hearings, a member of the Intellectual Property Committee as well as a member of Committees specifically charged with review of matters such as tenure denial & general faculty grievances.

Dr. Polito also devoted three years early-on in his career to instructing mathematics within a multicultural, high-need, urban high school. While there, he revitalized the Chess Club, increasing membership over two years from 12 to 120 students and cultivated a competitive team that traveled the state, quickly capturing a number of trophies at regional and state competitions ... as well as the attention of area media. Based upon those successes, the district superintendent instituted a city-wide chess program serving all of its 25 schools and hired a chess Grandmaster to instruct and administrate it. Though it no longer employs a Grandmaster as administrator, the city-wide chess program as a whole is still quite active today.

Dr. Polito's research interests include the Deming Theory of Management, Lean Management, Quality Management, the Toyota Production System, Process Improvement and the Theory of Constraints. His primary instructional interests are in the areas of Operations Management, Quality Management & introductory Statistics.

Dr. Polito has been a long-time member of APICS (American Production and Inventory Control Society), ASQ (American Society for Quality) as well as MENSA (the International High IQ Society).