

Darden Council Testimonials

"I joke with my classmates that Darden Council feels like Darden without the cold calls and homework. Honestly, it's been invaluable in processing our complex and accelerating times and lifting up my thinking about work and personal challenges. At every meeting, every person on my Council shows up completely checked in, ready to listen, and willing to share their unique perspectives...I'd wholeheartedly recommend it for anyone willing to commit to prioritizing attending the meetings and to being open with a new group of people." — **Keith Krut (EMBA '13)**

"Our discussions are deep and meaningful. We trust and care for each other. It's been an amazing experience. The facilitators have been excellent and foster great discussions." — **Guy Maurice (MBA '02)**

"The trust, sharing and collaboration amongst our Council creates a 'safe place' and an environment where people can talk freely, learn and help each other." — **Ajay Laheri (MBA '95)**

"I have an interest in pursuing a coaching or counseling certification to support my current work with executive leaders and to possibly open the door for a career pivot. I thought learning and practicing new skills through Darden Council would align with my personal goals. I also thought I would enjoy stretching myself to try something new. It was an experiment that was rewarding beyond my expectations. As a bonus, my co-facilitator is a '95 classmate and it's been fun to reconnect and work together." — **Sara McNamara (MBA '95)**

"I joined Darden Council because Darden taught me to lean into new ideas and experiences, and I wanted to continue growing and staying connected with the Darden community. What I didn't expect was how quickly our group formed real trust. We were able to dive into meaningful challenges in both our personal and professional lives, and the level of support was immediate and genuine." — **Slav Zapata (EMBA '23)**

"Our council spans nearly 40 years of Darden experience and no overlapping industries, and what's surprised me most is how valuable that dynamic is. The mix of experiences and different life stages brings real perspective to the challenges we're working through...I'd recommend Council to people who are willing to show up consistently, contribute

*selflessly, and engage with others. The value comes from supporting others, learning from their experiences, and offering thoughtful perspective.” — **David Black (EMBA '19)***

*I missed being with Darden people and their way of thinking. I am retired from law practice and it's been 40+ years since I left Darden, so I particularly wanted to meet some of the younger Darden graduates — which from my standpoint is just about everyone. The people in my Council provide excellent critique on the problems that each of us raises, especially business problems, but also sort of quasi business/life problems. Darden alums are great people — even more than when they were at Darden. And those who self-select to be in a Council are especially interesting and outgoing. — **Rick Jenney (MBA/JD '81)***