

## Facilitators



**Richard Crespin**  
**CEO, CollaborateUp**  
**Senior Fellow, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation**  
**Senior Associate, Center for Strategic and International Studies**  
**CollaborateUp.com**

Richard is a successful entrepreneur, business community organizer, and award-winning filmmaker. CollaborateUp is an elite consulting firm advising businesses and non-profits on how to work together to solve big problems. On behalf of his clients, Richard structures complex, outcome-oriented partnerships that amplify impact and get results faster and at lower cost. Richard also serves as a Senior Fellow for the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation; a Senior Associate for the Center for Strategic and International Studies; an executive education faculty member at the Harvard School of Public Health; a lecturer at the Georgetown School of Foreign Service; and an adjunct professor at the George Washington University. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Office Depot Foundation and the Board of Advisors for the Corporate Responsibility Association. Richard is an alumnus of both the George Washington University and the Harvard Business School.



**Laura Asiala**  
**Senior Fellow**  
**PYXERA Global**  
**PYXERAglobal.org**

Laura is a Senior Fellow at PYXERA Global after spending several years as their Vice President of Communications & Public Affairs. Laura served the Dow Corning Corporation for nearly 30 years, including roles as Director of Corporate Communications and Director of Corporate Citizenship, prior to retiring in 2013. She chaired the founding committee to establish the Bay County (Michigan) Habitat for Humanity Affiliate and was the organization's first president. She is the former vice-chair of the Bijou orchestra, and served in many volunteer leadership positions throughout the Bay City Public School System. In 2008, she received the Athena Award from the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, Alma College named her the "Career and Internship Ambassador of the Year." She serves on the boards of Net Impact and The National Writers Series and on the Advisory Boards of TEDx Traverse City and the University of Vermont MBA. Laura holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics from Alma College and a Master of Science in Organizational Development from Case Western Reserve University.



**Ava Stone**  
**Associate, CollaborateUp**

Ava has a background in collective impact programs, engaging both the private and social sectors in complex partnerships and collaborations. Her recent experience includes working as a practice area specialist, for Education & Youth, at FSG, the consulting firm founded by collective impact and shared value pioneers Michael Porter and Mark Kramer. In 2018, Ava founded the non-profit Includiv which focuses on development in the Dutch Caribbean. Prior to joining CollaborateUp, Ava worked on the island of Sint Maarten shifting social attitudes of doing business in the Caribbean. Her experience includes operations, data analysis, strategy development, and facilitation. Ava earned an MS in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and an MSc in Mediterranean Security through a joint program between George Mason University and the University of Malta.