

LOU KERESTESY Founder and Chief Innovator

Lou Kerestesy has 30 years of experience in government, about half as a government employee and half as a consultant. He was a local government official between 1985–1989 (Portage County, OH) and a federal government official at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from 1989–1997.

Lou's consulting experience includes executive positions in a management consulting company, and owning and operating two independent consulting practices.

As a local government official, Lou provided residential care services to severely mentally disabled adults, and launched the agency's first strategic planning and program evaluation practices. As a federal official, he facilitated communication between the EPA and state and local officials about environmental policy problems and solutions, and launched an innovative formal dialogue between federal and local government officials.

Between 2007–2014, Lou was a Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, and then President of The Ambit Group, a Reston-based management consulting company. Direct client experience included strategy planning, program and project management, change management, decision support, and acquisition/procurement support. Executive experience included overseeing delivery across the enterprise, operations management, business process improvement, capture, bids and proposals, and financials.

Lou's independent consulting experience includes 10 years of organizational and community dispute resolution and collaboration with federal, state, and local governments (1997–2007). As founder of GovInnovators, Lou helps government and commercial clients innovate more, from the inside out. Drawing on lessons learned and best practices from innovation, change management, conflict resolution, strategy, leadership, and other disciplines, he helps clients innovate their business and technology models to add value for customers.

Lou has a liberal arts undergraduate degree from Kent State University and a Master's in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University. He is an active member of AFFIRM where he supports programs and events, and ACT-IAC where he supports the Acquisition Management SIG, the Institute for Innovation, major events, and the Academy. Lou has taught academic courses at George Mason University and the USDA Graduate School, and has presented papers and training at conferences such as the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, Northern Virginia Mediation Service, and International Association of Public-Private Practitioners.



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