

Robert J. Harrington

Bob Harrington Associates

Born in Brooklyn and educated in RC parochial schools, Bob Harrington got the taste for leadership early in life. He was captain of the varsity basketball team in high school; and later at Villanova, he became Midshipman Battalion Commander for the largest NROTC unit in the US. In short order, Bob earned his BE in electrical engineering and was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. And while he pulled duty as both a communications and electronics officer, he set a new course by earning an MBA in business administration from Pepperdine in 1975.

The following year, Bob began an industrial corporate relationship that would last nearly 20 years, take him from New Jersey to Philadelphia to Greensboro, NC; and prepare him for entrepreneurship. His career began with the Permacel Division of Johnson & Johnson, a manufacturer of pressure sensitive adhesive tape. Following a short stint with Revlon and following the acquisition of Permacel by Avery International, he was recruited back as director, engineering and maintenance. In subsequent years, he held a number of top posts in sales, marketing and operations before being named vice president and general manager of the Avery Dennison Soabar Ticketing Services Division in Greensboro in 1991. Under his leadership, the company adopted a strategy of expanding globally to meet the complete tag and label marking needs of apparel manufacturers and retailers. Today, the company has the leading market position in retail information systems.

In 1994, with his extensive background and specialization in printing, packaging and related industries, Bob left the corporate highway and founded Bob Harrington Associates, an executive search consulting business that includes any search where industry-specific experience is the primary criteria. He founded the firm as part of the Sanford Rose Associates franchise system. During a 7-year affiliation with SRA, he was a perennial top performer with recognition as a Top Gun and Five Star Office. He served on the SRA Owners' Association Board of Directors and was its president. He also served as president of the board of Sedgfield Country Club.

Despite a long and active career, Bob has no plans to slow down. He's married, has two daughters and a granddaughter and recently became a PCC affiliate.