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Acendas Travel Announces Richard Aquino to Succeed Retiring President Brent Blake

Overland Park, Kan. - based Acendas Travel has announced that long-time travel industry executive Richard Aquino will replace President Brent Blake, who is retiring.

Aquino will begin his position January 27, with Blake remaining through the first quarter of 2025 to assist in the transition.

Aquino comes to Acendas Travel after serving slightly more than 20 years with Allianz Partners, the world's largest travel insurance and global assistance company. Most recently, he held the title of vice president, head of sales at Allianz where he was responsible for revenue growth, client retention, product development and management of the sales channel. He originally joined the company in 2005.

Possessing an entrepreneurial background, Aquino has experience in start-ups creating or co-founding a media agency, a travel booking software business and a ski tour company. He has also led the sales operations for various tour and travel entities.

A native of Baltimore, Md., Aquino attended Towson State University where, as a student, he founded a ski tour company, Outrageous Adventures. He has been active in numerous philanthropic and travel industry efforts. He is a past board member for a children's special needs charity (PACT) and the Central Maryland YMCA. He currently serves on the American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) Corporate Advisory Board.

Blake retires after 27 years with Acendas Travel, joining in 1997 as chief operating officer; advancing to co-owner/president in 2001 and president/owner in 2018. An Overland Park native, he helped grow the company to a top 50 travel management company and facilitated Acendas Travel's relationship with BCD Travel, the world's second largest corporate travel company, first as an affiliate and later as a subsidiary.



Richard Aquino
Incoming President
Acendas Travel



Brent Blake
Outgoing President
Acendas Travel

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Under his leadership, Acendas Travel became recognized as a member of the Kansas City Business Journal's Hall of Champions and regularly among the publication's "Fastest Growing" and "Top 50 Privately Owned Companies." Ingram's Magazine selected Blake in 2024 for one of its C-Suite awards, naming him President of the Year. He was also honored five times as a Power 250 honoree recognizing top business leaders in Greater Kansas City.

About Acendas Travel

Founded October 21, 1982, Acendas Travel is an award-winning travel management company, delivering industry-leading corporate travel solutions, full-service meeting/incentive support and customized vacation/leisure travel planning. Its success has been built on a foundation of unmatched expertise, outstanding customer service and the latest technological innovation to enhance the travel experience. Headquartered in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Kan., the Acendas Travel team offers a network of dedicated professionals throughout the United States.

Acendas Travel is a wholly owned subsidiary of global leader BCD Travel, serving the small to medium enterprise market. We are also a member of the Signature Travel Network, allowing us to deliver the finest in premium and luxury vacation travel experiences.

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