

# EDWARD SMITH, CPA, MBA

FINANCE SHARED SERVICES LEADER

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## PROFILE

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Accomplished finance leader with an impressive history of maximizing sales, profits, and efficiencies for some of the world's leading organizations. Versatile professional with diverse financial experience in areas such as audit, accounting, FP&A, tax, and accounting operations. Business transformation expert who has designed, implemented, and accelerated several global shared services functions. Relationship builder who advises executive teams, influences at all organizational levels, and collaborates cross-functionally to achieve goals. Participative leader who hires exceptional talent, develops employees, and creates inclusive cultures.

## STRENGTHS

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- Strategy & Execution
- Business Transformations
- FP&A
- Global Team Leadership
- Process Improvement
- Compliance Management
- Accounting Operations
- System Implementations
- Analytics & Insights

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Global Manager - Accounting, AP, and T&E**

Brexley, Inc. / Nashville, TN / 2015 - Present

Tapped to transform operations from a regional model (APAC, UK, US, and Canada) to a common global platform, while retaining previous AP and T&E responsibility. Designed and built a center of excellence that optimized and standardized billing, royalty systems, and processes. Collaborated with technology team to build a common platform that captured data globally and funneled it into one database. Developed plan to move regional accounting professionals (10 FTEs) to one location in the Philippines. Served as accounting SME for all acquisition integrations.

#### *Selected Accomplishments:*

- Aligned calculations across customer facing platforms which reduced business risk.
- Adjusted global cost allocations to better reflect business activities and drive better decision making.
- Best-in-class ratings given to Global AP and T&E functions from PWS and Brixey Meyer, respectively.

### **Global Mgr., Accounts Payable/Travel & Expense | Mgr., AP Solutions | Lead Financial Analyst**

Brexley, Inc. / Nashville, TN / 2012 - 2015

Hired as Lead Financial Analyst to assist 6 global business units (\$2.6B) in forecasting and securing revenue/profit. Promoted quickly to lead AP (25 professionals) and lay groundwork for a consolidated, global operation. Promoted again to combine decentralized AP/T&E teams, pay globally on one platform, and integrate a team of ~40 into the Global Shared Service Center (Philippines). Managed project end-to-end, including COE design, roadmap creation, process definition, technology implementation, hiring/training, go-live, and stabilization.

### *Selected Accomplishments:*

- Decreased headcount 41% (saving \$450K annually) through automation and process improvements.
- Generated \$1M in margin improvement by implementing a payment optimization program that delivered efficiencies and volume rebates.
- Generated ~\$10M in working capital improvement, increased EFT transactions from 34% to ~60%, and reduced paper volume by ~50%.

### **Finance Manager, Vendor Finance & Merchant Services | Senior Financial Analyst | Inventory Control** Stanley's LLC / Nashville, TN / 2008 - 2012

Hired as a Sr. Financial Analyst to coordinate the planning, execution, and reporting of 2 physical inventory cycles in over 300 store locations. Promoted to forecast key account performance/risks, identify cost savings opportunities, implement process improvements, create Sarbanes-Oxley documentation, and lead a team of six finance professionals. Co-led the implementation of a new Lawson Expense PO system.

### *Selected Accomplishments:*

- Reduced margin exposure by ~\$1M by analyzing import costs and providing actionable recommendations to the import department.
- Saved ~\$80K by leading an ACH initiative that converted vendors to electronic payments.
- Vastly improved physical inventory reporting which reduced the time needed to communicate results from 12 weeks to 3 weeks.

### **Internal Auditor**

Stanley's LLC / Nashville, TN / 2006 - 2008

Performed operational and financial audits of several departments by evaluating internal control efficiency and effectiveness. Reviewed 10-K and 10-Q filing for accuracy and adequate documentation. Developed and executed an enterprise-wide fraud risk assessment program (used in creating the audit plan) and presented results/actions to the audit committee.

## **EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS**

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### **Master of Business Administration**

Vanderbilt University

### **Bachelor of Arts, Accounting**

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

### **Certifications**

- Lean Six Sigma – Green Belt
- Certified Public Accountant

## **FINANCIAL SYSTEMS**

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Oracle PeopleSoft             | ▪ Perceptive            | ▪ Hyperion/Essbase      |
| ▪ BookMaster                    | ▪ Sovereign/Vista Print | ▪ IDMS Billing System   |
| ▪ Lawson Accounting System      | ▪ Blackline             | ▪ Jesta Inventory Mgmt. |
| ▪ Business Objects/Intelligence | ▪ Warehouse Mgmt.       | ▪ ACL Data Mining       |
| ▪ RPA                           | ▪ Tableau               |                         |