

Our Team

Principals | Nicholas Brill *Principal and Co-Founder*

Nick has more than three decades of experience as a senior executive in not-for-profit organizations and commercial enterprises, as well as a successful track record as an entrepreneur. At Brill Neumann, Nick leads executive searches for both academic and financial leaders at colleges and universities, academic medical centers, and research institutes.

Earlier in his career, Nick was an officer of the Harvard Community Health Plan, a leading regional health maintenance organization in New England. He also founded a health services company, Commonwealth Care, raised investment capital, and built out the firm before selling it to a publicly traded company. In addition, he served as vice president for national business development at Olsten Health Services and as vice president of a national executive search firm.

Nick serves on the Board of Partners Continuing Care (post acute services) and on the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees of Partners HealthCare in Boston. He also serves on the Board of the Boston Biomedical Research Institute. A graduate of Colgate University, he also holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Principals | Elizabeth A. Neumann *Principal and Co-Founder*

Liz has nearly 30 years experience in financial management, organizational consulting, and executive search. At Brill Neumann, she leads searches in areas including business, finance and administration, human resources, information technology, and development for higher education, medical, and research organizations.

Earlier in her career, Liz held financial management positions at National Amusements Inc., Laventhal and Horvath, and in entertainment, real estate, and non-profit organizations. She also worked for a national executive search firm.

Liz is a conflict resolution/management consultant for churches in Massachusetts and a volunteer for the South Shore Hospice. She holds a B.A. from Boston University.

Consultants | Rebecca Kennedy *Vice President*

Rebecca has more than 10 years of experience in higher education searches. At Brill Neumann, she provides the firm's Principals with strategic, research, and candidate recruitment support.

Previously, Rebecca worked as a consultant at another national search firm. She garnered additional administration experience at Phillips Exeter Academy and the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University. Prior to that, Rebecca taught at a public high school program for at-risk teens in Northampton, Massachusetts. She also served as a school counselor at a public school collaborative for teens with psychiatric and behavioral issues.

Rebecca is an active member of her local civic association in Springfield, Massachusetts. She holds a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an M.A. in Education and School Guidance Counseling from Goddard College in Vermont.

Consultants | Ora Smith *Vice President*

With more than 30 years of experience in senior corporate positions, start-up companies, and university organizations, Ora provides strategic, research, and candidate recruitment services for academic, research, and technology commercialization searches.

Previously Ora was a senior technology executive with Rockwell International Corporation and the company's first director of external technology development.

He also founded a technology-based company, now ISCO International, which he took public. He co-founded two additional companies, one later acquired by Superconductor Technologies, Inc. and the other by Gordian Associates.

As the first chief executive of The Ohio State University's affiliated research park, Ora oversaw the development of research facilities and the commercialization of faculty innovations. He continues to serve on the industrial advisory boards of The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business Center for Entrepreneurship and its NSF-funded Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center. He also is an instructor for the California Institute of Technology's Industrial Relations Center.

Ora holds a S.B. and S.M. in Mechanical Engineering from M.I.T. and a J.D. from Harvard School of Law. He is a former Industrial Research Institute Fellow in the White House Science Office.

Consultants | Ben Tobin *Associate Vice President*

Ben supports Brill Neumann's Principals on research and academic leadership searches. Before joining the firm, Ben worked at the Office of International Programs at Boston College as the advisor and administrator for the summer study abroad programs. He spent four years working with Boston College faculty and administrators in establishing and running courses in more than 10 countries while advising students on opportunities abroad.

In addition to his work at Brill Neumann, Ben is an active member in several non-profit organizations in Boston.

Ben holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Boston College.

Operations | Pamela Awde
Director of Operations

Pamela has more than 20 years of experience in health care and social services administration and operations management. Over the course of her career, Pamela has worked in both the private and not-for-profit sector overseeing the delivery of client services, as well as participating in strategic planning, program/policy development and implementation, staff training, and financial management. She also trained as a health educator and counselor and provided services in both individual and group settings.

Pamela holds a B.A. from Clark University. She also completed coursework for an M.A. in Counseling Psychology at SUNY Brockport and pursued additional studies at the Sorbonne in Paris.