



## **Rick Kantor** Biography

Rick brings a lifetime of creative entrepreneurial ventures to his current work teaching creativity and innovation to university students, organizations, and individuals. In his varied roles as an adjunct professor of *Creativity in the Workplace* at Drexel University Online, and as a keynote speaker, workshop facilitator, and consultant, Rick strives to be a catalyst for unlocking the creative potential that lies uniquely within every individual, strengthening the creative skills that allow each of us to adapt to rapidly changing realities.

In between his varied business startups, Rick earned a B.A. in Psychology from Oberlin College, a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Sonoma State University, and an M.S. in Creativity and Innovation from Drexel University. He has designed best-selling gift, stationery and novelty items; started a New York City-based decorative painting and design business; created lifestyle furniture and design stores; produced theatre on Broadway; and built an eco-friendly interior design gallery in Northern California where he now lives.

Rick is best known for co-founding Pony Express Creations, Inc., one of the leading creative manufacturers of original Halloween and novelty headwear for retail stores, theme parks around the world, and Cirque du Soleil.

Drawing on his avid interest in contemporary art, Rick's published chapter "Art as Open Source Intelligence" won first place at the 2015 KIE Conference. His chapter "Reframing Creativity as a Martial Art" appears in the new 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of *The Talent Management Handbook*, edited by Lance and Dorothy Berger. *The Talent Management Handbook* is ranked Amazon's #1 new business development book. Rick was awarded the Champion of Creativity Award in 2017. He currently serves as Secretary of the American Creativity Association.