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#PwrFwd

*High-res photo available*

## **First Commerce Presents Power Forward with Peter Diamandis on Feb. 4**

Tallahassee businesses and entrepreneurs have a rare opportunity to hear from the Founder of the XPrize Foundation and Singularity University, organizations that are changing the way leaders think about the future

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – As small businesses continue to power the economy forward, First Commerce will ignite their entrepreneurial passion with the seventh year of its Power Forward Speaker Series. First Commerce announced today that the next Power Forward event will feature global entrepreneur Peter Diamandis, named one of the world's 50 greatest leaders by *Fortune Magazine*. His exponential success is driven by three core principles – Find Your Passion, Be Curious, and Never Give Up.

The ability to bring a speaker of such high caliber to Tallahassee was made possible through the support and partnership of the FSU Office of Research and FSU College of Business. Established as Tallahassee's largest annual business event, Power Forward with Peter Diamandis is happening Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall on FSU's campus. Last year's event with Shark Tank's Kevin O'Leary was held before a sold-out crowd of more than 1,100 business owners, entrepreneurs, local leaders and students.

"We believe small businesses are the dreamers and the doers who have the power to transform the future. Power Forward is just one way we support entrepreneurship by inspiring and motivating local business leaders," said Cecilia Homison, CEO of First Commerce. "Peter Diamandis's drive to think exponentially and overcome seemingly impossible odds speaks to the heart of what every business owner can accomplish when you dare to dream big."

Diamandis has launched more than 20 companies during his entrepreneurial career in the areas of human longevity, space travel, venture capital, and education. He is co-founder of BOLD Capital Partners, a venture capital fund with \$250 million investing in exponential technologies.

Diamandis is also the Founder and Executive Chairman of the XPRIZE Foundation, a non-profit that leads the world in designing and operating large-scale incentive competitions that are bold, audacious and achievable. The Foundation offers large cash prizes to inventors and entrepreneurs across the globe who can solve grand challenges such as space flight, developing real-life avatars, converting carbon dioxide into valuable products, creating, low-cost mobile medical diagnostics and oil spill cleanup.

The work of the XPRIZE Foundation has attracted attention and support from well-known entrepreneurs and disruptors, including Tesla CEO Elon Musk. Recently, Musk set aside \$15 million for an XPRIZE contest to incentivize entrepreneurs to find an effective way to use software to teach illiterate children living in poverty.

In addition to his work with the foundation, Diamandis is the Executive Founder and Director of Singularity University, a global learning and innovation community using exponential technologies to tackle the world's biggest challenges and build a better future for all.

As the son of Greek immigrants, Diamandis grew up in Long Island, NY. His fascination with science, technology and space was sparked at an early age when he watched the first Apollo 11 moonwalk. His passion was further fueled by the popular series, Star Trek, whose mission each week was to “boldly go where no man has gone before.” From those early days, he knew he wanted to pursue a life of making the impossible possible.

Diamandis is a New York Times Bestselling Author of two books: “*Abundance: The Future is Better Than You Think*” and “*BOLD: How to Go Big, Create Wealth, and Impact the World.*” He also wrote the foreword for “*Exponential Organizations: Why new organizations are ten times better, faster, cheaper than yours (and what to do about it).*” His latest book, “*The Future is Faster Than You Think,*” will be released near the end of January 2020, and talks about how the world will change in response to the next 10 years of rapid technological disruption. Exponential thinking was the focus of a recent workshop at the Tallahassee Chamber Conference presented by local entrepreneur Yuh-Mei Hutt, president of Golden Lighting and Chair of Domi Station, Tallahassee’s business incubator. Hutt has also attended Singularity University.

Diamandis earned degrees in Molecular Genetics and Aerospace Engineering from MIT and holds an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. While his parents wanted him to earn a degree in medicine, his passion was space and technology. Rather than choose just one degree, he earned both.

As the next Power Forward speaker, Diamandis is in good company. Previous speakers include *Shark Tank*’s Barbara Corcoran, Airbnb’s Chip Conley, NFL legend and entrepreneur Jim Kelly, Facebook startup team member Randi Zuckerberg, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, and last year’s Kevin O’Leary, also from *Shark Tank*.

Going into its seventh year of the Power Forward Speaker Series, First Commerce has established a powerful reputation for bringing highly successful celebrity entrepreneurs to Tallahassee to share their personal journeys and experiences in business, as well as insights that provide tangible takeaways for audience members.

Tickets are now available for the seventh annual Power Forward Speaker Series at [tickets.fsu.edu](https://tickets.fsu.edu) (\$40\* base price for main level seating and \$30\* base price for balcony seating; \$10\* for students – student ID required for college students). Tickets also will be sold at the FSU Fine Arts Ticket Office (in the lobby of the Fine Arts Building at 540 W. Call St.). Sponsorship opportunities are available.

### **Follow Power Forward on Social Media: #PwrFwd @FirstCommerceCU**

Other sponsors of Power Forward with global entrepreneur Peter Diamandis include the FSU Office of Research, FSU College of Business, Golden Lighting, the Office of Economic Vitality, Tallahassee Community College, Harland Clarke, STRUCTURE Commercial Real Estate, The Krizner Group, Rodney Rich and Co., Radey Law Firm, WCTV, the Tallahassee Democrat, Comcast, 100.7 WFLA, and Lamar Advertising.

For more information about Power Forward with Peter Diamandis, visit [FirstCommerceCU.org/PowerForward](https://FirstCommerceCU.org/PowerForward).

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\*Service fees apply

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