



### **John "JD" Draper**

John "JD" Draper is CEO of Viridian Group, LLC, a multi-state, multi-unit franchisee with Pie Five Pizza Company. JD has over four decades of retail and operational management experiences. He was President of Operations at V & J Holdings Companies, Inc. in Milwaukee from 1994 until 2014. JD and his son, John Draper II, have been awarded up to 55 franchise units of Pie Five Pizza Co. The father-son team plans to introduce the concept throughout Michigan and Wisconsin. JD, who has been recognized for his ability to multi-task and develop teams, attended Wayne State University, where he majored in business administration. Throughout his career he has had direct responsibility for over 100 restaurants, including Pizza Hut, Burger King, Auntie Annie's, Coffee Beanery, Cinnabon Bakery, Haagen Dazs and MyYoMy Frozen Yogurt. While developing his career in hospitality, JD served as a Dental Specialist Five in the U.S. Army Reserves for six years, owned and operated J.C. Draper Management Consultant, Inc. and for four years was an owner, Vice President and General Manager of two radio stations, WJIZ-FM and WJYZ-AM Communications Group in Albany, Ga. He is a proud member of several professional organizations including The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance, and a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. A longtime resident of Milwaukee, Wis., JD maintains an active profile within the local community, where he serves as a Board Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation of Southeast Wisconsin and a previous Board member with North Milwaukee State Bank and the Milwaukee World Festivals. He is First Vice-Chair and a board member of the IFA Diversity Institute and was named the 2014 IFA Ronald E. Harrison Diversity Award recipient for his accomplishments in diversity and inclusion. In 2015, he was the state finalist from Wisconsin for the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's Faces of Diversity Award. JD enjoys playing racquetball, golf, traveling and the company of his wife Deborah, his high school sweetheart for over 43 years, three children including an adopted niece, and six grandchildren.