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# Richard Slayton Receives Prestigious AESC Lifetime Achievement Award

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Slayton Search Partners



## Rick Slayton

AESC Lifetime  
Achievement  
Award Winner  
2025

 **AESC**  
The Association of Executive Search  
and Leadership Consultants

**SLAYTON  
SEARCH  
PARTNERS**  
A Judge Company

Slayton Search Partners is proud to announce that Managing Partner & CEO Richard Slayton has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Executive Search and Leadership Consultants (AESC). The award was presented at the 2025 AESC Global Summit on Leadership in New York.

The award celebrates Rick's transformative impact on both Slayton Search Partners and the broader executive search industry over a distinguished career spanning more than three decades.

"What sets Rick apart is not just his strategic acumen, but his unwavering commitment to our people and his clients," said John Nimesheim, Senior Managing Director at Slayton Search Partners. "He has an uncanny ability to develop broad, deep, long-lasting relationships with clients that have stood the test of time. His deep knowledge of the business, paired with his relentless work ethic and passion for excellence, has made him a true pillar of our firm, and our industry."

Since Rick joined Slayton Search Partners in 1990 and took the helm as CEO in 2005, he has personally led more than 600 executive placements while simultaneously building the firm into a national leader in strategic executive recruitment. His vision has extended beyond conventional search practices to establish a consultative approach that delivers exceptional value to clients.

"One of Rick's most significant contributions is his ability to merge deep industry insight with a consultative approach, moving beyond transactional recruiting to become a true advisor to boards and C-suites," said Molly Hull, Managing Director & Executive Vice President at Slayton Search Partners. "This model has influenced how many peer firms operate, encouraging a more strategic and insight-led approach to executive placement."

Rick's leadership capabilities have been particularly evident during periods of market volatility. Throughout the tech bubble burst of 2001, the housing crisis of 2009, and the recent COVID-19 pandemic, his steady guidance ensured not only the firm's stability but its continued advancement. This same strategic vision proved invaluable during Slayton's integration with The Judge Group in 2022, where Rick maintained the firm's distinctive culture while embracing new growth opportunities.

Beyond his business achievements, Rick has significantly shaped talent development within the executive search profession. "As a mentor and developer of talent, Rick has also helped

shape the next generation of executive recruiters," added Hull. "Many of today's successful partners and principals in the industry cite Rick's leadership as foundational to their careers."

His industry influence extends to professional governance through his service on the AESC Americas Council, where he advocated for the highest standards of ethics and professionalism. His expertise has been recognized by Business Week, which named him among the World's 100 Most Influential Recruiters, and he is frequently quoted by major publications including the Wall Street Journal for insights on talent acquisition and management.

Rick holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Michigan and a Master of Business Administration from Lehigh University, where he was a Martindale-Rauch Scholar.

## **About Slayton Search Partners**

Slayton Search Partners is a premier executive search firm specializing in C-suite and senior executive placements across multiple industry verticals. With expertise spanning consumer, distribution, financial, industrial, insurance, private equity, and retail sectors, Slayton delivers exceptional leadership talent through a consultative approach that builds long-term partnerships with clients. For 40 years, the firm has maintained a commitment to integrity, precision, and excellence in executive recruitment.

## **About the AESC Lifetime Achievement Award**

The AESC Lifetime Achievement Award represents the profession's highest honor, reserved for the most distinguished leaders who have exemplified and advanced excellence in executive search and leadership consulting. Recipients are widely regarded as icons whose contributions have left a lasting imprint on both the profession and the Association of Executive Search and Leadership Consultants (AESC).