

February 2026

WALDEN UNIVERSITY

Video: Alumni Voices Featuring Wylie Blanchard, BSBA '08

Transcript

00:01] DB: Hello, everyone. I'm Dina Bergren, a manager in Walden University's Department of Career Planning and Development, and today I have the honor of connecting with Mr. Wylie Blanchard, Executive Technology Advisor and the founder of Reintivity Technology Solutions. Mr. Blanchard, can you tell us about your current occupation and your Walden degree?

[00:27] WB: Yes, I can—and thank you for having me, Dina. I'm Wylie Blanchard. I'm the founder of Reintivity, formerly known as Great Tech Pros. We help leaders modernize and protect their technology without sacrificing time. Most of our work focuses on cybersecurity, reliability, and modernization for small and mid-size organizations—particularly in regulated industries where downtime has real consequences. I'm also the author of *Zero Downtime Care*, a book about keeping critical operations running during change. My Walden degree is a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Class of 2008.

[01:09] DB: Thank you for the introduction—and I know you've been very busy since you last graduated back in 2008. What initially inspired you to pursue your degree at Walden?

[01:24] WB: I needed an education that was engaging but also built for my work lifestyle. At that time, I was working for one of the largest health insurers in the country, and I knew I couldn't pause my work life to go back to school. Finding Walden honestly felt like finding a needle in a haystack, because back then a lot of degree programs weren't designed for someone who needed to keep working full-time while going to school. Walden gave me a path where the two could actually complement each other, and that made all the difference for me. It was very

beneficial because almost immediately after finishing my degree, I was promoted into my first leadership role within a corporate environment.

[02:10] DB: That's excellent. Like many of our students, you were a busy working professional and found the flexibility of online learning very helpful. It also helped you get a promotion and advance in your career. Can you tell us a little bit more about that—how did your Walden degree help you in your career advancement?

[02:35] WB: It helped me in two big ways. First, it helped me build the habit of documenting my wins and successes—not just what I did, but what changed because of it and why it mattered to the business. That made it a lot easier to communicate impact and advocate for myself in a professional way. Second, it helped me get better at communicating business impact—specifically connecting my day-to-day work to goals leadership cared about. That allowed me to start translating what I was learning in school into how I showed up at work.

[03:09] DB: It sounds like you really translated your academic knowledge into a real-world business setting and applied basic business practices that helped you stay organized and advance your career. What would you say is the one lesson you learned in your career that you wish you'd known earlier?

[03:35] WB: I'd say that we can outsource work, but we can't outsource ownership. Early in my career, I thought that if we had outsourced support, everything would be covered. But the reality is someone can help execute tasks, yet internally you still own the outcome. You're still responsible for whether it's done correctly, on time, and aligned with what the business actually needs. And it's very similar to school: your professor owns delivering the material, but you own learning it, applying it, and producing the outcome that earns the grade you're looking for. Once I truly understood that, I started staying more involved, asking better questions, and getting better results—being accountable as a student, as a manager, as a director, and as a business owner.

[04:28] DB: That is definitely important to keep in mind—being able to allocate work, but at the heart of things, being the one accountable yourself. What career-related tips and advice would you have for someone who would like to enter or advance in business or technology?

[04:54] WB: I think this applies to both business and technology: learn how to speak in outcomes. Don't just explain what you worked on—explain what it changed. If you're growing your career, ask your leadership: How does my role help us save money, make money, or reduce risk? A lot of people struggle connecting their day-to-day work to those outcomes, but that's what organizations ultimately get measured on.

[05:41] WB: One practical thing that helps is what I mentioned earlier: document your wins. If you can track your results and connect them to outcomes, you'll be able to tell a strong story when advocating for yourself with current leadership, in future interviews, and beyond. In my opinion, that leads to a lot of wins down the line in your career.

[06:07] DB: And being able to communicate that through your resume, networking, formal interviews, your LinkedIn profile, and in so many ways—yes, that ability to communicate your academic and professional skills and achievements can help you move forward. Is there any other career-related tip or advice you would like to give to Walden students or graduates?

[06:40] WB: Yes—seek out mentors, and also consider a coach when it makes sense, and understand the difference. A mentor is someone who's already doing what you want to do; they can guide you with their perspective and experience. A coach is more hands-on and practical—someone you hire to give you specific guidance or steps that help you produce tangible, measurable results. In my experience, those two together, at the right time, can accelerate your growth in big ways. If someone is early in their career, I'd say start with a mentor, and plan for a coach later when you're ready to level up faster. I've used both consistently in my career and I've always seen steady success.

[07:26] DB: Mentors, coaches—connecting to people who work in your future role or field and getting their advice, feedback, and support—and also connecting with Career Planning and Development, maybe scheduling a career advising appointment for goal setting, job searches, career exploration, interviewing, networking, and more. Our team is also available to help you find professionals who can support you as you move forward in your career. Mr. Wylie Blanchard, how can students and alumni connect with you?

[08:19] WB: The easiest way is LinkedIn—just search my name, Wylie Blanchard. I also have a website, WylieBlanchard.com, and a newsletter at WylieBlanchard.com/newsletter where I share tips and advice on business technology—uptime, security, and modernization. If you do reach out to me on LinkedIn, I recommend mentioning that you're either a Walden student or a Walden alum—that helps me recognize it and prioritize responding.

[08:53] DB: Wonderful. Thank you so much for joining us here today. All the best, Mr. Blanchard, as you continue to grow your career, establish your brand as a business and technology leader, and make a positive impact in organizations. It has truly been a pleasure connecting with you today.

[09:16] WB: Thank you very much, Dina. I really appreciate it.

[This transcript has been provided in rough-draft format in order to facilitate communication accessibility and may not be a totally verbatim record of the proceedings.]