



event speakers



Eric Arnold

Digital Experience Executive at Jack Henry®

ERarnold@jackhenry.com

Eric brings over 24 years of experience in the fintech industry, with nearly a decade at Jack Henry. Throughout his career, he has been passionate about leveraging innovative and ever-evolving technologies to create meaningful, measurable outcomes for financial institutions and their customers. His expertise lies in digital banking, platform software, and payment solutions. Prior to joining Jack Henry, Eric held a technology role at Wolters Kluwer from 2002 to 2009. In 2017, he took a brief hiatus from Jack Henry to help launch Autobooks, a startup focused on small business banking.

On the personal side, Eric has been married to his wife Val for 34 years. They have two adult sons, both married, and are proud grandparents to three grandchildren. A longtime resident of Knoxville, TN, Eric has enjoyed coaching youth, middle, and high school sports over the years, staying active in his community.



Nicole Harper

Senior Director, Corporate Strategic Planning & Initiatives at Jack Henry

NiHarper@jackhenry.com

Nicole has a passion for empowering mission-driven organizations to innovate faster, strategically differentiate, and successfully compete. In her role, she drives research to vet acquisition, strategic partnership, and investment opportunities across the fintech ecosystem. She leads an industry research analyst team covering digital, lending, payments, and financial crimes.

Prior to Jack Henry, Nicole served in senior-executive leadership roles leading digital, marketing, and retail for forward-thinking credit unions, real estate associations, and leading financial software and identity theft protection providers. She is a frequent presenter on topics related to fintech strategy and financial health, as well as niche banking topics and the important of women in leadership in the fintech industry. Nicole holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC. She also has an MIT Sloan Executive Certificate in AI: Implications for Business Strategy and completed the post graduate program in AI for Leaders from the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin.



event speakers



Danny Payne

Senior Sales Director, Senior at Jack Henry

DanPayne@jackhenry.com

Danny Payne is the Senior Director of Digital Sales at Jack Henry and a 25-year veteran of the fintech industry. He leads Jack Henry's Digital Platform Sales team, guiding financial institutions through the rapidly evolving digital landscape and helping them adopt solutions that strengthen engagement, accelerate innovation, and support long term growth.

Throughout his career, Payne has been deeply involved in shaping the future of digital financial services. He currently serves as the elected President of the Association for Financial Technology (AFT), where he works alongside industry leaders to advance collaboration, technology modernization, and human centered financial experiences.

Payne is widely recognized for his forward thinking perspective and his commitment to building integrated, people-first systems that will drive the next era of digital transformation in financial services.



Barbara Vega

Product Strategist, Senior Advisory at Jack Henry

BVega@jackhenry.com

Barbara Vega is a Senior Advisory Payments Strategist for Jack Henry, where she analyzes the ever-changing payments landscape and jointly develops effective strategies with financial institutions, technology providers, and Jack Henry solution groups. After graduating from The University of Texas McCombs School of Business with degrees in Marketing and Management Information Systems, Barbara spent a dozen years sharing her technical development and management consulting skills with Argo Data Resource Corporation and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Since joining Jack Henry in 2005 Barbara has held a variety of posts, including R&D manager, product manager, and partner business unit manager, where her expertise in payments and technical integrations played a key role in developing Jack Henry's direct-to-merchant line of business. Her deep payments background and engaging personality make her a sought-after speaker and panelist at conferences and industry events.



event speakers



Aprel Fripp

Digital Sales Engineer II at Jack Henry

AFripp@jackhenry.com

Aprel Fripp is a Digital Sales Engineer with Jack Henry Complimentary Solutions. She has been with the company since 2015 and has 11 years of industry experience. Her career includes 15 years of real estate sales and development, human resources, and project management. Aprel attended Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, and completed her MBA in Business Marketing at SUNY-Oswego's School of Business.

She Lives in Dallas, Texas and loves being the “favorite aunt” to 11 nieces and nephews. Outside of work, Aprel enjoys international travel, exotic cars and supporting the Pittsburgh Steelers.



Joshua Thomas

Account Executive at Array

joshua.thomas@array.com

Joshua Thomas is a seasoned sales professional in fintech and data services. As an Account Executive at Array, he collaborates with digital banking partners like Jack Henry to deliver credit monitoring, identity protection, subscription management, and student loan aid solutions to banks and credit unions. Previously, he served as AVP at Ned Davis Research, providing macroeconomic data to institutional clients. He also spent over a decade at S&P Global, selling to major financial institutions and media firms.



event speakers



Rene Perez

CAMS, Financial Crimes Consultant at Jack Henry

RPerez@jackhenry.com

Rene has been with Jack Henry since 2007 and has more than 20 years of experience in the financial crimes industry. In his current role, Rene is able to share his specialized knowledge directly with Jack Henry clients and the industry through speaking engagements. He is Jack Henry's subject matter expert on financial crimes and has spoken at many major conferences including ACAMS®, Jack Henry Connect, and SAS's Global Financial Crimes Conference. Prior to Jack Henry, Rene worked as a BSA and Fraud Officer at a top 50 bank in the U.S. Rene was also one out of 21 people across the country chosen by the Federal Reserve Bank to start the first-ever Federal Reserve Bank Payments Improvement Fraud Work Group. Their first mission was to formally define and categorize fraud to a single definition that can be adopted across the U.S. He lives in Birmingham, AL, with his wife and four kids. When not in the office, Rene can be found at one of his kids' functions.