

# **The HealthSouth Story: A Wagon to Disaster**

**Aaron Beam, Co-Founder and First CFO**

**Thursday, November 12, 2009, 4:00 pm**

**Michel Student Center, Marty Theater**

## **Abstract**

Aaron Beam's story reads like the "Great American Success Story": start a company from zero, raise some venture capital, take the company public in two years, become a millionaire overnight and see the company become the darling of Wall Street. But this success story didn't end there. Instead, Beam found himself in the middle of a corporate scandal, lost almost everything and ended up in prison. That's not the way success stories are supposed to end, but for Beam, that was the harsh reality.

"I think others can learn from my story," Beam says. "From how I started a major company, how I got involved in the fraud while serving as Chief Financial Officer, and more importantly, the human story, the pain of going through a trial and going to prison."

In short, it's the story of how something really great went horribly wrong and the price one man had to pay. Beam hopes that sharing his perspective, as a key player in one of the biggest corporate frauds in recent history, can help future business leaders avoid making the same mistake that he, and the four CFOs who succeeded him made.

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