

NACD NJ SPECIAL SHOWCASE EVENT
January 19, 2017
Rutgers University Business School

PEERING INTO THE POLITICAL CRYSTAL BALL

Rutgers University Business School hosted an NACD NJ Special Showcase Event examining what companies and their boards of directors might expect from the incoming Trump administration. The panel featured two distinguished experts, Dr. Ben Dworkin, Director of the Rebovich Institute for NJ Politics and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rider University, and Dr. Farrokh K. Langdana, Professor of Finance and Economics at Rutgers Business School and director of the Rutgers Executive MBA Program. The panel was moderated by Anthony R. Buonaguro, President, COO and Program Chair for the NJ Chapter.

The panel covered a broad variety of topics, starting with an assessment of the current political climate and the forces that drove the electorate; what relationships we might see among the players in the administration and with Congress; and the impact of social media and “fake news.” Of particular interest to board members trying to read tea leaves for the impact of changes in regulations and trade policy on their specific companies, the panelists posited as to winners and losers among different industries, addressed the outlook for U.S. manufacturing and theorized possible courses of events in outsource destinations such as China and India.

As the bottom line of a lively and interactive meeting, the experts offered the following advice: While there are many unknowns, or perhaps because of that, the directors and companies should: adopt a “wait and see” posture, be cautious with respect to financial markets, be observant about how the financial institutions on which they rely behave in response to possible de-regulation, pay attention to the impact of corporate decisions on jobs and beware of the risk to brand and reputation from social media.