

Fran Tarkenton

NFL Hall of Famer quarterback Fran Tarkenton played for 18 years in the NFL with the Minnesota Vikings and New York Giants. He had three Super Bowl appearances; 3,686 completions; 6,467 pass attempts; 342 touchdowns; 47,003 yards passing; and 3,674 yards rushing — all NFL records. He followed that by hosting Monday Night Football, the popular TV show "That's Incredible," and a Hall of Fame induction in 1986.

Those are some of the things that might come to your mind when you hear the name Fran Tarkenton. But if you ask him, he'll give you a different answer. "I'm an entrepreneur, first and always," he says.

Over 50 years in business, Tarkenton has built more than 20 successful companies, all from the ground up. And today, 81 years old, he remains as active and involved as ever, running multiple companies out of his office in Atlanta, Georgia.

The lessons from those experiences led to a string of successes in all different kinds of businesses from organizational psychology to technology. Along the way, he was mentored by Sam Walton, served on the first board of directors for Coca-Cola Enterprises, and built his largest company in a partnership with IBM.

Fran has since become one of the most trusted spokespeople for small business in America. He has launched 20 successful start-up companies, was a founding board member of Coca-Cola Enterprises, among others.

In addition to running multiple companies that provide support for small businesses, Tarkenton is a respected opinion-maker with savvy, provocative, and insightful commentary on everything from business to politics, and of course, sports.

Fran is a regular contributor to *The Wall Street Journal*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *CNN*, *Fox Business*, and other major media outlets. He is a columnist for BusinessInsider.com and has been frequently profiled in Forbes, Entrepreneur, and Inc.

Fran's latest labor of love for small business is his partnership with the University of Georgia Terry College of Business. Together with Fran's Tarkenton Institute for Small Business Education, they offer an online, MBA-level Certificate of Entrepreneurship program, featuring direct access to the educational expertise of UGA faculty with the Tarkenton Institute's network of industry experts and seasoned business practitioners. It consists of a comprehensive online curriculum that prepares enrollees for the world of entrepreneurship a combination of unique MBA courses taught at UGA and practical handson instruction.

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