

# Insight Into the Work of Aakash Patel

Founder & President — Elevate, Inc.



**Aakash Patel**

Business Development Executive Supporting Startups and Entrepreneurs.

Aakash Patel is a business consultant, civic volunteer, and community supporter who has built his career around helping organizations form meaningful relationships in the Tampa Bay region. He founded a consulting firm that focuses on public relations, community engagement, targeted networking, and social media guidance. Through his work, he has supported many companies as they establish a presence, connect with local partners, and contribute to the area's economic and social fabric. His approach emphasizes steady communication, genuine collaboration, and thoughtful guidance.

## Bridging Business and Community

Aakash launched his consulting company in 2012 with the intention of helping businesses strengthen their community relationships and navigate local opportunities. Since then, he has worked with more than 350 organizations seeking to build trust and expand their reach. His early professional experience includes time spent in a state capital newsroom, where he learned the value of transparent information sharing, and later in a public relations role for a waterfront hotel and restaurant. These roles helped shape his ability to connect with people and understand the needs of diverse audiences.

## Contributions to Education and the Workforce

Patel has dedicated much of his public service to education and workforce development. In 2021, he was appointed by the governor to a four-year term on the district board of trustees for a community college, allowing him to work alongside other leaders to support student access, program quality, and long-term academic success. Since 2014, he has also served as chairman of the early learning coalition in his county, helping guide initiatives that improve early childhood education, encourage school readiness, and provide families with resources that strengthen their children's future potential.

## Public Engagement and Media Representation

Aakash Patel has participated in leadership programs and community-focused academies that deepen understanding of local government, public safety, and civic responsibility. Through involvement in regional leadership groups and programs connected to homeland security and federal investigative agencies, he has gained insight into how different parts of the public sector function. With a background in journalism and public affairs, he has written opinion essays for well-known publications and appeared on regional public affairs programs to discuss local issues, aiming always to communicate respectfully and encourage constructive community dialogue.

## Recognition and Accolades

Aakash has been recognized for his contributions to business development, leadership growth, and civic engagement. In 2013, he was honored by his university with a place on its "Thirty Under 30" list, acknowledging his accomplishments after earning degrees in political science and English literature. Additional honors include an emerging leader award from a regional chamber, a businessman of the year recognition from a professional association, and an Apogee award from a business and wealth publication. These acknowledgments reflect the impact of his work and the collaborative efforts of the teams and partners he has supported.

## Fostering Community Growth and Collaboration

Aakash Patel remains committed to strengthening Tampa Bay through his involvement with advisory boards, cultural organizations, and regional initiatives. His service on boards focused on economic development, tourism, and nonprofit strategy has allowed him to collaborate with civic leaders and elected officials to identify areas for improvement and encourage thoughtful planning. He has also supported significant community events, including efforts connected to a Super Bowl host committee and a regional film festival advisory group. In 2018, he continued his commitment to public service by running for a countywide seat on the local commission, guided by his desire to offer responsible, community-centered leadership.