THOMAS ANTUNEZ, ‘05, IS PRESIDENT of Percentix, an Irvine-based company that helps large corporations innovate their finance and accounting functions.

Antunez says his MBA at the Merage School has helped him in three ways. “First, it gave me the technical skills, including finance and accounting, to really understand what it takes to run a business. This is critical as an entrepreneur.

“Second, the MBA honed my ability to articulate a business idea to any level, whether it be to a CEO or a financial analyst. This gave me the self confidence to drive business ideas and concepts.

“Third, my MBA experience really developed my under-
standing of what it takes to work within a team — how to know when to demonstrate strong leadership and when to let others pull more of the weight. This is key for any business professional. Merage is in the business of producing leaders, but graduates should understand that leadership is as much about giving others the opportunity to lead as it is about leading on your own."

Antunez says Percentix’s business "is all about helping large corporations remove unnecessary steps," particularly on massive spreadsheets, "that result in an inordinate amount of time massaging data to get the desired results. Our enterprise performance management solutions maximize a company’s shareholder value by enabling the firm to set strategic goals, plan around those goals, monitor actual performance and repeat the cycle. Much of our time is spent with the CFO and his or her team discussing how the finance function can become a value-adding entity that proactively works with the business to achieve results, not simply report on them."

Antunez is one of the lead donors to the Dean’s Leadership Circle (DLC) Endowed Professorship Campaign and joined the DLC executive committee last July. He is also a member of the advisory board at Merage’s Don Beall Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.