Joe DeSimone
Executive Chairman and Co-Founder
Carbon

Dr. Joseph M. DeSimone co-founded Carbon in 2013 and served as the company’s CEO until being named Executive Chairman in 2019. As CEO, Joe grew Carbon from a small team of scientists and engineers into a 500-person global company valued at almost $2.5 billion that is defining the digital revolution in manufacturing. Previously, as a professor at the University of North Carolina for over 20 years before launching Carbon, Joe made scientific breakthroughs in areas including green chemistry, medical devices, and nanotechnology, also co-founding several companies based on his research. When Joe took on 3D printing, he brought together insights from diverse fields to co-invent the core technology that now drives the Carbon Digital Manufacturing Platform. Powered by Digital Light Synthesis™ (DLS™) technology, the Carbon Platform is enabling companies to break free of traditional polymer manufacturing methods to advance product innovation across numerous industries.

Joe grew up in the Philadelphia area and studied chemistry at Ursinus College. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in chemistry from Virginia Tech in 1990, joining the faculty at UNC that same year. Joe quickly achieved international recognition as a scientist, inventor, and entrepreneur, earning accolades including the U.S. Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award and $500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize. In 2016 President Obama awarded him the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the highest honor in the U.S. for achievement and leadership in advancing technological progress.

An author of over 350 scientific publications and a named inventor on nearly 200 issued patents, Joe maintains academic appointments at both UNC and North Carolina State University. He is one of roughly 20 individuals elected to all three U.S. National Academies—the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Engineering. Joe currently resides in Monte Sereno, California with his wife of 30 years, Suzanne. They have two children and two grandchildren.