Aaron Beam Jr.'s story reads like the "Great American Success Story": start a company from zero, raise some venture capital, take the company public, become a millionaire overnight, and see the company become the darling of Wall Street. But this success story didn't end there. Instead, Beam found himself in the middle of a corporate scandal, lost almost everything, and ended up in prison. That's not the way success stories are supposed to end, but for Beam, that was the harsh reality.

The company was HealthSouth, which Beam co-founded in 1984 and which went on to become the nation's largest provider of outpatient surgery and rehabilitative services. As revenues grew to more than $3.5 billion, Beam enjoyed the many rewards that corporate success can bring - until 1996, when the company's earnings fell just slightly short of its goal. That's when, according to Beam, HealthSouth's chief executive, Richard Scrushy, ordered the books to be fixed.

Beam went along with the fraudulent activity at HealthSouth for a year, and then resigned from the company in 1997. HealthSouth’s fraud continued until 2003, at which time it was made public by one of Beam's successors. He and each of the other four CFOs testified against Scrushy when the case when to trial in 2005. In the meantime, Beam pled guilty to bank fraud and eventually served three months in a federal prison.

Now, with the HealthSouth turmoil behind him, Beam is focusing on the future. He believes it's his obligation to share his story so that others won't be led astray. He understands the pressures that abound in the boardroom and he wants to educate today's business leaders - and the leaders of tomorrow - to the potential pitfalls along the road to success. Beam hopes that by sharing his perspective as a key player in one of the biggest corporate frauds in recent history, he can help future business leaders avoid making the same mistake he made.