



SMPTE Spotlight:

# Sean Richardson

BY RUSSELL POOLE

**CURRENT POSITION:**  
Sr. Solutions Architect at Dolby

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

- SMPTE
- Audio Engineering Society
- International Telecommunication Union
- Sports Video Group-Digital Television Audio Group-Executive Steering Committee Member

**DEGREES:**

- Texas McCombs School of Business Postgraduate Degree Program, Cloud Computing
- University of Denver-Daniels College of Business
- Executive Leadership Program, Organizational Leadership
- Conservatory of Recording Arts and Sciences Master Recording Degree

**M**edia technology leaders drive innovation while also building and uplifting the media in their communities. These strong leaders often find themselves in high-ranking positions within their industry and frequently volunteer to lead others outside their offices and laboratories. Sean Richardson is a great example. As a Sr. Solutions Architect at Dolby and Chair of the SMPTE Rocky Mountain Section, Richardson has spent more than 25 years leading and mentoring the industry on multiple fronts.

“My SMPTE involvement began early in my career through standards education and the practical application of standards in specifications and everyday post workflows,” said Richardson when asked about his history with SMPTE. “As a leader in the SMPTE Rocky Mountain Section, I have helped program creative and engineering community-friendly sessions and facility tours, strengthening ties among technologists and vendors.”

Outside of the Society, Richardson has made a name for himself in the worlds of audio, standards, and DEI initiatives. “Leslie Gaston-Bird, a leading voice in immersive audio and DEI, mentoring underrepresented groups and ensuring new voices thrive in our industry, has been a real

honor working with over the years,” said Richardson. “I also learned a lot from Tim Carroll and Jeff Reidmiller, who are influential audio innovators with award-winning engineering achievements.” Richardson also credits Jim Starzinski, Ray Milis, and Tomlinson Holman, who shaped his approach to standards development, engineering, operations, and technology. “Their mentorship has been truly invaluable.”

At Starz/Lionsgate, Richardson scaled multiplatform distribution and post operations. When he ar-



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rived at Dolby Laboratories, he helped drive industry adoption of Dolby Atmos, Dolby AC-4, and Dolby Vision HDR across OTT, Pay TV, and device ecosystems. His work bridges standards, encoding, and cloud workflows with hands-on delivery at scale. He also focuses on applying artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML) to quality control (QC), compliance metering, and distribution technology.

“I am proud of enabling large-scale deployments of Dolby Atmos/Dolby Vision in mainstream consumer

experiences,” said Richardson when discussing his accomplishments. “And of launching early AI/ML pilots for QC and supply-chain automation. Mentoring engineers who have since become leaders in broadcast and streaming, ranks alongside my other technical milestones.”

Richardson’s professional aim is to create advanced audio and the workflows around it, making them more accessible, measurable, and automated through innovations in AI-assisted QC and scalable personalization, such as dialog clarity. For SMPTE, he hopes the Rocky Mountain Section will continue to grow, attracting students, young professionals, and industry veterans alike, so everyone in the industry can have a place to expand their skills and build community.

Leaders like Sean Richardson bring media to larger audiences, including those who are traditionally part of underserved populations. They also bring people together, encouraging them to expand their networks and create lasting connections as fellow media tech professionals. “I am a lifelong audio nerd,” said Richardson, “I enjoy Front Range trail time, live sports, and tinkering in my home studio. But I also am an enthusiastic supporter of developer education and community tech events.”



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