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Stephan holds a Master's degree in Journalism/Communications, English and German from Muenster University in Germany.

A journalist by trade, Stephan covered trans-atlantic business, political and cultural issues as Editor for a German-American newspaper based in the Greater Detroit area. He joined the field of corporate communications in 1998 and served as Director of Communications for Prechter Holdings, a diversified group of automotive, media, real estate, investment and livestock companies worldwide. At the same time, Stephan led the company's strategic community and government relation efforts as Executive Director of the Prechter Fund/World Heritage Foundation.

In 2003, global automotive finance company DaimlerChrysler Financial Services recruited Stephan to its leadership team in the Americas. He served in a variety of senior management positions in external and internal communications, public and community relations, as well as marketing.

Stephan joined GE Transportation in September 2007 where he was appointed General Manager of Communications and Public Affairs. He and his wife, Brenda, reside close to GE Transportation's headquarter facility in Erie, Pennsylvania.