



# Executive Compensation's Role in Driving and Supporting Business Performance

## The Conference Board

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## Linkage Between Pay and Performance is a Mixed Bag

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- Common argument by media and some governance and shareholder groups holds there is no meaningful relationship between executive pay and company performance
  - If there is no meaningful relationship between pay and company performance then executive compensation (EC) cannot be driving or supporting business performance
- There are numerous cases where pay and performance linkage is not effective, and these cases are repeatedly highlighted by media and governance groups
- But there are a growing number of cases where pay and performance linkage is alive and well

# A Multitude of Pay Design Issues Eliminate, or Substantially Reduce, the Linkage Between Pay and Performance

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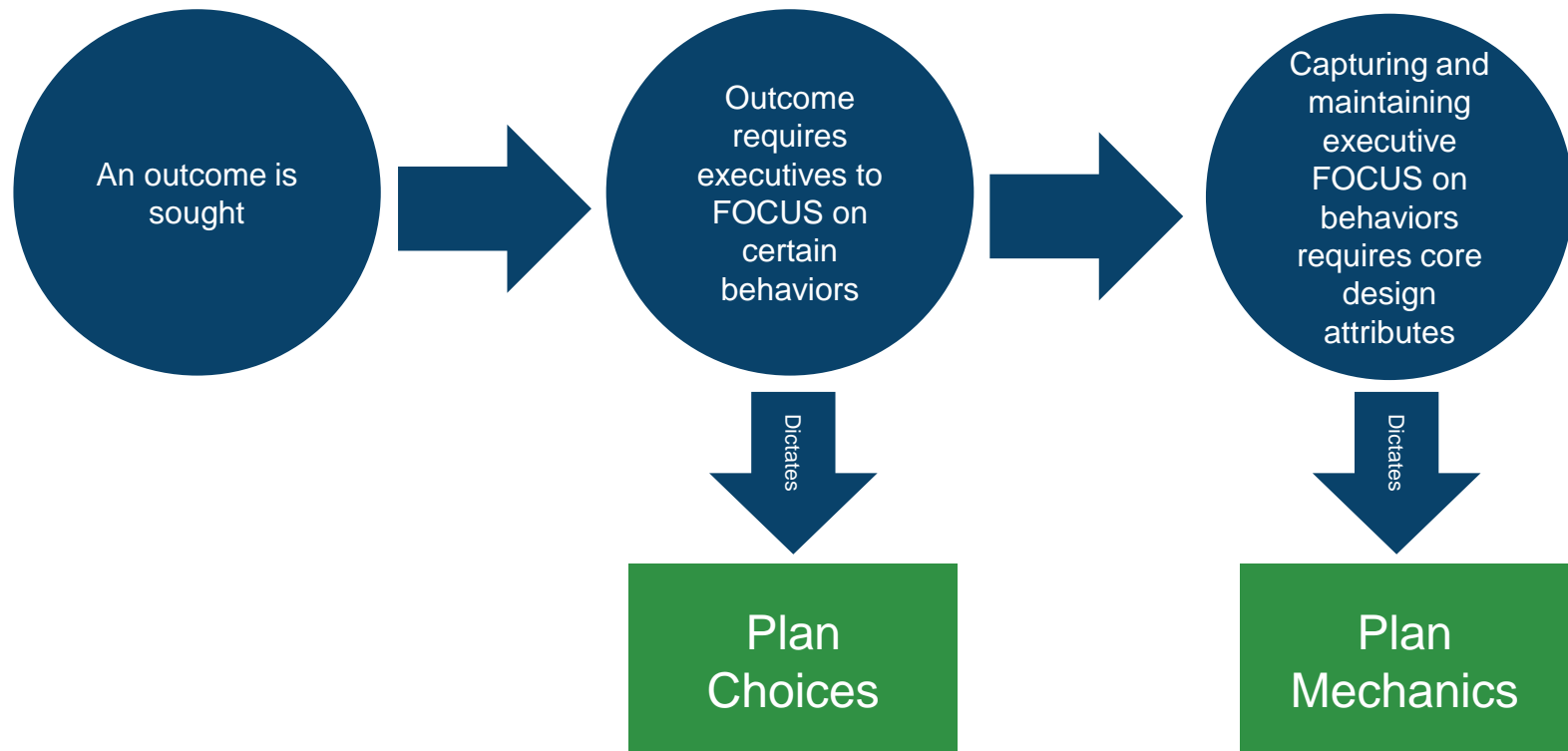
- **The wrong performance measures**
  - Disconnected from business strategy
- **Too many performance measures**
  - What is the business strategy?
- **Obscured performance measures**
  - Buckets of adjustments
- **Poor goal setting**
  - Targets too high or too low, range too narrow or too wide
- **Lack of commitment to the plan**
  - Discretion/need to achieve street profit expectation determines result

# Better Pay Design Principles Can Increase Likelihood of Strong Pay and Performance Linkage

- **Link indirectly to shareholder value experience**
  - Search for metrics that correlate with shareholder experience and may therefore be leading indicators of forward total shareholder return (TSR)
- **Or directly link to shareholder experience with absolute TSR**
  - Benefits of absolute versus relative TSR
  - New design, leveraged performance units (LPUs), depending on the fact pattern
- **Whatever the metrics and rationale, create FOCUS**
  - Avoid underweighted or frequently changing performance metrics
- **Business strategy driven performance metrics**
  - Don't forget FOCUS
  - You likely will get what you reward – is it the right strategy?

# Well designed executive compensation plans sharpen participant FOCUS on behaviors that drive business performance

- An organization's strategy dictates which behaviors to focus on in the executive compensation plan
- Impacting behavior requires several attributes be included in the design, implementation, and administration of executive incentive plans



# Capturing and Maintaining Executive Focus on Behaviors Requires Several Design Attributes be Present in all Incentive Plans

- **Understandable:** plan designs that are effectively communicated (and reinforced through education/training)
  - *The participant understands the mechanics of the plan*
- **Achievable:** plans that are viewed as having a reasonable probability of achievement (supported by a collaborative and rigorous goal setting process)
  - *The participant views the outcome as achievable*
- **Relatable:** plans that contain sufficient line of sight between participant behaviors and performance outcomes (reinforced by education/training)
  - *The participant understands how they can contribute to the outcome*
- **Equitable:** final award outcome will be fairly assessed
  - *The participant believes that if they hold up their end of the bargain, they will receive the award they're due*
- **Meaningful:** award opportunities with sufficient relative magnitude to drive participants to *want* to work towards the outcome
  - *The participant views the size of the potential award as large enough to focus their attention on working towards the outcome*

## LPUs are a new type of special grant that can significantly strengthen alignment with shareholders

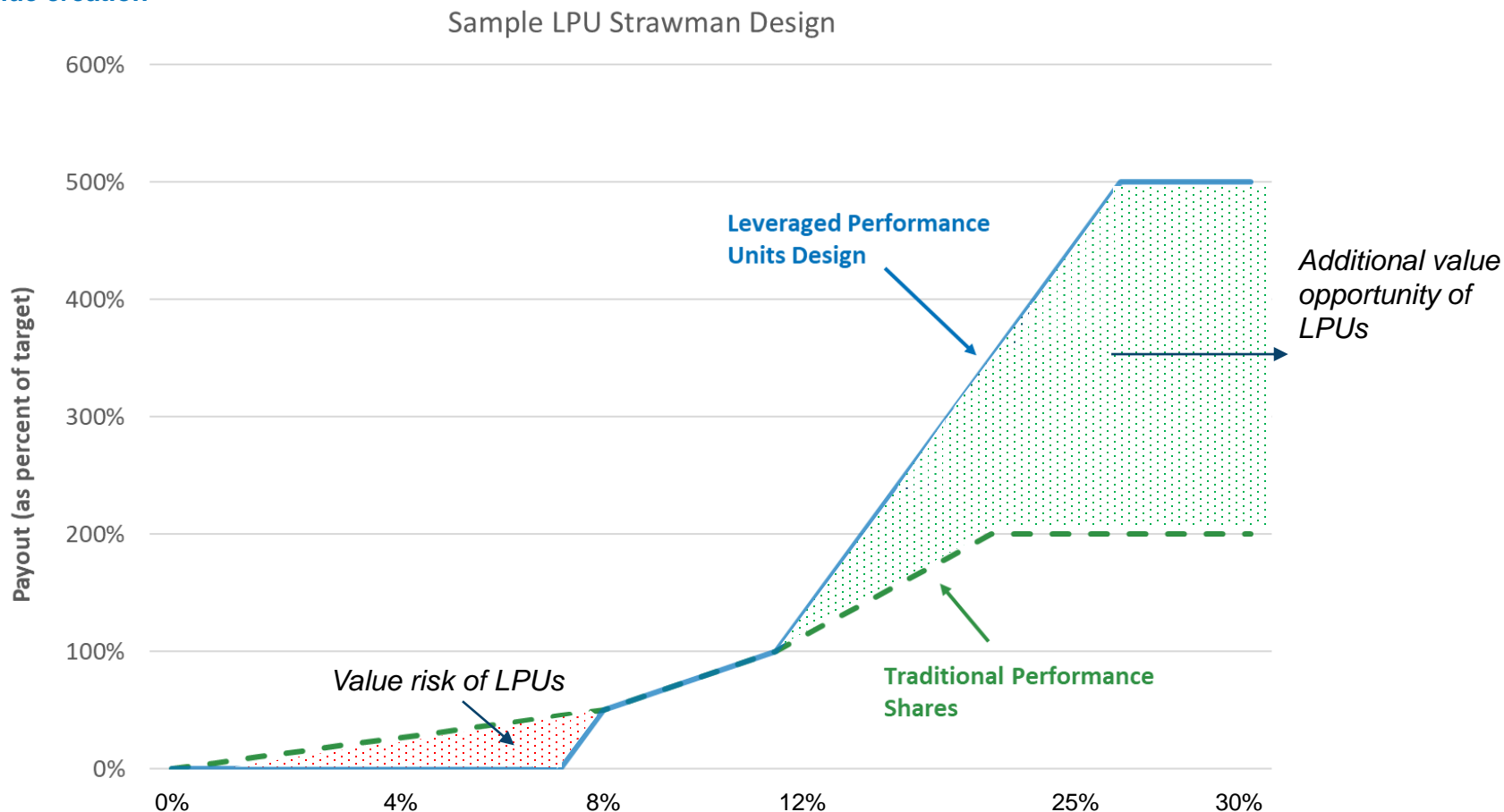
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- **Design Attributes:**

- Opportunity for participant to increase Company value and share in the growth – *direct shareholder alignment*
- Measured based on company TSR over a 3-year period
- TSR peer group or index serves as a modifier to further balance participant and shareholder interests
- Greater leverage than traditional performance shares; less dilutive than stock options
- Similar to stock options, LPUs have no value if the stock price does not grow. Unlike stock options, there is no intrinsic value until TSR rises above a pre-established level
- Viewed as performance-based by ISS, contrasted with stock options which are not
- Target value of awards disclosed in SEC filings (e.g., proxy) are generally modest

# LPU provide more downside risk, but with much greater upside opportunity than performance share units

LPU are an innovative approach to LTI (typically issued as a one-time, special grant), designed to strengthen the alignment between management and shareholders during a period of transition by driving operational improvement and increasing share value creation



3-Year TSR Growth (compound annual growth rate)

## Sample LPU Performance and Payout Range

Performance is measured based on TSR growth over 3 years

Range	TSR (CAGR)	Percent Target Shares
Maximum	25%	500%
Target	12%	100%
Threshold	8%	50%

Payouts are interpolated between these points.

**This approach is now used by:**

Carnival  
Conagra Brands  
Global Payments



# Historical pay and performance alignment are tested by comparing actual pay outcomes to both company and shareholder performance

## Example pay-for-performance back testing (banking organization)

