



**James Cook | K2 Growth Partners**

James Cook is a Founding Partner of K2 Growth Partners. He is responsible for all activities of the firm, including deal origination, portfolio company management, and the firm's overall management. Prior to founding K2GP, Joseph was an associate and vice president at Blackford Capital (2014-2019). During his time at Blackford, James led the firm's Portfolio Company Operations Team and was responsible for managing the firm's value creation, oversight, governance, and cross-portfolio initiatives. Additionally, James managed four platform investments, where he held board roles and worked with management teams from the due diligence process through the exit to help promote growth, efficiency, and overall success of the business. Over the course of his time with Blackford, James completed nine transactions with a total value in excess of \$175 million. Prior to joining Blackford, James worked in a variety of managerial roles at Hastings Manufacturing Company, which was a portfolio company of The Anderson Group and RFE Investment Partners.

James holds a BA in Economics from Hobart College, where he was also a four-year member of the varsity squash team and a student member of the Economics Department Advisory Board. James obtained his MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. In 2017, James was awarded the M&A Advisor Emerging Leaders Dealmaker (40 Under 40) Award.