



# TOM VANDER ARK

## AUTHOR | SPEAKER | ADVOCATE

Tom Vander Ark is a recognized advocate for powerful learning experiences. As CEO of Getting Smart, he advises school districts and networks, education foundations and funders and impact organizations on the path forward. A prolific writer and speaker, Tom is author of *Getting Smart: How Digital Learning is Changing the World*; *Smart Cities That Work for Everyone: 7 Keys to Education & Employment*; and *Smart Parents: Parenting for Powerful Learning*. He has published thousands of articles, co-authored and contributed to more than 50 books and white papers. He writes regularly on his Education Week blog, [Vander Ark on Innovation](#), and contributes to [GettingSmart.com](#), Medium, HuffPost and LinkedIn.

Previously, Tom served as the first Executive Director of Education for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He also served as a public school superintendent in Washington state and has extensive private sector experience. Tom co-founded the first education venture fund, Learn Capital. Tom is Board Chair of Charter Board Partners, Director for 4.0 Schools, Digital Learning Institute, edulInnovation and Imagination Foundation and Advisor for One Stone and Teton Science Schools.

Tom has presented at a variety of national conferences, including [SXSWedu](#), [iNACOL's Blended & Online Learning Symposium](#), [ASU/GSV](#), [National Charter Schools Conference](#) and [AACN Annual Meeting](#). He has also presented at international conferences including The World Bank, [The Digital Education Show Middle East](#) and [Bett Show](#).

*"Tom was thought provoking and moved the audience in their thinking. We are also acting on the work that he thoughtfully suggested and we hope to share our progress with him."*

– D51 Elevate! Engage, Equip, Empower Summit

*"Mr. Vander Ark engaged the audience immediately and made them think and participate. He is a very inspiring speaker."*

– PublicSchoolOption.org

Tom received the Distinguished Achievement Medal and graduated from the Colorado School of Mines. He earned an M.B.A. in finance from the University of Denver, and continues his education online.

Tom is available for all types of speaking and moderating engagements, such as keynotes, panel discussions, round tables and workshop sessions. Tom regularly speaks on the following:

- » **Future of Work:** Civic and organizational implications of life with smart machines and what graduates need to know and be able to do to thrive in the automation economy.
- » **Future of Learning:** New learning models, personalized and project-based learning, lifelong learning, and education technology.
- » **Scaling Innovation:** Impact investing, public-private partnerships, and working in networks.
- » **Good Work:** Finding and doing mission-driven work, nonprofit leadership, philanthropy, and community leadership.

For more publications featuring Tom, see our [publications page](#) and all his authored blogs.



Interested in having Tom speak at your event? Find out more at [TomVanderArk.com](#) or email [Allison@GettingSmart.com](mailto:Allison@GettingSmart.com).