



TOM VANDER ARK

AUTHOR | SPEAKER | ADVOCATE

Tom Vander Ark is an advocate for innovations in learning. As CEO of Getting Smart, he advises schools, districts, networks, foundations and learning organizations on the path forward. A prolific writer and speaker, Tom is author of *Getting Smart*, *Smart Cities That Work for Everyone*, *Smart Parents*, *Better Together* and *The Power of Place* and has published thousands of articles and co-authored more than 50 books and white papers. He writes regularly on GettingSmart.com, LinkedIn, and contributes to Forbes.

Previously he served as the first Executive Director of Education for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Tom served as a public school superintendent in Washington State and has extensive private sector experience. Tom is a board member for Education Board Partners, Director for 4.0 Schools, Digital Learning Institute, Latinx Education Collaborative, Mastery Transcript Consortium and edulnnovation and an Advisor for One Stone, Teton Science Schools and Whittle School & Studios.

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:** The organizational and civic implications of life with smart machines and what graduates need to know and be able to do to thrive in the innovation economy.
- » **Future of Learning:** New learning models, personalized and project-based learning, the power of purpose and the magic of place, and new trends and tools.
- » **Leadership:** Building community, mobilizing for scale, balancing innovation and improvement, and working in networks.
- » **Contribution:** Finding and doing purpose-driven work.