

The Future of School: Featured Speakers



Dr. Tyler Thigpen, Co-founder & Head, The Forest Schools & Institute for Self-Directed Learning

Tyler grew up in Georgia and has worked in innovative district, private, and charter schools, as well as statewide and national nonprofits. Tyler is co-founder and CEO of The Forest School: An Acton Academy in Trilith, The Forest School Online, and the Institute for Self-Directed Learning. He is an Academic Director at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, and Guest Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Formerly, Tyler was partner at Transcend, a national nonprofit in school redesign, and worked closely on innovative school projects such as nXu, Whittle, The Academy Group, Washington Leadership Academy, Art in Motion, Hebrew Public, Teton Science's Place Network, EL Education, and the Brooklyn STEAM Center. Tyler also co-founded MENTOR Georgia, Transforming Teaching at Harvard, and the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School.

Prior to these endeavors, Tyler worked as head of the upper school at The Mount Vernon School in Atlanta, as a Spanish teacher in Gwinnett County public schools, and as a minister at the Grace family of churches where he led international development in Peru in areas of healthcare, education, poverty reduction, and infrastructure.

Tyler holds a doctoral degree in education leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education, a master's in public administration from Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a master's in theological studies from Regent College of the University of British Columbia.

Tyler has written about the future of learning in the Washington Post, Education Week, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Getting Smart, and others. Tyler lives with his four children, all of whom attended The Forest School, in Trilith, GA.



Jared Colley, Chief Innovation Officer, Mount Vernon School

Jared Colley is the Chief Innovation Officer at Mount Vernon School where he also works as the resident Competency-Based Education specialist, coaching and supporting teachers on CBE assessment and instructional practices.

He also serves as a Senior Consultant and Editor for MV Ventures where he consults with schools on a variety of topics related to teaching and learning and serves as Senior Editor of MV Ventures' quarterly R&D Reports, where he recently published the reports, "A People-Centered Organization Living in

an AI World;" and "Imagine Then, Act Now: Futures Literacy for Learning Organizations."

Jared is passionate about authentic assessment, purpose-driven learning, and the idea that collective intelligence is how we solve the world's most wicked challenges. His most recent research and work focuses on how schools can adopt and develop a more robust "futures literacy" as a collaborative, learning organization by engaging in various foresight practices such as scenarios-based planning and speculative design fiction work.

As a professional trained in foresight practices and futures thinking methodologies, Jared loves to work with diverse teams and collaborative organizations to shape mission-driven and values-informed futures that envision a more-than-human-centered world that is just and beautiful.