

MARK HENDERSON

Speaker • Educator • Instructional Designer

"Bringing clarity, engagement, and a little sanity to the future of learning."

ABOUT MARK

I'm a former high school teacher, instructional designer, and educational presenter. I work with K–12 school districts, university departments, and educational organizations to help them navigate major institutional changes, build practical approaches to modern technology, and design professional development that people actually enjoy attending. Whether speaking to a room of 500 educators or leading a hands-on workshop with a leadership team, my approach is straightforward: **keep it practical, keep it grounded, and keep it human.**

CORE PRESENTATION TOPICS

1. AI with Common Sense

- **Demystifying AI for Educators**
Cutting through the techno-jargon to help staff understand what generative tools are, what they aren't, and why human judgment matters now more than ever.
- **The Assignment Makeover Method**
A hands-on framework for updating daily coursework, unit plans, and syllabi into engaging, authentic learning experiences that focus on student thinking over process shortcuts.
- **Beyond Detection: Building Trust over Surveillance**
Why relying on "AI detection tools" backfires, and how leadership teams can focus on ethical boundaries, transparent expectations, and meaningful assessment design.
- **Synthetic Relationships, Deepfakes & Student Well-Being**
A practical look at the human risks of AI—from students using chatbots as emotional companions to managing deepfakes and data privacy without breeding panic.

2. Change Management & Institutional Culture

- **Leading Through Big Shifts (Without Burning Everyone Out)**
How K–12 administrators and higher education leaders can guide teams through major initiatives, curriculum overhauls, or policy changes by building genuine buy-in, reducing friction, and respecting capacity.

- **Building a Culture of Adaptability**

Practical strategies for fostering trust, open communication, and resilience among faculty and staff as expectations and student needs evolve.

3. Engaging Training & Instructional Design

- **Professional Development People Actually Enjoy**

Moving away from passive, compliance-driven workshops. How to create dynamic, hands-on learning experiences for adult learners that send them back to their classrooms feeling energized.

- **Designing Courses & Classrooms for Active Engagement**

Field-tested strategies for teachers and university faculty to foster genuine student curiosity, intrinsic motivation, and active participation.

SELECTED SPEAKING HIGHLIGHTS

Delivered keynotes, interactive workshops, and breakout sessions across 14 states:

- **Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) National Conference** — Dallas, Atlanta, Louisville
- **PBS K-12 Technology Conference (Keynote)** — Kansas City
- **Illinois Education Joint Annual Conference** — Chicago
- **Hancock Place AI Summit (Keynote)** — St. Louis
- **Quality Matters Member Conference** — Virtual

WHAT AUDIENCES SAY

"Your sense of humor, warmth, and realism helped the audience to connect to you and your message."

"I came away more open-minded and got better as an educator."

"The way you engaged the audience and provided them opportunity to experiment was much appreciated."

LET'S CONNECT

Planning a conference keynote, a district kickoff, or a campus workshop? Let's talk about what your community is tackling right now.

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