

DR. PETER SMITH



Peter Smith has been leading innovation in higher education domestically and internationally for more than 40 years. Founder and first president of two colleges, the Community College of Vermont (1970) and California State University, Monterey Bay (1995), Peter has also served as the Dean of the Graduate School of Education at George Washington University and as the Assistant Director General for Education at UNESCO in Paris, France.

Peter's focus throughout his career has been on older learners, work readiness, new service delivery models, and new ways to recognize learning wherever and whenever it has occurred. A member of the founding board of CAEL, the Council for Adult & Experiential Learning, Peter has worked throughout his career to help lifelong learners use assessment as a pedagogical tool that actually helps them learn more.

Smith has written dozens of articles and three books – *Your Hidden Credentials: The Value of Learning Outside of College* (1986), *The Quiet Crisis: How Higher Education is Failing America* (Anker, 2004), and *Harnessing America's Wasted Talent: A New Ecology of Learning* (Jossey-Bass, 2010).

As Senior Vice President of Academic Strategies and Development at Kaplan Higher Education Group, Peter has been heavily involved in several innovative developments. They include an online and blended approach to assessing prior experiential learning (KNEXT), a consistent approach to using learning outcomes across the curriculum, and most recently, the development of Qualified, a career planning and development ecosystem. Peter also served in the Vermont State Senate and as Vermont's Lieutenant Governor before entering the US Congress in 1989. He has served on many boards and Commissions including the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, The Committee for Economic Development, the Executive Council of the WICHE Cooperative for Education Technology, the Council of State Government's Advisory board on Higher Education, and the President's Forum.

A graduate of Princeton University, Magna Cum Laude (1968) and the Harvard Graduate School of Education (MAT, 1972; EdD, 1982), Peter's professional interest, career and personal journey have helped him become a conscious, reflective, lifelong learner himself.