

GARRETT A. WILHELM



EDUCATION & EDTECH EXECUTIVE | FOUNDER | INNOVATION & GROWTH LEADER

Education and technology executive with 20+ years of experience building, scaling, and transforming learning organizations at the intersection of education, technology, entrepreneurship, and human-centered innovation. Founder and co-founder of multiple education and EdTech ventures spanning early learning, K-12 innovation, artificial intelligence, educator development, and personalized learning.

Proven record of translating ambitious ideas into operating organizations, technology products, strategic partnerships, and scalable learning models. Built education businesses generating seven-figure annual revenue, led organizations and teams of 150+ educators and administrators, developed AI-powered products for educators and learners, and established partnerships across public school systems, private education, research organizations, and industry.

Recognized nationally for work in personalized learning and next-generation education, with coverage in WIRED, Education Week, EdSurge, Education Dive, and The Hechinger Report. Experienced speaker, advisor, media host, and education strategist focused on the future of learning, human-centered AI, project-based learning, organizational innovation, and the design of learning environments that give educators and learners greater agency.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Education Strategy & Innovation • EdTech & AI Product Strategy • Organizational Growth • P&L & Operations • Strategic Partnerships • Business Development • Product Development • K-12 & Early Education • Personalized Learning • Project-Based Learning • Human-Centered AI • Team & Culture Development • Revenue Growth • Brand Strategy • Public Speaking & Thought Leadership

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

THINKERING COLLECTIVE

Co-Founder & Executive Leader | 2025–Present

Founded an education innovation organization connecting educators, school systems, researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry partners to design, test, and scale new approaches to teaching and learning.

- Lead organizational strategy across education innovation, professional learning, fellowships, research partnerships, media, and emerging technology.
- Develop partnerships with school systems, universities, researchers, education organizations, and industry partners to move promising ideas from concept to implementation.
- Design educator fellowship and innovation models that empower practitioners to identify authentic problems, prototype solutions, document outcomes, and scale successful practices.
- Lead development and experimentation around human-centered AI, educator-facing technology, personalized learning, project-based learning, and new models for professional learning.
- Built a media and thought-leadership platform designed to surface innovative educators and ideas and connect practitioners across the education ecosystem.
- Advise education leaders on innovation strategy, organizational change, AI implementation, experiential learning, and the future of teaching and learning.

EDSTART

Co-Founder | 2023–Present

Co-founded an education technology company developing AI-powered tools designed to increase educator capacity, personalize learning, and make instructional data more actionable.

- Led company strategy spanning product vision, market positioning, partnerships, business development, and emerging AI applications in education.

- Spearheaded development of AI-powered education products including Uni, Eddie, and ThinkerBot.
- Translated educator and school operational challenges into scalable technology products supporting lesson development, documentation, standards alignment, instructional planning, and school leadership.
- Developed partnerships with public and private education organizations to pilot and integrate emerging technology.
- Directed product strategy around generative AI, personalized learning, educator workflow automation, and human-centered technology implementation.
- Led investor, partner, and stakeholder conversations while helping define commercialization and growth strategy.

CREATIVE GARDENS EARLY EDUCATION

Founder & CEO | 2020–Present

Founded and scaled an innovative education organization combining personalized learning, experiential education, Montessori principles, project-based learning, and emerging technology.

- Built the organization from concept to a multi-location education brand generating approximately **\$1.6M in average annual revenue per site within 18 months**.
- Led a workforce of **150+ educators and administrators** across educational programming, operations, finance, HR, compliance, enrollment, marketing, and organizational development.
- Maintained executive responsibility for revenue strategy, budgeting, staffing, regulatory compliance, organizational performance, and long-term growth.
- Designed a differentiated personalized-learning model integrating Montessori, project-based learning, experiential education, and AI-supported instructional practices.
- Led institutional accreditation efforts, including Cognia accreditation.
- Established partnerships with public education and community organizations to expand experiential and outdoor learning opportunities.
- Built operational, enrollment, marketing, technology, and organizational systems capable of supporting growth across multiple education sites.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE COMMON GROUND

Executive Director | 2017–2020

Led nonprofit strategy and programming focused on education, community engagement, inclusion, mindfulness, and social-emotional learning.

- Directed organizational strategy, partnerships, programming, and community engagement.
- Designed professional learning experiences for educators and programs supporting school and family communities.
- Built partnerships connecting educators, families, schools, and community stakeholders around shared educational priorities.

BERTHOLD ACADEMY FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED

Co-Founder | 2015–2017

Co-founded an innovative school combining Montessori education, personalized learning, and emerging educational technology.

- Built the school's operating model, enrollment systems, marketing strategy, technology infrastructure, and organizational workflows from inception.
- Grew enrollment from **8 to 40 students in approximately three months** through strategic positioning and targeted enrollment campaigns.
- Selected as a beta partner with AltSchool during the emergence of technology-enabled personalized learning models.
- Helped position the school as a national example of emerging personalized-learning practices.
- Work received coverage from **WIRED, Education Week, EdSurge, Education Dive, and The Hechinger Report.**

THE BOYD SCHOOL / LEPORT SCHOOLS

Director | 2014–2016

Directed the organization's largest campus with responsibility for educational quality, staff leadership, budgeting, payroll, enrollment, operations, and community engagement.

- Managed campus-level financial and operational performance while leading faculty and administrative teams.
- Modernized enrollment, digital marketing, and community engagement strategies.
- Implemented systems supporting organizational growth, family experience, and operational consistency.

SUNSET HILLS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Lead Teacher → Director of Admissions | 1999–2014

Progressed from classroom educator into school leadership during a 15-year tenure, providing the foundation for a career spanning education, entrepreneurship, organizational leadership, and technology.

- Led admissions, enrollment strategy, marketing, family engagement, and brand development.
- Modernized admissions and marketing systems, contributing to sustained enrollment demand and consistent waitlists.
- Led curriculum implementation, educator development, and family engagement initiatives.
- Developed digital marketing, website, and communications strategies that modernized the school's market presence.

SELECTED THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & MEDIA

Nationally recognized voice on education innovation, personalized learning, Montessori education, emerging technology, and the future of learning.

Media: WIRED • Education Week • EdSurge • Education Dive • The Hechinger Report • The Atlantic

Speaking & Advisory Topics: Human-Centered AI in Education • Future of Learning • Personalized Learning • Project-Based Learning • Education Innovation • Experiential Learning • Organizational Transformation • Montessori Education • Educator Agency

Media Leadership: Host and creator of education-focused podcasts, interviews, and media programming featuring educators, innovators, researchers, and education leaders.

EDUCATION & EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT

Advanced Montessori Studies Degree

Institute of Advanced Montessori Studies | 2005

4Ds Executive Experience

The Sasha Group / Gary Vaynerchuk Executive Development Program

EXECUTIVE VALUE PROPOSITION

BUILDER. OPERATOR. EDUCATOR. INNOVATOR.

A career built around a consistent challenge: identifying what education could become, building the organization or technology required to test that idea, and creating the partnerships, teams, systems, and momentum necessary to bring it to scale.