



## David Sperry

*Community Development Catalyst*  
*Learning Systems Integration Catalyst*  
*Teacher, Instructor, Learning Coach*

103 Greenbriar Lane  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
davidsperry@comcast.net  
Home: 865-482-0133  
Cell: 865-851-0087

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## Biography

David Sperry sees himself as a *catalyst*, enabling business, organizations and communities – independently and collaboratively – to overcome some of our most difficult, learning-related challenges, in a way that significantly improves performance, return on investment, sustainability, happiness, wellbeing, prosperity and peace.

The common thread in David's diverse background is a passion for helping people learn more effectively, both individually and collaboratively. Almost everything that he has done since his more youthful days has been directly related to helping people learn, or preparing and positioning himself to have a significant impact on the development of highly effective learning systems. While it is true that he has failed in numerous attempts to bring his vision to fruition - as an employee in major corporations and small businesses, self-employment and various volunteer, community development initiatives - every experience has reinforced the value and timeliness, if not urgency for such a vision.

In 1996, David selected Oak Ridge as his U.S. home base, for many reasons, but most significantly for its capacity to serve as a world renowned, learning focused, *community development workshop* (building on a core foundation of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, schools, educational institutions, and community organizations, including the Oak Ridge Institute for Continuous Learning). In 2003, David's first marriage (at 51 years young) added a Korean dimension to his life and an English/Korean focus for multi-lingual learning materials and systems.

David's professional and volunteer experience spans a wide range of business and social sectors, including technical ceramics and aerospace electronics manufacturing, public relations in television and newsprint media, proposal development, education, community development, in-bound technical help desk, financial services, warehousing, transportation and janitorial.

After receiving an interdisciplinary BS degree in Biology and Economics (Magna cum Laude) from Tennessee Wesleyan College, David has taken additional graduate level courses in education, business and human resource development at California American University, Pepperdine and Vanderbilt, respectively. His U.S. and international experience has included living and/or traveling in 47 of the lower 48 states and seventeen countries in Asia, Europe and North America.

Among David's strengths are:

- a persistent belief that people and organizations have far more potential than they realize;
- a passion to foster development through self-directed, collaborative and systemic learning;
- the ability to quickly establish rapport and a good impression, especially with people who have an interest in ideas and work related to personal, organizational and community development;
- the capacity to take on new tasks and excel at them, especially where there is a subject matter expert to learn from, whether or not they have the capacity to articulate what they do, or why;
- proficiency in communication via writing, speaking and facilitating group consultation;
- a wellspring of optimism, even in difficult times, like now; and
- a steadfast faith that in spite of all the people and organizations who are demoralized and failing, there are others who are looking to a brighter future and are laying the foundation for a sustainable, happy and peaceful world.