

ZILKER MEDIA

About Jeff Spahn

Trailblazing leadership pioneer for the 21st Century, founder and president of Leading Leaders Inc.



Jeff Spahn is a pioneer in leadership forging a new, evolved theory and practice of leading that meets today's challenges and opportunities. With more than 20 years at the helm of Leading Leaders Inc., Jeff has drawn on his hands-on research and business leadership expertise to develop a proven process that transforms complexity into innovation and optimal business outcomes. He inspires leaders to move beyond the industrial-age concept of collaboration (aka *co-labor*), reimagine traditional leadership hierarchies, and embrace an innovative process for *leading and following at the same time, in the same action*—a seismic shift designed for the unique demands of the digital age.

Why is this evolution so critical? The industrial age was characterized by the individual inventor and mass labor, so prioritizing co-labor made sense. But in our disruptive digital age, more and more people must *create and invent together*, which requires a focus on *co-creation*. Though the term “collaboration” is often used in the context of leading high-performance teams, Jeff views it as antiquated language that represents the limits of our thinking and habits.

“It is time for new thinking, new language, new habits and new cultures that match the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow. Our destiny depends on it.” - Jeff Spahn

Jeff's upcoming book, ***We the Leader: Build a Team of Equals Who All Lead and Follow to Drive Creativity and Innovation*** (McGraw Hill, January 2022), disrupts our traditional view of hierarchical leadership in order to tap into talent at all levels, leverage the leadership capacities of every employee, and build a more nimble organization designed for the 21st Century. Through the neuroscience-based principles and practices of *We the Leader*, Jeff presents a game-changing, revolutionary operating system rooted in diversity, equity and inclusion principles and practices that mutually enhances both human development and organizational results. By learning to create a culture where everyone leads and follows simultaneously, regardless of title, readers can inspire curious conviction on their teams and evolve teamwork into team *flow*.

Jeff has engaged notable organizations including Capital Group, Steelcase and Encova Insurance. Board memberships include OMNIA Institute of Contextual Leadership, the Chicago Moving Company and goProdigii. More than two decades ago, Jeff published an article recognized in *Forbes* as being well ahead of its time. Titled, *A Capitalist Manifesto?: Re-imagining Business in the 21st Century*, it was based on his research into the purpose of business.

Sparked by a spectacular team experience on an athletic field as a teen, Jeff has been impassioned with collective flow all his adult life. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan, where he attended on an athletic scholarship, and received his doctorate from the University of Chicago. He obtained a formative experience

ZILKER MEDIA

in the arts by completing high-levels of classes from The Second City in Chicago, a premier school of improvisational theatre. He currently lives in Chicago enjoys swimming in natural water and experiencing live improvisational jazz. For more information, please visit: www.WeTheLeader.com.