

## Alan S. Gregerman

Dr. Alan S. Gregerman is President and Chief Innovation Officer of VENTURE WORKS Inc., a consulting firm based in the Washington, D.C. area that helps leading companies and organizations to develop winning strategies and create successful new products, services, ventures, customer experiences and ways of doing business. His customers are a wide range of Fortune 500 corporations, growing firms, start-ups, and nonprofit organizations including Marriott International, Johnson & Johnson, Mercedes Benz, L-3, Verizon, Discovery Communications, Omnicom, CSC, CGI, Noblis, Raytheon, World Bank, The University of Maryland Medical System, Ritz-Carlton, Kaiser Permanente, Unisys, Children's National Medical Center, and the National Civil Rights Museum.

Alan is an internationally-respected expert on business strategy, innovation, customer service and unlocking the talent in people at all levels of organizations. In the past 20 years he has helped over 300 teams and organizations to create important innovations—with a 90% success rate. He is also an award-winning teacher, author and keynote speaker who has been called “one of the most original thinkers in business today” and “the Robin Williams of business consulting.” His first book, Lessons from the Sandbox, provided a powerful formula for business success based on the magic of childhood. His second book, Surrounded by Geniuses—winner of the Axiom Award as one of the best leadership books of 2008—showed companies and organizations how to unlock compelling value by finding powerful insight in their own people and the world around them. His newest book, The Necessity of Strangers, is about the power of connecting with new and different people as the real key to innovation, collaboration, and greater business and personal success. Before starting VENTURE WORKS Alan was Director of Entrepreneurial Services for a national consulting firm, Special Assistant for Program Operations at the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the first Visiting Scholar in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Library of Congress. He has also worked as a mapmaker, subway mechanic, hotel housekeeper, and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Innovation at Georgetown University and the University of Maryland.

Alan earned his B.A. in geography, summa cum laude, from Northwestern University, and his M.A. in economic geography and Ph.D. in urban and technological planning, with highest honors, from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In his free time, he is founder and President of Passion for Learning, Inc., where he is involved in efforts to build innovative partnerships between the business community and low-income schools to close the achievement gap for at-risk children. Alan is also an active member of Leadership Greater Washington, serves on the board of the A-Games, and is a math and writing tutor in the public schools. He and his wife Lisa have three children, Sara, Carly, and Noah.

*You can reach Alan and follow his blog at: [www.alangregerman.com](http://www.alangregerman.com)*



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