

STEVE WARD

Give. Show. Connect.

Purpose Driven Education



Steve Ward

Founder, President, Chief Strategy Officer and Chairman of the Board

Future N Focus “Dream Catcher” Enterprises,
Riverside County, California

Entrepreneur, Software Developer, National Speaker, Firefighter, Mentor

SHORT BIO

Steve Ward is an entrepreneur, national speaker, software developer and former firefighter.

He is the creator of the engaging Dream Catcher platform used in many high schools and organizations in Southern California. He overcame insurmountable challenges from his early beginnings in Compton, California with an abusive father along with academic challenges to shift his own mindset in pursuit of his purpose for being here on this planet.

MEDIUM BIO

Steve Ward is an entrepreneur, national speaker, software developer and former firefighter.

He is the creator of the engaging Dream Catcher platform used in many high schools and organizations in Southern California and beyond which he developed as a result of overcoming insurmountable challenges from his early beginnings in Compton, California. Avoiding home with an abusive, alcoholic father exacerbated by his inability to learn like his classmates, Steve’s mother was advised to hold him back in school, which she did not agree to. Suffering many years relegated to the back of the class, Steve began an intense internal inquiry including:

- Why am I here?
- What am I supposed to do with my life?
- What was I designed to do?
- How can I show love, give love, and connect with others?

Keynotes | Workforce Development | Career and Technical Education

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In answering these questions for himself, Steve shifted his own mindset in pursuit of discovering his purpose for being on this planet. He identified his top three career choices starting as a firefighter and transitioning to an entrepreneur helping other find their path using his proven strategies.

He retired from firefighting to create Dream Catcher so that thousands of users can identify their own unique skills, interests and experiences to design a career path that leaves them feeling fulfilled and satisfied.

LONG BIO

Steve W. Ward, (born November 26, 19XX) is an American software developer and visionary in the field of personal and workforce development. Steve is a sought-after motivational speaker on overcoming adversity, self-empowerment, finding one's purpose, and career exploration.

Steve has made providing a Purpose-Driven Education to youth and young adults his life mission.

Early Life

Steve was born in Compton, California, a Los Angeles suburb internationally recognized as an area dominated by gangs and violence.

Born to an alcoholic father who was verbally and physically abusive, Steve would stay out with his friends or play sports. He was told repeatedly by his dad that he was "braindead," which exacerbated his inability to learn like his classmates.

Education

Steve struggled in school because he was unable to learn math or reading like everyone else in his classes. As a result, he was moved to the back of his classes which further obstructed his ability to learn. Year after year, his teachers would have conferences with his mother and repeatedly suggested holding him back a grade until he was able to get to the level of everyone around him in every subject. Year after year, his mother would say he was fine and would insist that he keep moving forward.

As a youth, listening to educators tell his parents over and over what he was not capable of doing had a devastating negative impact on his psychological self-esteem. It made him feel as though he did not have any value or self-worth simply because he was not able to keep up with his peers in the same cookie cutter manner. There was even a time when the school reached out for internal counseling because they thought he was depressed.

It wasn't until he got into high school that Steve started introspectively looking at himself and asking questions about why he was on this Earth if he can't learn like other people and didn't have the same capabilities or expectations for himself like other who were successful in the classroom.

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That mindset, along with what his father frequently calling him brain dead, had him seeking if he had *at least one small thing* that he could do that would be of value to the world and also give him what he wanted out of life.

Fortunately for Steve, he realized he had a choice. He knew he had two major problems to deal with: his self-esteem and difficulties in education. His options were to allow his home environment to give him a negative attitude toward life and people or start developing a new attitude, a positive outlook of what he could become.

First, he started erasing the negative thoughts he had about himself, erasing from his mind all of the negative things anyone had said, his father, the teachers, everyone. He started replacing those thoughts with positive thoughts and ideas. He started developing a can-do attitude. He decided not to run from his educational shortcomings any longer. When he started to change his mindset, he realized that he started controlling his own life. He was intrinsically motivated to succeed and live life on his own terms and not by someone else's expectations. He learned what math and reading comprehension ability would be required for him to obtain his career. He worked at those skills both day and night until he possessed those skills.

Visions

Being concerned that he was starting to consider that his father's name calling was probably factual, Steve chose to change his mind set and his path in life.

Steve began an intense internal inquiry including:

- Why am I here?
- What am I supposed to do with my life?
- What was I designed to do?
- How can I show love, give love, and connect with others?

What happened in response to these questions can only be described as extraordinary. Steve began receiving answers through visions. Not knowing the source of these answers, he kept the content of these visions private. But he did pursue his own plan that he designed for himself and in so doing, arrived at an 8-lesson format which he used as the basis of Dream Catcher Program.

By answering these questions for himself, Steve shifted his own mindset in pursuit of discovering his purpose for being on this planet.

First Career

Steve realized the first thing he needed to do was choose two to three careers that would fit his strengths, interests, and personality traits. The three careers that seemed to fit him best were being a firefighter, fitness trainer, or entrepreneur.

He started his investigation by becoming a Fire Explorer with his local fire department. Because he started so early, he was able to spend enough time analyzing if being a firefighter was a good fit for him. He found that firefighting was a great fit for him because not only did it allow

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him to have the type of life he wanted, but it also allowed him to make a life for himself and family while building another passion of his, which was entrepreneurship.

He retired from firefighting to create Dream Catcher so that thousands of users can identify their own unique skills, interests and experiences to design a career path that leaves them feeling fulfilled and satisfied.

A Life of Purpose

No one believed Steve when he shared that he never planned on staying a firefighter until retirement. Why would anyone put so much energy into a career like that only to leave it without taking full advantage of the promotions, benefits, and retirement? The answer is someone who saw greater benefits in the next career. For Steve, firefighting was aligned with his purpose and so was entrepreneurship. Although both are very different careers, they are both rooted in the foundation of who Steve is.

One of Steve's discoveries came from the realization that most people express their wish "to help people" when asked what they want to do with their life. The response is an innate answer from the desire to give and show love, and connect with others in some meaningful way.

Steve's purpose was clearly to help other people find their purpose so he set out to create Dream Catcher.

Dream Catcher

The visions were presented over a series of 8-10 different visions that brought forth eight solid lessons of tangible introspection that made up a step-by-step process that scaffolds from the beginning. Starting with introspective inquiry using a process that can be easily applied in anyone's life, from any background, culture, religion, ethnicity, economic, or demographic standing.

For many years, Steve did not reveal to anyone how the program was taking form because he felt that it was a dream, and he did not yet trust or believe in himself enough to really be confident in sharing that information. There was a level of skepticism around where the information was originating.

Over time, Steve discovered more about himself and he gained validation that the visions were clearly letting him know that what he was doing with the introspective process was unique but also universally applicable for others.

Professional Speaking Engagements

As an entrepreneur, he helps others find their path using his proven strategies. As a speaker, he is an engaging and compelling leader who enrolls his audience in his positive mindset and attitude. He has the ability to relate to his audience on many levels that leaves them feeling like they can achieve anything.

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Personal Life

Steve married his childhood sweetheart, and they have 5 children together ranging in age from 19 to 6. Steve is actively involved in exercise and often invites neighborhood kids to participate in his physical training. Steve continues to mentor youth with his very nature of being present and attentive to the children in his surroundings.

Steve and his family reside in Riverside County in Southern California.