

Jeff Ritter, Ph.D.

Pittsburgh, PA 15217 | 412-559-9534 | jeff@yourclassroom.ai | ritterj1@me.com

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/jeff-ritter-4651a61 | Portfolio: jeffritter.ai | Platform: transformlearning.ai

Founder, educator, and AI product builder with 25 years as a tenured professor and division chair, now building AI-powered learning systems for higher education. Created a Bayesian competency estimation platform, adaptive knowledge graphs, AI coaching tools, and a campus operating system redesign. Combines deep pedagogical expertise with hands-on AI development to design learning architectures where AI handles instruction and humans handle what only humans can do.

AI DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Founder & CEO, Transform Learning (yourclassroom.ai)

Pittsburgh, PA | April 2024 – Present

- Built **Transform Learning** (transformlearning.ai), an AI-powered competency measurement platform for higher education using Bayesian posterior updating, multi-source evidence fusion, and adaptive item calibration
- Designed and published a comprehensive **Bayesian Competency Estimation Methodology** — a 12-section white paper covering evidence fusion architecture, temporal learning dynamics, uncertainty quantification with credible intervals, and a four-layer integrity framework
- Created **Campus OS**, an AI-native university operating system redesign with 9 structural modules: Signal Hub, Decision Router, Peer Marketplace, Entry Ticket, Outcome Networks, Student Control, Impact Allocation, Live Pulse, and Continuous Journey
- Built **Entry Ticket**, a per-assignment readiness check tool that compiles student responses before class, enabling faculty to facilitate discussion from prepared submissions rather than re-teaching content
- Developed **adaptive knowledge graphs** that map student competency across skills, track learning velocity, and generate AI-powered study guides and coaching conversations
- Created **AI coaching system** using Claude (Anthropic) for personalized student tutoring with skill-level diagnostics and evidence-based feedback
- Built all products using **Next.js, React, TypeScript, PostgreSQL, Supabase, and Anthropic Claude API** — full-stack development with AI integration

Founder, FindMyWay (findmyway.today)

2024 – Present

- Built a free AI-powered career exploration platform for high school students with 15 career pathways, no signup required
- AI-guided conversations help students discover interests, map them to career paths, and identify educational next steps

Founder, Soltas (soltas.ai)

2024 – Present

- AI career coaching platform designed for formerly incarcerated individuals re-entering the workforce
- Personalized pathway development, skills identification, and opportunity matching

Founder, CivicFeed (civicfeed.net)

2024 – Present

- Civic transparency platform for Pittsburgh and Allegheny County integrating Legistar API data with AI analysis of municipal legislation and government proceedings

Campus Transformation Initiative

2024 – Present | campustransformation.org

- Consulting with small colleges facing enrollment decline and potential closure on AI-integrated institutional redesign
- Developed financial models demonstrating how AI instruction + human facilitation can reduce cost per student by 27% while improving educational quality
- Active engagement with institutions including Paul Smith's College (NY) on transformation strategy

HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING & LEADERSHIP

Division of Humanities Chair & Full Professor

La Roche College (now La Roche University), Pittsburgh, PA | 1995 – 2020 (25 years)

- Chaired the Division of Humanities; led faculty across Communication, Media, and Technology programs
- Co-created and coordinated the **Program in Film, Video and Media**
- Created the **Humanitarian Aid Training Program** — an interdisciplinary initiative preparing students for international humanitarian work, integrating field experience, cultural competency, and practical skills training. Personally trained with **RedR UK** (Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief), a leading humanitarian training organization based in England, to develop program curriculum
- Designed active learning pedagogy including experiential assignments: students observed real-world communication patterns, analyzed media in context, and collected field data — methods now central to AI-native course design
- Taught courses in communication, media production, popular culture, and humanities across 25 years
- Produced and directed *Abantu N'Umuco* (People and Culture), a documentary on Rwandan students at La Roche, screened at 5 film festivals (2004)

Visiting International Faculty

Multiple institutions | 2006 – 2015

- **Kepler.org**, Kigali, Rwanda — Visiting Teaching Fellow (2014, 2015)
- **SPARK NGO**, Mitrovica, Kosovo — Visiting International Professor, Mitrovica Summer University (2006, 2007)
- **SPARK NGO**, Monrovia, Liberia — Faculty Enrichment Program (2009)
- **SPARK NGO**, Amsterdam — Consultant, video production for entrepreneurship training in Kosovo (2011)

GRANTS & FUNDED PROJECTS

- **\$250,000+** — ALCOA Foundation, annual grants (1997–2001) for distance learning project through Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, Pittsburgh
- **\$16,000** — Missouri Humanities Commission, Executive Producer/Humanities Advisor, "The Idea Exchange" KDHX-FM (1989–1990)
- **\$12,000** — Pittsburgh Foundation & Falk Memorial Trust for Rwandan documentary at La Roche College
- **\$5,000** — Pennsylvania Historical Commission, oral history collection on radio and television pioneers in Western PA (1998)

CREATIVE & COLLABORATIVE WORK

- **Documentary filmmaker:** *Abantu N'Umuko* (People and Culture) — produced, directed, wrote. Screened at Wilmington Film Festival, Stony Brook Digital Film Festival, Pittsburgh City Paper Film Kitchen, West Chester Film Festival, Midwestern Entertainment Industry Conference (2004)
- **Published writer:** St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture (1999), Encyclopedia of US Popular Culture (Garland Publishing, 1994), Knowledge City (2019–present)
- **Public radio:** Freelance writer for "Sound and Spirit," Public Radio International / WGBH-FM Boston; Radio programmer, WICN-FM Worcester (1994–1995)
- **App development:** Teachback (Apple App Store & Google Play, 2015); WorldlyXP.com career exploration app (2020–2021)

CONSULTING & ADVISORY

- **Ed Tech Advisor,** Bittopia University (2021–present)
- **External Reviewer,** U.S. Department of Education EOC Grant Program (2011)
- **Grant Reviewer,** Pennsylvania iGrad Grant Program (2001)
- **Social Ventures Partner,** Pittsburgh, PA (2015–present)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

AI & Machine Learning: Bayesian estimation, knowledge graphs, LLM integration (Anthropic Claude API), AI agent design, prompt engineering, adaptive assessment, competency-based education (CBE)

Development: Next.js, React, TypeScript, JavaScript, Node.js, HTML/CSS, Supabase, PostgreSQL, Vercel, Git

Platforms & Tools: Claude Code, Leaflet.js, Vercel Analytics, Google Workspace, Canva, video production (Final Cut, Adobe Premiere)

Domains: Higher education, learning architecture, curriculum design, active learning pedagogy, institutional transformation, humanitarian education

EDUCATION

Ph.D., American Studies — St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO (1995)

M.A., Popular Culture — Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH (1984)

B.A., Folklore — Hampshire College, Amherst, MA (1982)