



# Reach for Greatness: Education in the Age of Smart Machines Yong Zhao, Ph.D.

Foundations Distinguished Professor, School of Education (with appointment in the School of Business), University of Kansas.  
Global Chair Professor of Education, East China Normal University.

Author of over 30 books, including *Reach for Greatness*, *World Class Learners*, *Never Send a Human to Do a Machine's Job*, and *Catching Up or Leading the Way*,

**Thursday, February 21, 2019, 7:00 PM**  
**New Trier High School/Northfield, Cornog Auditorium**  
**7 Happ Rd., Northfield, IL 60093**  
**PDs available for educators at the event.**

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**,  
in partnership with Baker Demonstration School, Chiaravalle Montessori School, Foundation 65, Fusion Academy, Glencoe D35, Glencoe PTO, New Trier Educational Foundation, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, Northern Suburban Special Education District, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Roycemore School, Winnetka D36, and the Wolcott School.

This event is **free and open to the public**, and will not be taped. Suitable for youth 12+. **INFO: [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: YONG ZHAO, Ph.D.**

**CONTACT:** Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

**Thursday, February 21, 2019, 7:00 PM, Reach for Greatness: Education in the Age of Smart Machines, New Trier High School, Northfield Campus, Cornog Auditorium, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield, IL 60093. **PDs available for educators – no pre-registration required.****

**Yong Zhao, Ph.D., Foundations Distinguished Professor, School of Education (with appointment in the School of Business), University of Kansas**, calls for a paradigm shift in education and brings extensive evidence to show that every child has both the potential and the need to become great. He advocates that the goal of education is to help each child discover and develop their unique strengths and passions so that they can be best prepared to meet the challenges of the modern world including globalization, technology, smart machines and the need to create value for others. To do so, educators need to make education personalized by the child, instead of personalized for the child. Together, we need to help each child find what uniquely makes them great.

In the introduction to his book *Reach for Greatness*, Prof. Zhao states: “Greatness comes from lots of efforts, but it can only be built on passion and strengths. If a person has no interest in a domain, it is unlikely that he or she would be intrinsically motivated to put in the necessary efforts needed for greatness. If a person spends the same effort on developing abilities in domains where he or she has neither talent nor rich resources, he or she is unlikely to become great either. Thus, an education that aims to cultivate greatness needs to be one that supports passion and enhances strengths, instead of fixing deficits or closing gaps.”

Pro. Zhao last appeared for FAN in 2011 for a talk titled “What Does a High-Quality Education Mean?” He is an immensely popular speaker who presses audience members to examine their assumptions and beliefs about American education, its strengths and challenges, and what it means to be a globally competent person.

Prof. Zhao is also the **Global Chair Professor of Education at East China Normal University**, a **Global Chair Professor at the University of Bath** in the U.K., and a **Professorial Fellow at the Mitchell Institute for Education Policy at Victoria University**, Australia. He has published over 100 articles and 30 books, including *Reach for Greatness: Personalizable Education for all Children*; *Counting What Counts: Reframing Education Outcomes*; *Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization*; and *World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students*.

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**Community Allies**

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