

Dr. Lucian Spataro

Chair, Education Initiatives

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Dr. Lucian Spataro Jr. is a noted researcher, educator and author with more than 30 years of experience working in both education and the private sector.



With experience as an educator and administrator, both in the United States and internationally, he served as Academic Director and Professor at the University of Arizona in Tucson and Vice Rector of Academic Affairs for the Universidad del Noroeste in Sonora, Mexico.

Dr. Spataro's educational credentials also include a tenure as Chief Operating Officer for Education 2020, an educational software and service provider, and serving as President & CEO of TesseractT, which at the time was the largest for-profit education company in the United States. More recently he served as President of FlipSwitch, a national educational software provider.

He led the nonprofit Joe Foss Institute from 2011 – 2014 as President & CEO, and currently sits on the Board of Directors for both the Joe Foss Institute and the Civics Proficiency Institute, an affiliate of the Joe Foss Institute.

As a sciences professor, Dr. Spataro understands the focus on Science, Technology, English and Math (STEM) curriculum in our schools but strongly argues that it should not be at the expense of a quality Civics education rooted in the foundations of our history and government. In 2013, he became one of the authors of the Civics Education Initiative, an effort which calls for legislation in all 50 states requiring students to pass the U.S. Citizenship Civics Test as a requirement for high school graduation.

Dr. Spataro earned a B.S. from the University of Arizona in Business and Public Administration and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from Ohio University. He has held senior level positions in numerous educational and for-profit organizations, and his research and scholarly articles have been broadly published.

Dr. Spataro's is also the author of the award winning book, *The Long Ride*, published in 2011. The book recounts his record-breaking, coast-to-coast journey riding a team of Arabian horses from Los Angeles to the Chesapeake Bay.