
Dr. Kelley is one of a select group with three or more articles published in the Harvard Business Review. An interdisciplinary scholar, his numerous articles have appeared in leading business, legal, engineering, and psychology journals. He also writes for lay audiences, with three of his books making it to business book best-seller lists.

Dr. Kelley has been described as an "entrepreneur of the mind." Included in Business Week’s cover story on "Management’s New Gurus," he consistently stays a step ahead of the pack in creating new management practices used by world class organizations. Nurtured through innovative research and practical application, his brainchildren have gained wide acceptance in the marketplace of ideas. For example,

- he coined the term "Gold-Collar Worker" in his book by that title bringing national recognition to brainpowered workers and spurring research on intellectual capital and the “creative class.” The term was considered a new word by the American Heritage Dictionary. Inc. Magazine named the book in its "CEO Required Reading List for 1990;"

- he pioneered the concept of "Followership" in his best-selling book The Power of Followership and his Harvard Business Review article "In Praise of Followers" (a top 25 best-selling reprint for HBR). Widely considered the founder of “followership” studies, he legitimated the topic and, in the process, changed the prevailing view of leadership.;

- he wrote the first and best-selling book on Consulting, which is considered a classic.

As President of Consultants to Executives and Organizations, Dr. Kelley helps national and international clients, like AT&T, Hewlett-Packard, Bosch, Merck, Wal-Mart, 3M, and Mr. Rogers Neighborhood, manage brainpowered workers and leverage workplace diversity. Internationally, he has spoken to government officials and executives in China, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Brazil, England, France and Italy.

Dr. Kelley is a Distinguished Service Professor of Management at the Tepper School of Business MBA program at Carnegie Mellon University where he consistently is rated one of the top teachers and was nominated by students for Carnegie Mellon University's Doherty Teaching Prize. By leveraging his leading-edge research, Kelley has pioneered a series of innovative courses on developing star performers, followership-leadership, managing intellectual capital, and designing customer-driven strategies and services.

His educational background includes post-doctoral work at the Harvard Business School, Ph.D. from Colorado State University, M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, and a B.A. from Drake University.

His research currently takes five directions: 1) how to use the critical path as a platform for organizational change and success, 2) how to be a star in a global, virtual, multi-cultural, and 24/7 world, 3) the implications of intellectual capital on the individual, the company, and the economy, 4) how to cultivate successful follower-leader partnerships, and 5) examining racial harassment in the workplace.

For fun, Kelley founded and sang in the Tepper School “MB-A-cappella” group, plays basketball with his kids and students, runs while his legs still can, and travels internationally with his family.