

Mark Daley

World's First University Chief AI Officer, Western University

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE · AI STRATEGY · AI GOVERNANCE · EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION · DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION · ETHICS & POLICY

THE PITCH

A university Chief AI Officer who helps leaders govern AI realistically—separating workable strategy from hype, fear, and vendor promises.

FULL BIO

Mark is the first-ever Chief AI Officer at any university in the world, serving as Chief AI Officer at Western University. He is also a Professor in the Department of Computer Science with cross-appointments in five other departments, The Rotman Institute of Philosophy, and The Western Institute for Neuroscience. He is a faculty affiliate of Toronto's Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

Mark was named in the Maclean's magazine "Power List 2024" of the top 100 Canadians shaping the country and in Constellation Research's AI150, a list of the top 150 global executives leading AI transformation efforts.

In October 2024, Mark was appointed the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Scholar in Residence in Artificial Intelligence.

Mark has previously served as the Vice-President (Research) at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR), and Chief Digital Information Officer, Special Advisor to the President, and Associate Vice-President (Research) at Western.

He is the past chair of Compute Ontario and serves on a number of other boards including ICES, IP Ontario, and the Ontario Health Data Council.

In 2018, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts (UK).

CONNECT

Website · spokenartists.com/speakers/mark-daley

LinkedIn · ca.linkedin.com/in/mjdaley

SIGNATURE KEYNOTES**AI and the Future of Education: Strategy, Leadership, and the New Academic Model.**

AI is forcing higher education to confront questions it has avoided for decades: What is the value of a degree? How do we ensure integrity in research and learning? What role should institutions play in setting the guardrails for society's use of AI?

As the world's first Chief AI Officer at a university, Mark has a front-row seat to how AI is reshaping the very foundations of academia — from governance and policy to pedagogy and research. He speaks directly to the challenges and opportunities facing senior education leaders.

In this keynote, Mark explores:

- The new value proposition of education — in a world where knowledge is cheap and instantly generated.
- AI governance as an institutional responsibility — balancing innovation with academic integrity and public trust.
- Research in the age of AI — what changes when machines can generate, simulate, and discover.
- Strategic positioning for universities and colleges — how institutions can lead, not lag, in the AI era.

This is not a “classroom talk.” It's a strategic, executive-level conversation about the choices education leaders must make now to stay relevant and credible in a world transformed by AI.

AI Without Illusions: Cutting Through the Hype, Fear, and False Promises

AI is everywhere — in headlines, in boardrooms, in government briefings. But most of what leaders are hearing is hype, fear, or spin. Mark is the first-ever Chief AI Officer at any university in the world, with a career that bridges the math behind AI systems, the realities of running massive digital infrastructure, and the politics of regulating technologies that move faster than governments.

In this keynote, Mark strips away the noise and shows audiences what's actually happening — and what it means for them. He covers:

- The economic reality of AI — what industries are about to get reshaped, where productivity will surge, and where jobs are most vulnerable.
- The social consequences few talk about — from inequity and access gaps to the cultural shifts already underway.
- The myths and false promises — why so much of the AI conversation is exaggerated, and how to separate the signal from the noise.

This is not another “AI is the future” talk. It's a clear-eyed, insider's guide to what AI really means when it collides with economies, organizations, and society, designed for leaders who need answers, not buzzwords.

The AI Power Shift.

AI isn't just another wave of technology — it's a full-blown power shift that's changing how businesses compete, how people work, and how societies function. The challenge? Most of what decision-makers hear is hype, fear, or oversimplification.

Mark, the world's first Chief AI Officer at a university, brings a rare mix of perspectives: he's written the theory, run the infrastructure as a CIO, and sat at the policy table where decisions about AI's future are made. That vantage point lets him translate the complexity of AI into clear, actionable insights for leaders.

In this keynote, Mark shows audiences:

- How AI is quietly reshaping industries today — the hidden levers of productivity and disruption.
- What leaders consistently get wrong about AI — and how to cut through the hype cycle.
- The new rules of competition in an AI-driven world — what organizations must do to stay relevant.

This is not a tech demo. It's a candid, accessible, and unfiltered look at how AI is redistributing power — and what leaders need to do about it now.

IMAGE LIBRARY

Original high-resolution color files are included alongside this PDF in the ZIP download.



PORTRAIT



STAGE

BOOK THIS SPEAKER

To check availability, request a hold, or confirm a date for **Mark Daley**, email either of the following:

- [pjasic@spokenartists.com](mailto:pjosic@spokenartists.com)
- vtudorache@spokenartists.com

Full digital profile, video reel, and additional press-kit assets: spokenartists.com/speakers/mark-daley