

Ray Leach
Chief Executive Officer
JumpStart Inc.

Ray Leach is the founding CEO of JumpStart Inc. a Cleveland, Ohio-based non-profit venture development organization that has gained a national best-in-class reputation for its innovative economic development models and its ability to leverage its experience and expertise across the U.S.

JumpStart's work focuses on assisting community leaders to maximize the job and wealth-creating economic impact of local startup and high-growth small companies with a focus on ways to assist and invest in these firms to dramatically improve local economic competitiveness. Ray is considered a national thought and practice leader at the intersections of public, private and philanthropic partnerships that accelerate job creation and increase economic outcomes in neighborhoods, cities, regions and countries.

Ray was a Sloan Fellow and a graduate of the MIT Sloan School of Management and the University of Akron. He began his career at IBM and went on to co-found four startup technology companies. Ray was a founding member of the U.S. Commerce Department's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE). He also currently serves as the Chair of the National Venture Capital Association's (NVCA) Alumni Council, is a founding member of the NVCA's Diversity Task Force, serves on the board of Invent Now which educates 100,000 U.S. kids each summer in science, technology, engineering and math, and is on the board of the Global Center for Health Innovation.