



Ian Symmonds

Thought-leader, strategist, author, speaker, and consultant - these are just a few of the roles that Ian Symmonds enjoys. Ian is the visionary president and founder of Ian Symmonds & Associates Inc. Over the past decade, Ian has served over 200 independent schools, colleges, universities, and non-profits.

Long before a consultant, however, Ian was a practitioner. His professional practice as a senior officer, executive director, and dean spans 25 years including Pacific University, Culver-Stockton College, Saint Mary's Hall, and Trinity University. He is one of the few highly successful enrollment and marketing professionals in the nation experienced in recruiting and retaining independent school students, traditional undergraduates, and graduate and adult students. He led dramatic enrollment turnarounds for three different private institutions during this career.

Occasionally dubbed an "Ed-Activist", Ian holds a high opinion of the role of education in transforming people and solving social issues. He launched the Just Cause campaign with Ian Symmonds & Associates in 2011 to raise public awareness and strategically connect ISA with organizations that are addressing structural poverty through education. He actively speaks and writes on the issue and devotes a large portion of time to consulting with organizations through the Just Cause campaign. Current and recent organizations served under the Just Cause campaign include Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy (TN), Mississippi Children's Museum (MS), Village of Promise (AL), KUZA (OR and Uganda), and Children's Relief Nursery (OR).

Industry experts often refer to Ian as one of America's brightest thought leaders in education. He is fascinated by culture and its impact on education. He has published in numerous professional journals, such as the Journal of College Admission (NACAC) and On Target (College Board), and has presented at just about every national and regional educational conference. He holds a BS and MS degree from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. Ian's formal area of study is organizational and small group leadership, focusing his graduate program on the essential ingredients of leading individuals and organizations. He is in high demand as a conference speaker at regional and national venues.

Ian consults on several projects each quarter, speaks and writes frequently on behalf of ISA, and also manages the overall ISA brand and company. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife Lisa, daughters Makayla and Jules, and Rajah, his loving and irreverent lab. In his spare time, he is an avid tournament tennis player and enjoys exploring the beauty of the Northwest.