

Jeff (J.D.) Davids



J.D. Davids will entertain, educate and inspire your audience to innovate and build new ventures of any size or industry.

J.D. delivers a unique blend of Marine Corps strategy and swagger with the humility and seasoning of having tasted painful failures along with big successes from over 25 years as an executive in the trenches of venture capital and entrepreneurship in Silicon Valley, Southern California, Chicago and beyond.

J.D. has a well-weathered soft spot in his heart for entrepreneurs & innovators as they navigate their journey from initial launch and seed funding into the world of venture capital pitches and beyond. He knows what it feels like to prepare for the board meeting as a first time CEO, and how to navigate the five-layer chess game of raising 10's of millions, 100's of millions of dollars from investors and on to the holy grail of venture capital: a successful exit transaction producing a billion dollar outcome.

An insightful speaker with an engaging style, J.D. Davids serves as Managing Partner of SmartMoney Ventures, a firm that helps entrepreneurs and investors beat the odds in an environment where the failure rate is 85%. SmartMoney Ventures provides world class training & education programs for all who participate in innovation ecosystems around the world. Our audience includes entrepreneurs & investors, incubators, universities, accelerators, economic development groups and civic officials who are building thriving innovation ecosystems, creating jobs and economic sustainability for their geographic communities around the globe.

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