

## **Leadership Secrets That Work: From the Classroom to the Boardroom**

### **Presenter Biography**

Alex Kajitani is the 2009 California Teacher of the Year, and a Top-4 Finalist for National Teacher of the Year. He is a leading authority on Teacher Leadership, and helps teachers and administrators transform the culture of their schools so every student learns. Before becoming a teacher, Alex managed a successful, multi-million dollar seafood restaurant in Santa Barbara, CA, and currently leads his own education company. He attributes his success in both the classroom and the business world to the same skill set—which he now shares with education and business leaders across the country.

Alex is a highly sought-after speaker, and is the creator of “The Rappin’ Mathematician” products, which are being used in homes and classrooms around the world to teach kids math, and have fun in the process. He has authored two books for teachers, including *Owning It: Proven Strategies for Success in ALL of Your Roles as a Teacher Today*, which was just named “Recommended Reading” by the U.S. Department of Education. Visit [www.AlexKajitani.com](http://www.AlexKajitani.com) to watch his popular TED Talk, or to book him to come work with your organization.

## **Leadership Secrets That Work: From the Classroom to the Boardroom**

### **Summary of Session:**

Twelve years ago, Alex Kajitani was a struggling new teacher in one of California’s poorest neighborhoods. His middle school students were unmotivated, unengaged and uninterested in the math he was teaching. Demoralized and desperate, he set out on a journey to turn his class, and his life, around.

Today, Alex holds the title of *California Teacher of the Year* and a Top-4 Finalist for National Teacher of the Year, 2009, and is lauded for his innovation and “real talk” on what it takes to be effectively lead any organization.

In the closing keynote address, Alex shares the four leadership secrets that he has used throughout his career, first as the manager of a successful restaurant, and then as a middle school math teacher, where he is considered one of the country’s top teachers. **Yesterday’s students are today’s employees, and today’s students are the leaders of tomorrow.** Thus, Alex connects the often awkward lessons we all experienced in middle school, to the *profound challenges* we face in managing our human resources, and how both require a similar skill set and belief in our employees to be successful.

From pimples to payroll, and from class management to risk management, this session offers fresh, easy-to-implement strategies and proven results to ignite your human resource professionals to return to work and make a difference in the companies and organizations they serve.