

Meet our new CEO

Air Force Major General who led the Air Forces' Education and Training for over 600,000 Civilians and Airmen, Named Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of VISTA Quest.



Note: VISTA Quest is an education consulting business that offers its services to state school districts and state commissioners throughout the nation and internationally. Our company is comprised of former State Superintendents of the Year and other proven leaders in Education from around the United States.

Alexandria, Va – VISTA Quest is pleased to announce Major General (Ret) Mark Brown, a recently retired Air Force leader in Education and Training who is widely recognized for leading the Air Force's transformation of learning from industrial aged seat time to mastery through competency-based learning, as its new CEO. General Brown, who is also a 2011 graduate of the Broad Academy, is committed to the fundamental belief that all children can learn without regard to their affluence in life and thus the possibilities for closing the American educational achievement gap in our lifetime.

With a specific focus on innovation in the classroom, Gen Brown's last five years of military service have been focused on innovative approaches such as "Flip the Classroom", "Virtual Classroom", "Blended Learning", "Blackboard as a Student Management System", as well as multiple other Competency Based Education (CBE) approaches required to reach the 21st Century learner.

"I am thrilled to welcome Gen Brown as a passionate teammate," VISTA Quest Founder and President Maj Gen (ret) John Barry said. "Together, we have a clear strategy focused on transforming learning as well as ensuring the safety of the teachers and students in PreK-12. Our growing stable of talent

includes over 16 Superintendents of the Year, a previous Under Secretary in Education, and several State level educational leaders.” General Brown added: “I am very excited to join Gen Barry on this journey. He has already proven that complex problems can be solved when you bring together talent such as the Superintendents of the Year. In addition, the work he personally did as the Aurora Public Schools Superintendent for over 7 years is legendary and won him recognition as the Colorado Superintendent of the Year. This is living proof of the capability within our reach. I look forward to building on his splendid work by harnessing additional talent and solving those complex problems that prevent our public schools from closing the education achievement gap.”

Prior to joining VISTA Quest, Gen Brown served the nation as an Air Force Officer for over 32 years. His last assignment was as the Deputy Commander of Air Education and Training Command. His command included educational institutions around the U.S, Europe, and the Pacific. They awarded degrees at the Masters and Doctoral levels and operated fully accredited colleges and universities with the same requirements and staff as higher education providers in civil society. He also commanded the Air Force’s global technical training. In this capacity, his schools awarded certifications in areas such as foreign languages, cyber, and aeronautics. Gen Brown has many years of experience in emergency management, budget building, and fiscal management. As a Base Commander, he worked hand in hand with local first responders and other emergency management agencies to build plans to effectively managed crisis ranging from natural disasters to active shooters. Gen Brown served as the Chief Financial Officer for 37% of the Air Force’s budget which at the time exceeded \$60B. His primary focus as CFO and was on achieving auditable financial statements, cutting operational costs, and maximizing institutional effectiveness. He is also well versed on the political engagement required to achieve positive legislation. He honed this skill as a Congressional Liaison to the U.S Congress for both the House and Senate. His interactions yielded positive relationships, resources, and favorable policy. General Brown looks forward to sharing many of his emergency management and resource wining financial and legislative strategies with Districts facing safety concerns and tough fiscal challenges.

Effective 1 July, Brown was named CEO VISTA Quest succeeding John Barry who founded VISTA Quest in 2013. Barry will continue to lead the executive functions of the organization as its President.