About Rob Cross

Short Bio

Rob Cross has studied the underlying network dynamics of effective organizations and the collaborative practices of high performers for more than 20 years. Through research and writing, speaking and consulting, and courses and tools, Rob’s network insights are transforming the way people lead, work and live in a hyper-connected world.

He is the Edward A. Madden Professor of Global Leadership, Babson College and co-founder and current research director of the Connected Commons, a consortium of over 100 leading organizations accelerating network research and practice.

Long Bio

For more 20 years, Rob Cross has studied the underlying networks of effective organizations and the collaborative practices of high performers. Working with more than 300 organizations and reaching thousands of leaders from the front line to the C-suite, he has identified specific ways to cultivate vibrant, effective networks at all levels of an organization and any career stage.

Currently the Edward A. Madden Professor of Global Leadership at Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, Rob is also the co-founder and research director of the Connected Commons consortium of over 100 leading organizations accelerating network research and practice.


A graduate of the University of Virginia’s McIntire School of Commerce (where he later taught), Rob earned an MBA from UVA’s Darden School and completed doctoral work at Boston University. He met his wife Debbie while they were both at Darden, and they have two children, Rachel and Connor.

Rob has become an avid cyclist, logging 100-150 miles a week with a group of similarly crazy old guys. He enjoys playing tennis, fishing and skiing with friends and family and is active in his church. Always willing to try new things, he recently began learning to play the guitar.