Kathy Peterson

BIOGRAPHY

At the age of five, Kathy Peterson was an aspiring speaker. Her first podium was a piano bench and her first audience were her dolls and stuffed animals. Today, Kathy holds the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation, placing her in the top 15% of speakers worldwide.

Prior to founding PeopleWorks in 1998, Kathy worked as a management development specialist in the global human resources department at a Fortune 500 technology company. There, she designed, developed, and facilitated a variety of management and leadership training programs for more than 3000 leaders worldwide. Peterson began PeopleWorks because she saw the need to bring this type of management and leadership training to more organizations—all companies need great leaders! This remains Kathy's area of specialty, although she has also expanded her business to include employee training and top-notch keynote presentations for organizations and conferences across the United States.

Since starting PeopleWorks, Kathy has had the opportunity to work with thousands of amazing people from a wide variety of industries. Some of her clients have included: 3M, Ag Processing, Inc. (AGP), Blue Bunny, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, EMC Insurance Company, Michigan Farm Women's Symposium, Federal Reserve Bank, Kraft Foods, Landus Cooperative, Mercy Medical Center, Mid Kansas Cooperative Association, Trans Ova Genetics, State of Iowa, Texas Corn Producers, U.S. District Court, and Winnebago Industries. Kathy enjoys getting to know her clients (she is fortunate to count many of them as friends) and each of their unique needs and challenges. Her clients see results—reporting an increase in performance, service, retention, and customer satisfaction. Her training programs and keynotes are not only full of great information, but always presented in a fun, highly interactive, and engaging way. And best of all, Kathy's got a multitude of stories to share from her years of working with employees and leaders, and from living and working on the family farm.

Kathy enjoys being involved in several professional organizations, including the National Speakers Association and the Association for Talent Development. She is an avid supporter of her alma mater, Iowa State University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies. Kathy was elected and is a past chair of the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors, representing almost 300,000 fellow Cyclones. She also holds a Master's degree in Leadership and Talent Development from Drake University. Kathy has earned certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and holds the Society of Human Resource Management's Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) designation.

In addition to being a successful business owner, Kathy is a proud mom to four grown children. Her son carries on the family tradition as the sixth generation to live and work on the Peterson Family Farm outside Storm Lake, Iowa.