

OWNER'S MANUAL

# 100 Great Leadership Speakers for Your Next Conference

Need to book a great speaker? Here's a comprehensive list of outstanding business speakers--and business thinkers.



BY JEFF HADEN  [@jeff\\_haden](https://twitter.com/jeff_haden)



IMAGE: Getty Images

I do a number of speaking events every year, and people often ask me to recommend great speakers. (Hopefully that's not because they were less than thrilled by *my* performance.)

Unfortunately, I haven't seen as many people speak as I would like, so my list of suggested speakers is fairly short.

Fortunately, Kevin Kruse has seen a ton of speakers. A keynote speaker in his own right, and best-selling author of books on employee engagement and wholehearted leadership, he's compiled a list of his favorite leadership speakers and trainers; most Kruse has seen in person, and he's also hired a number of them to speak at his own events.

(And he's also a humble guy; while he left himself off, he definitely belongs on any list of great business speakers.)

Check out some of the following people the next time you need a great speaker. And if you're deciding whether to attend a particular event and one of them is on the program, drop everything and go. You'll be glad you did.

Here's Kruse's list (in alphabetical order):

### **Mike Abrashoff**

Founder of GLS Worldwide

Website/blog: [www.glsworld.com](http://www.glsworld.com)

### **Wendy Appel**

Partner at Center for Leadership Studies

Twitter: [@WendyAppel](https://twitter.com/WendyAppel)

Website/blog: [www.wendyappel.com](http://www.wendyappel.com)

### **Jurgen Appelo**

CEO at Happy Melly

Twitter: [@jurgenappelo](https://twitter.com/jurgenappelo)

Website/blog: [www.jurgenappelo.com](http://www.jurgenappelo.com)

### **Mark Babbitt**

President of Switch and Shift

Twitter: [@MarkSBabbitt](https://twitter.com/MarkSBabbitt)

Website/blog: [www.switchandshift.com](http://www.switchandshift.com)

### **John Baldoni**

Chair of leadership development at N2Growth

Twitter: [@JohnBaldoni](https://twitter.com/JohnBaldoni)

Website/blog: [www.johnbaldoni.com](http://www.johnbaldoni.com)

### **Dov Baron**

Host and executive producer at Full Monty Leadership Radio

Twitter: [@DovBaron](https://twitter.com/DovBaron)

Website/blog: [www.dovbaron.com](http://www.dovbaron.com)

### **Ed Batista**

Leadership coach

Twitter: @edbatista

Website/blog: [www.edbatista.com](http://www.edbatista.com)

### **Dan Black**

Leadership writer

Twitter: @dbonleadership

Website/blog: [danblackonleadership.info](http://danblackonleadership.info)

### **Ken Blanchard**

Chief spiritual officer at The Ken Blanchard Companies

Twitter: @kenblanchard

Website/blog: [www.kenblanchard.com](http://www.kenblanchard.com)

### **Aad Boot**

Managing partner at HRS Business Transformation Services

Twitter: @LeadershipWatch

Website/blog: [www.leadershipwatch-aadboot.com](http://www.leadershipwatch-aadboot.com)

### **Anthony Bourke**

Founder of Mach 2 Consulting

Twitter: @mach2consulting

Website/blog: [www.mach2consulting.com](http://www.mach2consulting.com)

### **Travis Bradberry**

President at TalentSmart

Website/blog: [www.talentsmart.com](http://www.talentsmart.com)

### **Richard Branson**

Founder of Virgin Group

Twitter: @richardbranson

Website/blog: [www.virgin.com/richard-branson](http://www.virgin.com/richard-branson)

### **Peter Bregman**

Founder of Bregman Partners

Twitter: @peterbregman

Website/blog: [www.peterbregman.com](http://www.peterbregman.com)

### **Brené Brown**

Professor at the University of Houston

Twitter: @BreneBrown

Website/blog: [www.brenebrown.com](http://www.brenebrown.com)

### **Bob Burg**

Founder of Burg Communications

Twitter: @BobBurg

Website/blog: [www.burg.com](http://www.burg.com)

### **Evan Carmichael**

Founder of Evan Carmichael Communications Group

Twitter: @EvanCarmichael

Website/blog: [www.evancarmichael.com](http://www.evancarmichael.com)

### **Dorie Clark**

CEO at Clark Strategic Communications

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Website/blog: [dorieclark.com](http://dorieclark.com)

### **Gary Cohen**

Managing partner at CO2 Partners

Twitter: @garybcohen

Website/blog: [www.co2partners.com](http://www.co2partners.com)

### **Ted Coine**

Chairman and founder at Switch and Shift

Twitter: @tedcoine

Website/blog: [www.switchandshift.com](http://www.switchandshift.com)

### **Eileen Collins**

Astronaut and space shuttle commander

Website/blog: [www.keplerspeakers.com/speakers/?speaker=Colonel Eileen Collins](http://www.keplerspeakers.com/speakers/?speaker=Colonel+Eileen+Collins)

### **Douglas Conant**

CEO at ConantLeadership

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### **Randy Conley**

VP of client services at The Ken Blanchard Companies

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Website/blog: [www.leadingwithtrust.com](http://www.leadingwithtrust.com)

**Lolly Daskal**

President and founder of Lead From Within

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**Todd Dewett**

President at TVA Inc.

Twitter: @fuel4leaders

Website/blog: [www.drdewett.com](http://www.drdewett.com)

**Brian Dodd**

Director of new ministry relationships for ISS

Twitter: @BrianKDodd

Website/blog: [www.briandoddonleadership.com](http://www.briandoddonleadership.com)

**S. Chris Edmonds**

Founder of The Purposeful Culture Group

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Website/blog: [www.drivingresultsthroughculture.com](http://www.drivingresultsthroughculture.com)

**Kevin Eikenberry**

Chief potential officer at The Kevin Eikenberry Group

Twitter: @KevinEikenberry

Website/blog: [www.blog.kevineikenberry.com](http://www.blog.kevineikenberry.com)

**Tim Elmore**

Founder of Growing Leaders

Twitter: @TimElmore

Website/blog: [www.growingleaders.com](http://www.growingleaders.com)

**Steve Farber**

Founder of The Extreme Leadership Institute

Twitter: @stevifarber

Website/blog: [www.stevifarber.com](http://www.stevifarber.com)

**Mark Fernandes**

Chief leadership officer at The Luck Companies

Twitter: @MarkSFernandes

Website/blog: [www.luckcompanies.com](http://www.luckcompanies.com)

**John Foley**

Blue Angels fighter pilot

Website/blog: [www.johnfoleyinc.com](http://www.johnfoleyinc.com)

### **BJ Gallagher**

Consultant at Peacock Productions

Twitter: @BJ\_Gallagher

Website/blog: [www.peacockproductions.com](http://www.peacockproductions.com)

### **Chery Geggelman**

President at Giana Consulting

Twitter: @GianaConsulting

Website/blog: [www.consultgiana.com](http://www.consultgiana.com)

### **Julie Winkle Giulioni**

Principal at DesignArounds

Twitter: @Julie\_WG

Website/blog: [www.juliewinklegiulioni.com](http://www.juliewinklegiulioni.com)

### **Nina Godiwalla**

CEO at Mindworks

Website/blog: [www.mindworkscorp.com](http://www.mindworkscorp.com)

### **Marshall Goldsmith**

Founder of Marshall Goldsmith Group

Twitter: @coachgoldsmith

Website/blog: [www.marshallgoldsmithlibrary.com](http://www.marshallgoldsmithlibrary.com)

### **Jon Gordon**

President at The Jon Gordon Companies

Twitter: @JonGordon11

Website/blog: [www.jongordon.com](http://www.jongordon.com)

### **Marla Gottschalk**

Director at Kilberry Leadership Advisors

Twitter: @MRGottschalk

Website/blog: [www.marlagottschalk.wordpress.com](http://www.marlagottschalk.wordpress.com)

### **Matt Heller**

Founder of Performance Optimist Consulting

Twitter: @PrfrmnceOptmst

Website/blog: [www.performanceoptimist.com](http://www.performanceoptimist.com)

**Tony Hsieh**

CEO at Zappos.com

Twitter: @tonyhsieh

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**Gary Hamel**

Professor at London Business School

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**Karin Hurt**

CEO of Let's Grow Leaders

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**Michael Hyatt**

CEO at Intentional Leadership

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**Rod Johnson**

Founder of Growing Your Leaders

Website/blog: [www.growingyourleaders.com](http://www.growingyourleaders.com)

**Rosabeth Moss Kanter**

Professor at Harvard Business School

Twitter: @RosabethKanter

Website/blog: [www.hbswk.hbs.edu/faculty/rkanter.html](http://www.hbswk.hbs.edu/faculty/rkanter.html)

**Mark Kelly**

Astronaut and commander of Space Shuttle Endeavor

Twitter: @shuttlecdrkelly

Website/blog: [www.americansforresponsiblesolutions.org/about/mark-kelly](http://www.americansforresponsiblesolutions.org/about/mark-kelly)

**John Kotter**

Founder of Kotter International

Website/blog: [www.kotterinternational.com](http://www.kotterinternational.com)

**Jim Kouzes**

Author of *The Leadership Challenge*

Twitter: @Jim\_Kouzes

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Co-founder of GiANT

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Founder of e.Mile People Development Magazine

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**Marc Lawn**

CEO at Business GP

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**Alison Levine**

Everest climber and author

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**Glenn Llopis**

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**Mike Maddock**

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**Paul Marciano**

Author of *Carrots and Sticks Don't Work*



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### **Terence Mauri**

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### **John C. Maxwell**

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### **Susan Mazza**

CEO at Clarus Consulting Group

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### **Dan McCarthy**

Founder of Great Leadership

Twitter: @greatleadership

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### **Michael McKinney**

Founder of M2 Communications

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### **Jennifer V. Miller**

Founder of People Equation Press

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**Michael E. Porter**

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### **Barry Posner**

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### **Skip Prichard**

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### **Andrew Razeghi**

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### **Tony Richards**

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### **Dan Rockwell**

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### **Steve Roesler**

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### **Michael Rogers**

Blogger at Teamwork and Leadership

Twitter: @secondgleader

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### **Stephen Ross**

Founder of Now That's Leadership!

Twitter: @RossLeadership

**Mark Sanborn**

President at Sanborn & Associates

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**Chip Scholz**

Founder of Scholz and Associates

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**Tom Schulte**

Executive director of Linked 2 Leadership

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**Robin Sharma**

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**John Spence**

Managing partner at John Spence LLC

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**Jesse Lyn Stoner**

Director of strategic relations at Berrett-Koehler Foundation

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**James Strock**

Founder of Serve to Lead

Twitter: @jamesstrock

Website/blog: [www.servetolead.org](http://www.servetolead.org)

**Bob Sutton**

Professor at Stanford

Twitter: @work\_matters

Website/blog: [www.bobsutton.typepad.com](http://www.bobsutton.typepad.com)

**Marilyn Tam**

Former president at Reebok

Website/blog: [www.marilyntam.com](http://www.marilyntam.com)

### **Linda Fisher Thornton**

CEO at Leading in Context

Twitter: [@leadingincontxt](https://twitter.com/leadingincontxt)

Website/blog: [www.leadingincontext.com](http://www.leadingincontext.com)

### **Gordon Tredgold**

CEO and founder of Leadership Principles

Twitter: [@GordonTredgold](https://twitter.com/GordonTredgold)

Website/blog: [www.leadership-principles.com/en](http://www.leadership-principles.com/en)

### **Art Turock**

Founder of Art Turock Associates

Twitter: [@TheArtTurock](https://twitter.com/TheArtTurock)

Website/blog: [www.turock.com](http://www.turock.com)

### **Bobby Umar**

President at Raeallan

Twitter: [@raehanbobby](https://twitter.com/raehanbobby)

Website/blog: [www.raeallan.com](http://www.raeallan.com)

### **Ekaterina Walter**

Global evangelist at Sprinklr

Twitter: [@Ekaterina](https://twitter.com/Ekaterina)

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### **Jack Welch**

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Twitter: [@jack\\_welch](https://twitter.com/jack_welch)

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### **Bob Whipple**

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### **Chris Widener**

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**Leslie Wimes**

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**Liz Wiseman**

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