

SPEAKER KIT



Karen S. Wells

IGNITE. IMAGINE. INSPIRE. IMPACT.



TRANSCENDENT LEADER | GALVANIZING STORYTELLER
INSPIRATION ENTHUSIAST | COURAGE PRACTITIONER



IGNITE Purpose.
IMAGINE Possibilities.
INSPIRE Passion.
IMPACT People.

www.KarenSWells.com



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IMPACT.

“OWNING YOUR STORY IS THE FIRST STEP IN
WALKING FREELY IN YOUR TRUTH.”

– Karen S. Wells

MEET KAREN



Karen S. Wells brings over 30 years of distinctive career experiences and an exceptional leadership journey. In addition to being an NCAA Division I scholar-athlete, Karen has held successful key leadership roles in a Fortune 500 company, multiple C-suite roles in nonprofits, and as an entrepreneur and small business owner. Karen is the Chief Operations and Inclusion Officer serving the mission of Make-A-Wish America, a grassroots organization granting life-changing wishes of hope and healing for critically ill children across the US. In her previous role, Karen served as the Chief Strategy and Diversity Officer for Make-A-Wish America. Before joining Make-A-Wish, Karen was the CEO of Bridge Communities, the largest provider of transitional housing and support services for families experiencing homelessness in DuPage County, IL.

Spanning a 20-year career, Karen held various multi-disciplined VP positions at the McDonald's Corporation including Regional Vice President, VP of US Strategy, VP of Operations, VP of Innovation, and VP of US Nutrition and Menu Development for the 13,000 restaurants in the US. For a decade, Karen owned and operated a small business as a franchisee of The Goddard School, the leading franchise for early childhood development. Based on her passion for philanthropy, inspirational storytelling, and guided by her thought leadership in diversity, equity & inclusion, Karen founded her consulting boutique, The AIW Group.

As a 1st generation college graduate, Karen is committed to supporting and advocating for the marginalized and underrepresented in the community and the workplace. She is devoted to serving, coaching, and mentoring women, including women in leadership in corporations, nonprofits, and as entrepreneurs; women of color, the next generation of men and women leaders; and women battling poverty. Karen is also committed to coaching and consulting all those who lead, support, mentor and are allies for women.

Karen has been interviewed on CNN, featured in the Chicago Tribune as a “Remarkable Person,” named a Rising Star by Fortune Magazine, and featured in many other media outlets for her corporate and community work. Karen has a BSBA in Marketing from Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH, and an MBA from Meredith College, Raleigh, NC.

Karen resides in Illinois and is the proud mom of two young adult children.



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“AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP TRANSCENDS RESULTS BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT IS ABOUT THE PROFOUND AND LASTING IMPACT IT HAS IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.”

– Karen S. Wells

SPEAKING

Karen is an accomplished and inspirational keynote speaker, distinguished panelist, and engaging guest lecturer who shares keen insights on how to live and lead courageously. Karen connects with her audiences by transparently sharing key principles and lessons learned from her diverse professional leadership journey led by her life lessons of courage, hope, and resilience.

Karen uses her experiences and relevant research to provide her audiences with roadmaps, principles, and guides to “live well, lead well, and do good,” a personal mantra for Karen. Whether in keynote addresses, on a panel, as a guest lecturer, or leading workshops, Karen quickly connects with her audiences, ignites them through inspiration, and positively impacts the lives of others.

Below is a sample of topics Karen offers on leadership, courage, and leading from within. If you are interested in a customized speech, please let us know through our contact page.

- The Pursuit of Courage in Change Management

In this compelling speech, Karen Wells explores the crucial role of change management, illuminating the pathways where bold leadership can create meaningful organizational transformations. She underscores the importance of stepping out of comfort zones to embrace the challenges and opportunities that change brings.

The audience will leave with a renewed understanding that navigating change with courage and strategic foresight can lead to remarkable organizational growth and resilience.

- Navigating and Mastering the Learning Curve in Leadership
- Leading through Change
- Leaning into Authentic Leadership
- Are you a Transcendent Leader?
- Reset to Rebound- The Connection between Women, Sports, and Leadership
- Owning Your Story in Leadership
- From Strategy to Results - How to build a strategic plan that delivers results
- The Only Woman in the Room
- The Pursuit of Courage in Leadership
- Seeing My Invisible Neighbor
- Value of Nonprofits in a For-Profit World
- The Pursuit of Courage- When Being Brave is Not an Option
- The Ripple Effect of Serving Others
- Three steps Forward, Two steps Backward - The Journey out of Poverty
- When 1+1≠2: Finding Courage Beyond Your Circumstances



“COURAGE MUST BE RELENTLESSLY PURSUED AND FIERCELY CAPTURED.”

– Karen S. Wells



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TESTIMONIALS

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“Karen Wells is a riveting speaker. She generously shares her personal story with humor and authenticity.”

”

“Karen Wells is an inspiring leader who uses her own experiences, faith, and positive outlook to help individuals reach their full potential.”

”

“Karen Wells’ inspired words reveal that poverty is addressed one person at a time, and that compassion, belief, and dedicated commitment from other individuals is imperative in that process.”





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AS SEEN ON:



AWARDS:

- Rising Star by Fortune Magazine
- Named Remarkable Person - Chicago Tribune
- Quad County Urban League Women in Leadership Award
- McDonald's President's Award-Top 1%
- McDonald's' Operations Excellence Award





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For more information or to book
Karen for an event:

✉ info@KarenSWells.com

Visit our Website:
www.KarenSWells.com

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