fearless FACILITATION

The Ultimate Field Guide to Engaging (and Involving!) Your Audience

CYNDI MAXEY
KEVIN E. O'CONNOR

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Cyndi Maxey, CSP, and Kevin E. O'Connor, CSP

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To my Chicago neighbors, who have fearlessly facilitated lifelong friendships and steadfast support of my work.
Cyndi Maxey

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Kevin O'Connor

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Preface

OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, we have collaborated on books and articles that explored and documented our love of communication, presentation, and leadership. We have facilitated countless workshops together and coached and developed presenters and leaders who were on the same team. Associations like American Society for Training and Development (ASTD) and National Speakers Association (NSA) provided opportunities for us to speak about our work and create new ideas along the way.

The idea for this book began with a presentation we called "Fearless Facilitation" at the 2009 NSA conference; the intent was to encourage professional speakers to "let loose" and let the audience in. The response was positive, and so we continued to perfect the concept of "fearlessness" while involving a group. We delivered new, expanded versions of the presentation for trainers and leaders at the ASTD international conferences of 2010 and 2011 and then proposed the idea to Pfeiffer as a potential book. This is our fourth book together, and we are honored you are reading it.

Many times leaders and presenters can be so wrapped up in what they say and what is on their slides that they wait until the very end to state: "We have a few moments for questions." This is a tremendous mistake and a disservice to audiences who really do want to talk and not just be "talked at." We offer this book to you in the same light.

Be fearless and let your audience in!

Cyndi Maxey and Kevin E. O'Connor
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