

COURTNEY STANLEY



Courtney Stanley is a keynote speaker, writer, career success coach and brand expert with a background in experience design, community engagement and leadership development. Courtney is the creator and host of "Dare to Interrupt", a podcast that provides a platform for the event, hospitality and tourism industry's most influential and successful women to share their stories of adversity and success, unfiltered. Courtney believes that transforming past experiences into impactful conversations through raw, authentic storytelling challenges the status quo, connects people from all walks of life and results in great change for the world.

Courtney is the youngest member to have ever been elected to Meeting Professionals International's (MPI) International Board of Directors. She is the recipient of Smart Meetings Magazine's Entrepreneur Award, Meetings Today's Trendsetter Award, MeetingsNet's Changemaker Award, the Association for Women in Events (AWE) Disruptor Award, the MPI Chairman's Award and MPI RISE Award, named Collaborate and Connect Magazine's 40 under 40, and is recognized as one of the event industry's most impactful change-makers. Courtney serves on the Events Industry Sexual Harassment Task Force, AWE's Board of Directors, MPI's Women's Advisory Board, is a Meetings Mean Business Ambassador and is the co-founder of the award-winning movement, #MeetingsToo.



1. What values/skills do you believe are most important in being a leader?

I believe that integrity, compassion and grit are a few of the key characteristics that elevate and transform an average leader to an exceptional leader.

2. How did you overcome any challenges that you may have faced in this industry?

No matter what kind of challenges I have faced in my career and in life, I have always turned to my mentors and trusted advisors for direction and insight. You can't predict what curveballs will be thrown your way and you certainly won't know how to handle every situation, but what you can predict is who will be there to support you when you ask for help.

3. What does inspiring the next generation of girls mean to you? And how do you support this?

Living your life authentically and leading transparently with your values at the forefront will inspire others who follow to do the same. Through my keynote speaking, podcasting, mentoring sessions and more, I always try my best to create content and spark conversations that are based on truth and a meaningful, productive outcome

4. Is there anyone you would like to acknowledge for their support or influence in your journey to becoming a leader in the events industry?

I couldn't possibly name everyone - there are so many people I would love to thank. Some of the most influential event professionals in my life include Dr. Lorie Tuma, Dahlia El Gazzar, Sarah Soliman Daudin, Fiona Pelham, Trevor Lui, Michael Dominguez, Shelley Williams, Shannon DeSouza, Matt Swenson, Lori Tenny, and so many more.

5. Why do you believe gender equality is important in the events industry?

Providing women in the meetings, hospitality and tourism industry with equal access to professional development, education, leadership opportunities and decision-making processes propels our community forward both economically and innovatively. The goal of any organization or corporation should be to grow and empower the most talented, hard-working, creative individuals who have great potential to lead and incite impact with the right tools, mentors, and experiences.