

Bio: Dr. Steve L. Robbins

A powerful storyteller with a powerful story to tell, Dr. Steve L. Robbins has an unmatched ability to inspire people even in the midst of disrupting and challenging the way they think about the world. Born in Vietnam, Dr. Robbins immigrated to the United States when he was five years old. He and his mother faced many challenges as Vietnamese immigrants in a new land, during a time when there was much anti-war and anti-Vietnamese sentiment. Working through and rising out of the challenges of poverty, discrimination and the tough streets of Los Angeles, Dr. Robbins now brings insightful perspectives on issues of diversity, inclusion, and the power of caring.

Drawing upon a compelling life journey, his talks and workshops are filled with intriguing stories, laugh-out-loud humor and a keen understanding of the human condition. The inclusiveness and power of his message are why organizations like McDonald's, Boeing, PepsiCo, Microsoft, Toyota, Honda, Volkswagen, Bayer Healthcare, Mayo Clinic, Nordstrom, NASA, Department of Defense, the NSA, Aetna, Herman Miller, Chevron, and numerous others call on Dr. Robbins to inspire, educate and prepare their people for the exciting challenges of a 21st century world.

A published author and highly requested keynoter, he has presented at numerous conferences and workshops across the nation. He also writes and edits the premier eNewsletter on diversity and inclusion, *Inclusion Insights*. His book, *"What if?: Short Stories to Spark Diversity Dialogue,"* is used by many organizations as to help them further develop their ability to engage in much needed conversations about diversity and inclusion in the 21st century.

His unique approach to creating diversity and inclusion challenges and inspires audiences to rethink their own realities and the realities of others. Often praised for his resonating, humorous style, his messages and stories bring a fresh and insightful perspective to the sometimes-dreaded subject of diversity. Dr. Robbins' life experiences have equipped him with an array of useful knowledge that he competently transfers to his audiences. Invariably, those who have heard him walk away motivated not only to think differently, but to behave differently.

Dr. Robbins received his Bachelors in communication from Calvin College and his Masters and Ph.D. in communication from Michigan State University. He currently resides with his wife and four children in Grand Rapids, MI.

Here is a sampling of comments from those who have heard Dr. Robbins speak.

- "... presents information that we all need. Love his style."
- "Made difficult issues easy to understand."
- "Speaker was phenomenal!"
- "Best speaker I have ever heard and I've heard many."
- "Everyone needs to hear Dr. Robbins."
- "Steve presents threatening information in a non-threatening manner."
- "Speaker was great... would love to hear more from him."
- "The best workshop on diversity I've ever been to, and I've been to a lot."
- "Really got my attention and stimulated a lot of self-reflection."
- "Speaker was great... knowledgeable and entertaining."
- "Steve is an excellent and dynamic presenter."
- "Great style... group felt comfortable with material that frequently causes discomfort."
- "... very lively and interesting."
- "I could listen to him for days... very knowledgeable, humorous and challenging."
- "Lots of aha moments... I'm going to have to rethink my position on many issues."
- "Great ability to relate presentation to real life... great examples."

Below are just some of the national and local organizations Dr. Robbins has worked with:

- *Aetna*
- *American Cancer Society*
- *American Library Association*
- *American Veterinary Medical Association*
- *Benjamin Moore Paints*
- *Boeing*
- *Boys & Girls Club of America*
- *Bristol-Myers Squibb*
- *Brookhaven National Laboratory*
- *Bureau of Public Debt*
- *Catholic Diocese of Memphis*
- *Chevron*
- *Cincinnati Reds*
- *City of Wichita, KS*
- *Defense Threat Reduction Agency*
- *Department of Defense*
- *Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago*
- *General Mills*
- *Herman Miller*
- *Honda*
- *Inova Healthcare*
- *International Association of Fire Chiefs*
- *International Association of Firefighters*
- *Marathon Petroleum*
- *Mayo Clinic*
- *McDonald's*
- *Mead Johnson*
- *Michigan State University*
- *Microsoft*
- *NASA*
- *National Cancer Institute/NIH*
- *National Credit Union Association*
- *Nordstrom*
- *NSA*
- *Oklahoma State University*
- *PepsiCo*
- *Pfizer, Inc.*
- *Principal Financial Group*
- *Raytheon*
- *Safeco Insurance*
- *Sallie Mae*
- *State of New York*
- *Stryker Instruments*
- *Toyota*
- *U.S. Department of Agriculture*
- *United States Tennis Association*
- *University of Michigan*
- *University of Texas*
- *University of Wisconsin*
- *Volkswagen*

Quotes by Dr. Robbins:

- *"Justice requires those who suffer the least to speak up the most"*
- *"Diversity is sometimes about counting people. Inclusion is always about making people count."*
- *"True learning requires us to minimize our certainty and maximize our curiosity."*
- *"A color-blind and gender-blind society is a myth in a society where color and gender matter."*
- *"We can strive for unity without expecting uniformity."*
- *"Don't confuse cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity with cultural competence."*
- *"An open mind is a terrible thing to close."*

Dr. Robbins may be contacted for keynotes, presentations and workshops by email (steve@SLRobbins.com) or via phone (616-915-8424). Further information about Dr. Robbins can be obtained at his website, www.SLRobbins.com.