

# Testimonials

## Selected Highlights

*"When Josh speaks, business improves."*

—Earvin "Magic" Johnson

*"In today's fiercely competitive global marketplace the most important resource any business has is the creative thinking of its people. Josh Linkner lays out a road map that will guide individuals, teams, and companies to higher levels of creativity. It is a journey that will lead to better ideas and breakthrough thinking."*

—Bill Ford, Executive Chairman, Ford Motor Company

*"We very much enjoyed your talk and workshop. You created just the right finish and exclamation point in our program. The feedback from our team – amazing, energizing messages, entertaining and humorous, actionable learnings, things people can do right away."*

—Sajeena Warriar, Managing Director, Intel Security

*"Building a culture of innovation in large companies is critically important, and there's no better way to learn than with a trusted roadmap of tools and real-life examples. Josh Linkner illustrates how innovative thinking is possible for every employee and business leader, so we can all unlock our full creative potential."*

—Mike Kaufman, CEO, Cardinal Health

*"Josh Linkner helps organizations discover and exploit their strengths in a changing business world. He clearly shows how to reignite innovation and unlock new business value such as speed, agility, persistence and partnership."*

—Alan Boehme, Chief Innovation Officer and Global CTO, The Coca-Cola Company

*"Josh Linkner delivers a roadmap to help future generations of entrepreneurs and innovators push boundaries and explore the art of the possible. He provides a clear path to help you build an army of everyday innovators and turn ideas into action."*

—Steve Case, Co-Founder and Former CEO, AOL, Chairman, Revolution Partners

*"Josh Linkner unlocks the techniques behind some of the world's most remarkable innovations."*

—Eric Schurenberg, CEO, Fast Company & Inc.

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## By Industry

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### Healthcare:

*"Building a culture of innovation in large companies is critically important, and there's no better way to learn than with a trusted roadmap of tools and real-life examples. Josh Linkner illustrates how innovative thinking is possible for every employee and business leader, so we can all unlock our full creative potential."*

—Mike Kaufman, CEO, Cardinal Health

*"Your presentation was fantastic and really delivered on our theme. We've heard nothing but great feedback about the information you shared and have no doubt many of our teams will be using your model for the future. It was a pleasure working with you and we appreciated the effort you put in to ensuring the presentation met the meeting objectives and was relevant and entertaining for our broad audience."*

—Traci Plate, Chief of Staff North America, GSK Consumer Healthcare

*"Awesome, awesome, awesome!!! You nailed your message and nicely incorporated our company into your talk."*

—Dr. Gregory F. Molinar, Director of Neuromodulation Research, Medtronic

*"Thanks again for giving a very inspiring and thought-provoking speech. Members of the team were blown away by your message and walked away with tools to succeed in their role as innovators."*

—Jessica L. Locke, Director, Office of the President, Kaiser Permanente

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### Financial Services:

*"The speed of invention is threatening traditional products and services, already relegating some to history. No business can afford to pause for a moment from the headlong drive to meet new challenges. Josh reminds us that to reinvent the workplace we must continually reinvent ourselves as leaders."*

—Deborah Hopkins, Chief Innovation Officer, Citibank

*"OUTSTANDING. Every example resonated. We need to have you back. You nailed it. Exactly what we wanted."*

—Richard Davis, CEO, US Bank

*"Josh Linkner creates a clear path on how to achieve the results that transformative change will bring. This is the key to all future growth and success."*

—Bill Emerson, CEO, Quicken Loans

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*"Our entire team and our clients have thoroughly enjoyed your presentations and have taken so many great ideas away. Your feedback scores average 98% from D.C. to Atlanta! We so appreciate the energy, enthusiasm, excellent content, and delivery that you bring to each conference. It has been an honor and a pleasure working with you. You are so accomplished and yet so humble. You are truly a great leader and a wonderful example for so many."*

**—Jeanne Gaudette, Marketing Manager, Fidelity Investments**

*"Thank you a million times over—you nailed it with the presentation yesterday and it was spot on for our team! You sparked so many follow-on discussions and were a continued theme throughout our meeting—people are already brainstorming great new ideas about how to implement small innovations and use your tips to break down barriers on our teams."*

**—Melissa Filipek, Director Public Affairs, American Express**

*"Your presentation was phenomenal. I'm leaving today with renewed energy, ideas and enthusiasm."*

**—Erica Oppenheimer, Marketing and Communications Manager, Associated Financial Group**

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## **Automotive + Manufacturing:**

*"In today's fiercely competitive global marketplace the most important resource any business has is the creative thinking of its people. Josh Linkner lays out a road map that will guide individuals, teams, and companies to higher levels of creativity. It is a journey that will lead to better ideas and breakthrough thinking."*

**—Bill Ford, Executive Chairman, Ford Motor Company**

*"Josh Linkner has laid out a comprehensive framework for reinvention and operational innovation. He provides numerous inspirational examples and straight talk on what you can do to reinvent your company or team."*

**—Tom Lasorda, Former CEO, Chrysler Group**

*"Josh Linkner made a huge impact on our organization. His message on creativity and innovation was spot-on and his work has had a lasting effect. His keynote was high-energy, interactive, and left us with specific tools and techniques to improve our creative output."*

**—Juergen Rochert, CEO, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Australia**

*"Josh, Thanks for a simply magnificent job yesterday with our Cox Automotive leadership team. You hit it outta the park. Folks were still talking about you last night. This was dynamic for all."*

**—Sandy Schwartz, CEO, Cox Automotive**

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## Tech:

*"We very much enjoyed your talk and workshop. You created just the right finish and exclamation point in our program. The feedback from our team – amazing, energizing messages, entertaining and humorous, actionable learnings, things people can do right away."*

**—Sajeena Warriar, Managing Director, Intel Security**

*"Josh Linkner is a singularly thoughtful entrepreneur who understands how to illuminate a vision of the possible, and describes the tools required to make it happen."*

**—Don Katz, CEO and founder, Audible**

*"I just wanted to drop you an email to say a big thanks again for today. The feedback I have heard has been incredibly positive, and I think it really contributed to the strong outcomes for the real work we went on to do over the day. It was definitely the first time I've heard someone from Sony Japan give feedback to a room as Yoda! I also really appreciated how you tailored your message to the audience from the discussions in the weeks prior to the program."*

**—Andrew Caldwell, Vice President of Business Innovation, Sony**

*"Josh's presentation was filled with great energy and new ways of thinking. It created a buzz throughout our team. I cannot even count how many commented how great it was and that they really needed to hear this type of content."*

**—Debra Florence, Head of Marketing Programs, North America, NOKIA**

*"Josh Linkner delivers a clear path for renewal and resilience that is compelling, insightful, and practical. He presents a blueprint for leaders to follow so they are able to not just stay in the game, but to stay ahead of it."*

**—Brian Owens, Head Of Global Brand Strategy, eBay Inc.**

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## CPG:

*"Josh Linkner helps organizations discover and exploit their strengths in a changing business world. He clearly shows how to reignite innovation and unlock new business value such as speed, agility, persistence and partnership."*

**—Alan Boehme, Chief Innovation Officer and Global CTO, The Coca-Cola Company**

*"It was quite literally one of the most motivating and thought provoking two hours of my professional career. I was blown away!"*

**—Robert Cunningham, Vice President, Heineken**

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## Travel + Hospitality:

*"Organizations that equip every single team member to become innovators are the ones that win over the long term. Josh Linkner delivers a powerful framework that will unlock hidden creativity in order to drive growth, innovation, and sustainable success."*

—Duncan Wardle, former head of innovation and creativity, Disney

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## Retail:

*"You were amazing this morning! I heard so many positive comments from customers that it was interesting, inspiring and they found some practical things they could use. Plus, you incorporated our industry and audience so well! Great job!!! You rocked it."*

—Michael McGarry, CEO, Transitions Optical

*"Hi Josh. I just wanted to reach out and tell you how much I enjoyed working with you and your team in preparation for our event. Our members really enjoyed what you had to say and the inspirational manner in which you expressed yourself. I was standing in the back during your keynote, and one of our long-time members who often facilitates for us, turned and gave me a thumbs up, whispering "He's goooooood."*

—Klein Merriman, Executive Director, Association for Retail Environments

*"We truly appreciate how your keynote talk set the stage for the day and inspired the audience with innovative ideas, empowered them with the knowledge we can all be creative, and how you customized your session so we all felt that you knew FedEx intimately and were talking directly to us."*

—Leanne Logan, Principal Global Digital Marketing, FedEx

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## Venture capital + Entrepreneurship:

*"Josh Linkner delivers a roadmap to help future generations of entrepreneurs and innovators push boundaries and explore the art of the possible. He provides a clear path to help you build an army of everyday innovators and turn ideas into action."*

—Steve Case, co-founder and former CEO, AOL Chairman, Revolution Partners

*"Josh is a truly special entrepreneur. He's part of a rare breed."*

—Eric Lefkofsky, co-founder and former CEO, Groupon

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*"Innovative approaches are the drivers of all human progress. Josh Linkner shows you exactly how to reinvent your business and career with stunning precision."*

**—Brad Feld, co-founder, Tech Stars and Foundry Group**

*"Protecting your existing model is no longer an option. Josh Linkner provides the tools you need in order to be the disruptor instead of becoming disrupted."*

**—Steve Blank, professor, Stanford Graduate School of Business, New York Times bestselling author, *The Startup Owner's Manual***

*"Josh Linkner offers a clear process for ongoing creative disruption. As a fellow entrepreneur who I've known for years, Josh has lived the process of leading a hyper-growth organization. He provides insight and inspiration through engaging stories, powerful examples, and easy-to-follow processes."*

**—Scott Dorsey, Co-founder, Exact Target**

*"In a fast and ever-changing landscape, Josh provides urgent insight and delivers a powerful look into a myriad of ideas and models that will drive business success well into the future."*

**—John Fanning, Founding Chairman and CEO, Napster**

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## Real Estate + Construction:

*"I thoroughly enjoyed your talk yesterday – as I said I have seen many speakers and you stood out as one of the best."*

**—Gino Blefari, CEO, Berkshire Hathaway Home Service**

*"You've had a huge impact on our group and the way I approach business."*

**—Mark Zikakis, Head of US Asset Management, CBRE**

*"Josh did a tremendous job and his creativity message resonated perfectly with the audience and was right on target."*

**—Jennifer Braun, Senior Event Producer, National Association of REALTORS**

*"Thank you so much! You were a pleasure to work with and a meeting planner's dream. Thank you for being so flexible and being so great and delivering an exceptionally tailored talk to our group. People are still raving about it today. Thanks again!"*

**—Monica Grinage Cooper, CMP, Event Program Manager, International Facility Management**

*"I wanted to thank you for a fantastic speech at the Summit last week. I've gotten great feedback from everyone I've talked to and it was a perfect end to our event. One guy told me he couldn't believe how well your message went along with our theme. I specifically appreciate your effort to tailor your message to our company and our industry. Thank you!!"*

**—Eric Brown, Project Executive, Hoar Construction**

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## Media + Entertainment:

*"Josh Linkner unlocks the techniques behind some of the world's most remarkable innovations."*

—Eric Schurenberg, CEO, Fast Company & Inc.

*"Josh has unmatched ability to embrace innovation. At his repeated visits to Viacom, Josh has consistently offered the strategic ideas and practical techniques necessary to drive creative thinking."*

—Nia Bates, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Viacom

*"I want to personally thank you for keynoting our industry event and delivering the most dynamic presentation I have seen in the 21 years since the event was started. Large events like these require audience engagement and you were able to deliver that through your multi-media presentation, Q&A, and sheer force of personality. Your creativity topic hit home to every leader in the room. Thank you again for sharing your energy, passion, and skill to our industry conference."*

—Rob Lowy, Publishing Director, Industry Week

*"I again want to tell you how inspiring your words were. Your passion was absolutely magnetic."*

—Stu Shinske, Executive Director of Content and Audience Development, Gannett

*"With the pace of innovation and resulting changes in consumer behavior, no company can afford to sit still. Growing a successful company requires creative assessment and disruption – and this constant change can be tough on an organization. Josh Linkner illustrates how to steward this mindset in your organization; how to lead your employees to not only accept, but embrace, the necessity for continuous reinvention."*

—Carol Kruse, Former Chief Marketing Officer, ESPN

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## Associations:

*"Josh, you were fantastic and an absolute delight to work with. Wow – what can I say except a huge THANK YOU. Your presentation was so excellent and a wonderful way to kick off our Annual Meeting. I heard so many of our members making reference to your presentation throughout the Meeting. And, signing books for two hours was a true testimonial to how well your presentation resonated with our members. Plus, you were a pure delight to work with . . . very low maintenance."*

—Anne Blouin, Chief Learning Officer, ASAE

*"I can honestly say you are the most gracious speaker I've ever worked with. I've heard nothing but rave reviews and positive feedback on your address, and I've been stopped multiple times by people wanting to thank us for having you speak. Thanks again for everything. It's very much appreciated."*

—Michael Dzick, Conference Manager, American Society for Quality

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JOSH LINKNER". The letters are bold and connected, with a cursive-like flow.

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## Thought-Leaders, Public Sector, and Academia:

*"As a seasoned entrepreneur and investor, Josh Linkner knows that innovation rarely happens in a blinding flash of inspiration. With engaging stories and rich examples, he shows how ordinary ideas can fuel extraordinary results."*

—Adam Grant, Professor, the Wharton School of Business, New York Times bestselling author of *Think Again* and *Originals*

*"Josh Linkner... a disruptive force for change."*

—Seth Godin, *New York Times* bestselling Author & Entrepreneur

*"Josh Linkner sets the new standard for using creativity in everyday life. Inspiring stories, fascinating research, and a practical guide that shows how all of us can be everyday innovators."*

—Mel Robbins, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Five Second Rule*; host of the Mel Robbins Podcast

*"Josh Linkner is a tremendous business leader who has established a successful and sustainable company, as well as a culture that nurtures employees to help them maximize their potential."*

—Hon. Jennifer M. Granholm, United States Secretary of Energy

*"Josh Linkner gives us a practical and inspirational roadmap to move us from incremental improvements to radical breakthroughs. He has successfully built some of the most creative companies in the world and shows us the way."*

—Jeff DeGraff, Professor, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan

*"Josh Linkner provides an insightful framework for innovation and creativity by demonstrating how small is big and humble is bold."*

—Kent Fuchs, Ph.D., President, University of Florida

*"Josh Linkner delivers the ideal mix of academic rigor and practical application. He provides a systematic framework to harness and maximize both individual and organization creativity in order to boost results. Inspiring stories reinforce the point that we can all be innovators, regardless of our background or job function."*

—David Brophy, Ph.D., Professor of Finance, University of Michigan Ross School of Business, Founding Director, Center for Venture Capital and Private Equity Finance

*"Here's a secret that the top business schools don't want you to know: everyone has the ability to be an innovator. You'll learn how to unleash your inner creativity and apply it to everything you do. With never-before-told stories of everyday innovators from across the globe, Josh Linkner inspires us to contribute to our communities through our creativity."*

—Vijay Govindarajan, Coxe Distinguished Professor at Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business

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