Michael Steep

Legendary Tech Pioneer & Operating Executive; Founding Executive Director, Stanford Program for Disruptive Technology & Innovation

As a highly influential tech leader, pioneer, and practitioner, Michael Steep has delivered countless global keynotes on how organizations across industries can transform disruption into practical opportunities for bottom-line growth. Among his key messages is the fact that there is a sea of change underway, yet more money is now invested in outside research and development companies focused on truly disruptive invention than inside our own organizations. As outside innovation continues to grow at an exponential rate, the very time-honored processes we use to innovate, attract talent, and deal with digital transformation have stalled, and leadership is tasked with the challenge of keeping up with emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, and determining which ones will advance their strategies and support their business goals. Steep's expertise is gleaned from his four-decade career leading operations at companies including Apple, Microsoft, and HP, where he worked in the presence of Bill Gates, Satya Nadella, and David Packard and witnessed firsthand what went into creating some of the greatest breakthroughs and transformations within organizations and entire industries.

Exclusively represented by Leading Authorities speaker's bureau, Steep possesses near-encyclopedic level knowledge into more than 20 industries, including financial services, technology; manufacturing; healthcare; retail; and entertainment, and delivers tailored keynotes that explore the effects of current and future trends and technologies on specific organizations and the verticals they operate in. As part of his preparation for every keynote, he speaks with each client in advance to understand their concerns then calibrates and customizes each presentation to bring relevant and real-world case examples that reflect how technology has been leveraged to power innovation in specific industries, and outlines aspects from these cases that organizations and associations can emulate as they look at new ways to approach their business challenges. The broad-based expertise that Steep shares is intended to show groups that they don't have to integrate every new technology into their strategies, but the ones they pursue have the potential to completely evolve their businesses. In addition to his keynotes, Steep's leads innovation workshops that reveal specific processes companies can use to transform early-stage technology into growth.

Steep served as the founding executive director for the Disruptive Technology Program at Stanford where he spearheaded the development of the latest approaches to digital transformation and built bridges between Stanford's disruptive technologies lab and corporate partners — including Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Meta, Hitachi, and Visa — to create new opportunities for innovation and monetization. He is also the one of the founders of Transform Innovation, which expands access to the nearly 5,000 early-stage technology labs from the top engineering schools. He works with faculty from Stanford, MIT, Caltech, UC Berkeley, and San Diego engineering, on transformative projects and startup ventures. Through his speaking engagements, he interacts with nearly 5,000 executives every year and offers feedback on their challenges and discusses their issues around innovation, as well as their desire to rethink the way they manage innovation within their organizations and in their own careers. Additionally, he is a trusted advisor to major governmental organizations, including the CIA and Department of Defense, on matters pertaining to the impact of emerging technologies on national security.

As an adjunct professor at the Stanford, he created and taught an engineering course entitled "Reinventing Innovation." He also published his highly regarded book *First Light of Day*, and is the author of numerous papers on the impact of early stage technology on business models. Previously, he held roles as senior vice president of global business operations at PARC Xerox, GM for Microsoft's Innovation Outreach Program for the Office of CTO (Bill Gates), and operating executive at Apple, HP, and IBM.

From launching the first software for IBM PC, to developing the first QuickTake digital camera at Apple, working on the team launch of Azure at Microsoft, and working to fund both AI and cybersecurity startups today, Steep has been an impactful presence behind many of the innovations that have shaped recent history and holds the unwavering believe that we are in the beginning of a new golden age where emerging technologies will define who we are, what we can accomplish, and how we can redefine companies and industries. x