



Speaking Praise for Laura Gassner Otting

When we launched this experiment, named the Public Interested Conference, in January of 2012, and needed a keynote speaker. We could not have identified anyone better than Laura Gassner Otting. Laura was both substantive and spellbinding and received rave reviews from students and alumni alike. Thanks in no small part to her involvement, this conference has grown to include over 200 alumni and 300 students each year. Laura's compelling remarks helped to build the popularity of this annual event. I highly recommend her. - [Gene Corbin, Assistant Dean of Harvard College for Public Service](#)

Laura has a unique ability to connect with her audience on a real and practical level. She breaks down ideas so that anyone can see their applicability and yet feel inspired that they are capable of making that change. Her charisma and interest in supporting up-and-coming leaders is paralleled only by people who mentored her to be this leader herself. Those who get to listen and learn from Laura will be better able to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others. - [Tam Emerson, Director, Eli J Segal Citizen Leadership Program at Brandeis University](#)

Laura's fast moving, dynamic style captures a room quickly. Fluid and strategic, she finds creative ways to connect with her audience as she moves them through a set of talking points, often drawing from an impressive set of her own experiences to cement key ideas. Her sharp, savvy mind, crisp analytic approach and energizing sense of humor appeal to and engage participants with wide-ranging depths of knowledge on a particular topic. - [Katie Pakenham, New Profit, Director of Network Engagement](#)

Laura has facilitated a session with many speakers on How to Hire a Consultant, led a session on transition planning and even worked with youth as young as high school to talk about career and philanthropic planning goals in her work with us. When she led a session for San Diego nonprofits about succession planning, people in the audience were able to hear what they needed and move forward with action items. Topics can get emotional and uncomfortable in the sector when we put our heart into changing the world, and Laura has helped manage those conversations in a way that allows leaders to feel heard and move forward. - [Katherine Scott, formerly of the Boston Foundation and the San Diego Foundation](#)

I've asked Laura to come speak in my MBA class for the past three years. Laura is a passionate and enthusiastic speaker who is able to authentically connect with a diverse audience of more than 40 students and engage, energize, and inspire them. Her remarks are

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always filled with pointed humor and a level of salty candor that relaxes everyone and invites genuine questions and discussion. Laura delivers thought-provoking insights in a relatable, fun way that keeps the students talking beyond the end of class. She's already on my syllabus for next year! - [Diane Mulcahy, Babson College](#)

Laura was our presenter for an Encore! hosted workshop on the key fundamentals of the nonprofit job search for the transitioning executive to our Encore!Hartford Fellows. Laura was impeccably prepared, an expert in her topic, and compelling for the full hour presentation. Our Encore!Hartford Fellows were able to put her instructions into immediately actionable steps and see results in employment opportunities. - [David Garvey, Ph.D and Director at Encore!](#)

We have worked with Laura over the past eight years in a variety of settings. She is the utmost professional in every way and leads amazing workshops. Staff and board members in attendance were thrilled by her skill and knowledge. Additionally, her ability to run an interactive session made the programs a true delight. - [Susan Musinsky, Social Innovation Forum](#)

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