



SPEAKER KIT 2019

International Speaker, Author, Consultant



Jeannette Collazo *Biography*

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, BILINGUAL AUTHOR, SPEAKER & CONSULTANT

Jeannette L. Collazo, MSMS, PMP is a passionate go-getter, a dynamo from Puerto Rico who came to this country with a dream that she never stopped pursuing. As the President and CEO of Lurdez Consulting Group, she has shattered the glass ceiling for women in IT and is a motivational force for young women and entrepreneurs seeking inspiration to reach even higher.

Jeannette addresses audiences ranging from young adult to seasoned professional to offer visionary wisdom that inspires people to push through that next challenge in life. She impacts the young person feeling lost in the career world, the woman navigating the choppy waters of IT or companies interested in building a successful business culture in the 21st century.

When not on stage motivating audiences, Jeannette is an IT program/ project manager with more than two decades of experience leading companies through data migration, network engineering and data center transformation. She established Lurdez Consulting Group (the name Lurdez is taken from her middle name) in 2018 as a diversity-driven company to offer world-class IT project management services to changing businesses.



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Jeannette has experienced the challenges of working in a male-dominated profession, has overcome adversity and is seeking to help young women apply their unique talents to the careers available in IT. She is a nationally known motivational speaker and author in *Today's Inspired Latina, Vol. 4* (Award winning), an anthology of stories whose book sales benefit the Fig Factor Foundation, a mentorship program for young girls. Her mission is to help other young girls discover the same opportunities for growth and success that she herself has found in the world of IT.

Jeannette believes in the direct correlation between passion, perseverance and success. As a child growing up in Puerto Rico, she struggled with severe asthma and endured frightening attacks and hospitalizations to emerge stronger on the other side. She believes it is life's harsh realities and curve balls that shape us, help us grow and even open us up to new possibilities. Only then can we be successful!



Jeannette lives near Chicago with her Yorkshire terrier Bentley and is also a dog lover who has volunteered for Dog Therapy programs at her local hospital.

Her joy is watching her audience members leave with a brand new, unique perspective that touches their minds and hearts.

Presentations by Jeannette Collazo

- **OVERCOMING ADVERSITY** Everyone faces struggles in their life that they need to conquer to move forward. No stranger to adversity herself, Jeannette shares her lifelong struggles with asthma and other life challenges. She explains, with concrete examples from her life, how listening to your instincts and tuning into intuition give us ways to not only to conquer challenges, but soar despite them. Audiences will leave with renewed energy to face their challenges!
- **THE POWER OF MIRACLES** Do we experience miracles in our daily lives? Miracles are all around us and basing our decisions in faith can be a powerful guidepost for our life. Jeannette believes success comes with hard work but it's nearly impossible without faith. In this presentation she shares her personal experiences with faith and miracles in her childhood and how having faith and following her heart have brought her peace and connectedness in her adult life. She connects with the audience with sincerity, wisdom and inspiration to trust beyond their sensibilities.
- **EMPOWERING LATINOS TODAY** Latinos are one of the fastest growing market segments in the country and they bring their own special flavor to American culture. Jeannette speaks on the impact of Latinos in the workplace and emphasizes how Hispanic roots give wings to American dreams. She also describes how this can and should happen generation after generation, without cultural sacrifice, to encourage Latinos to confidently take their place in society.
- **WOMEN IN TECH AND IT** Who says IT isn't for women? Even though it is still a very male-dominated field, Jeannette, who is a successful IT project/program manager and entrepreneur, addresses women on the many incredible opportunities that await women in the field of IT. She chronicles her own fateful journey into the field, only to discover the many adventures awaiting there for women of all personality types. She encourages and inspires women of all ages to pursue this career path with hope and joy.
- **ADVICE FOR YOUNG GRADUATES** With wisdom born of experience and compassion for the new generation, Jeannette addresses graduating classes with valuable insight into the changing world and the qualities needed to thrive. Graduates respond to her message of individual perseverance tempered with hope and opportunity. Jeannette strives to help young adults see that struggles don't only challenge us but teach us as well.

- **BUILDING DIVERSITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY** Having experienced countless corporate structures and worked within various corporate teams as an IT project manager, Jeannette has experienced firsthand the differences between the diverse and homogenous workplace. She offers insight into the importance of building a business culture with racial, gender and geographic diversity, especially in their IT department. She also offers ways businesses can successfully meld cultural differences into their work environment to create a stronger, better focused and infinitely more productive team.

Recent Speaking Engagements

- OCTOBER 22, 2018** *Panelist Today's Inspired Latina Authors in Paris – Paris, France*
- OCTOBER 20, 2018** *Panelist SHE Amsterdam, Seminario de Hispanas Emprendedoras, Amsterdam, Netherlands*
- OCTOBER 12, 2018** *Panelist Today's Inspired Latina Vol. IV NYC Book Launch, New York, NY*
- OCTOBER 8, 2018** *Featured Speaker Inspiring College Students, North Central College, Naperville, IL*
- OCTOBER 4, 2018** *Keynote Address Today's Inspired Latina Networking Connection, Bolingbrook, IL*
- MAY 24, 2018** *Featured (Author) Speaker Today's Inspired Latina IV Book Launch, Rolling Meadows, IL*
- FEBRUARY 2018** *Presenting Speaker LatinaTalks videotaping from Today's Inspired Latina, Aurora, IL*

Praise for Jeannette Collazo

“I’ve heard Jeannette speak many times on her own as well as in panel discussions and she is a wonderful speaker for groups, associations and conferences. She takes the stage with confidence and is always well prepared with a message that resonates with the audience but even goes beyond, truly embracing them through her passion, which is evident in her eyes and her entire physical presentation. Jeannette not only inspires but also presents pragmatic advice.

- Jacqueline Camacho-Ruiz, *CEO of JJR Marketing and Fig Factor Media Publishing, Founder of The Fig Factor Foundation, Author of 11 Books.*

“Ms. Collazo is a compelling speaker that effectively motivates people with her unstoppable energy! Her stories of resilience are both entertaining and enlightening. The message to think bigger about your life resonates strongly with everyone. She delivers speeches that are right in-line with our institution’s mission to be curious, engaged, and purposeful leaders in the world.”

- Jelena Sanchez
Assistant Professor at North Central College

“Jeannette is a warm, wonderful person who possesses the twin engines of professionalism and passion to kick any speaking engagement into high gear! She is an authentic speaker, who draws from deep inside, from the heart, to motivate and inspire everyone listening to her. She’s a delight to hear speak and her energy and colorful vibe fill the venue as she delivers her message with clarity and conviction.”

- Irene Anzola-Balado
Transformational Coach, IEB International

Press Releases

RECOGNIZED SPEAKER JEANNETTE L. COLLAZO LAUNCHES WEBSITE

(NAPERVILLE, Ill) October XX, 2018—Nationally recognized, bilingual author, speaker and consultant Jeannette L. Collazo, MSMIS, PMP, has launched a website at jeannettecollazo.com to promote her speaking services. Collazo is the president and CEO of Lurdez Consulting Group, Inc. As an entrepreneur and successful information technology project management consultant, she hopes to share her message of perseverance and persistence with groups of business people, entrepreneurs, IT professionals and young women who may be exploring a career in information technology.

“As a speaker I enjoy connecting with seasoned entrepreneurs and businesspeople as well as young ladies who are just setting out on their career adventure,” Collazo said. “My mission is to inspire everyone in the audience to understand that reaching your goal is never easy but can be done with the right mindset, resilience and perseverance. For young girls, I hope to introduce them to the wonderful opportunities available in information technology that I myself have experienced.”



Her portfolio of presentation topics include:

- Overcoming Adversity
- Spirituality
- Latina Empowerment
- Women in Tech and IT
- Advice for Young Graduates
- IT Project Management
- Building Culture for 21st Century Companies



Jeannette L. Collazo was born in Chicago, IL but is of Puerto Rican descent and was raised on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. She weaves her personal story of overcoming health problems and the challenges of coming to the mainland into her message of inspiration and personal growth. Before forming her own consultancy last year, she shattered the glass ceiling in information technology at firms such as Datalink, Nicor Gas and Deloitte Consulting with her innovative IT project, data migration and data center transformation skills.

Collazo is also an author and contributor to the *Today's Inspired Latina* series. She has addressed audiences at book launches held in Chicago, New York, Amsterdam and Paris.

With her new website, she is hoping to secure an engagement as a speaker for keynotes, breakout sessions and panel discussions. Collazo has received praise and accolades for her efforts thus far.

“Jeannette is a compelling speaker who effectively motivates people with her unstoppable energy! The message to think bigger about your life resonates strongly with everyone,” said Jelena Sanchez, assistant professor at North Central College.

Collazo resides in Naperville with her adorable Yorkshire Terrier, Bentley. For seven years she volunteered for Edward Hospital's Dog Therapy program, where she would visit patients with her dog to brighten their day during their time in the hospital.

About Jeannette Collazo

Jeannette Collazo, MSMIS, PMP is a bilingual speaker, author and president and CEO of Lurdez Consulting Group, which offers IT project management. She speaks on motivational topics related to entrepreneurship, overcoming diversity and advancing young women in the field of information technology. She is an author in *Today's Inspired Latina, Vol. 4*. Book Jeannette for a speaking engagement at jeannettecollazo.com or connect with her on Facebook and LinkedIn.

NEW IT PROJECT MANAGEMENT FIRM, LURDEZ CONSULTING GROUP, LAUNCHES WITH HIGHER PURPOSE

(NAPERVILLE, Ill) October XX, 2018— Lurdez Consulting Group (LCG), a new IT project management firm with a higher purpose of advancing young women in the field of information, was launched in September by entrepreneur and seasoned IT project manager, Jeannette L. Collazo, MSMIS, PMP. Based in Naperville, Ill, the company solves the complexities of business through on-point, collaborative project management expertise in cybersecurity, infrastructure, storage solutions, data migration and data center transformation and consolidation.

The company bears Collazo's middle name, Lurdez. Prior to founding LCG, she amassed thousands of project management hours at Fortune 500 companies, shattering the glass ceiling with her knowledge, expertise and ability and successfully leading projects for firms such as Datalink, Nicor Gas, BCBS of Michigan, Lexmark and Deloitte Consulting amongst many others. She has implemented solutions that have saved more than \$1.5 million in IT capital expenditures and technical support and measurably increased help desk and customer support satisfaction through the implementation of Service Level Agreements (SLA's), Policies and Procedures (P&P), standards, processes and guidelines.

"I believe big results don't necessarily come with a big price tag. I take ownership of the overall work and participate in it. That's what leading a project really means," said Collazo, president and CEO of LCG. "In my work I also support the higher purpose of introducing the field of information technology to young women. Opportunities abound in IT and I want women to enjoy them just as I have."

Collazo's past clients praise her IT skills as well as her ability to motivate teams and encourage collaborative progress. "During my time working with Jeannette she was our most requested project manager. I could assign her the most difficult, complex, technical and politically challenging projects and never had to worry," said Irwin Teodoro, a consulting executive with Datalink. "In the end, businesses grew exponentially because of Jeannette's work and how she did it."



ABOUT LURDEZ CONSULTING GROUP

Lurdez Consulting Group, Inc. (LCG) is a Chicago area-based boutique information technology project management firm offering on-point, collaborative IT project management in the areas of cybersecurity, infrastructure, storage solutions, data migration and data center transformation and consolidation. Founded in 2018 by industry leader Jeannette Collazo, MSMIS, PMP, the company is also committed to creating opportunities for young women to advance in information technology. Visit LCG at www.LurdezConsultingGroup.com or call 630-749-4810.



TODAY'S INSPIRED LATINA CELEBRATES OFFICIAL NEW YORK CITY LAUNCH OF VOLUME IV BOOK

(Chicago, Illinois) Oct. 16, 2018—The Today's Inspired Latina (TIL) book series is truly a national movement that celebrates the positive stories of successful Latinas in the United States and around the world. Recently, many authors of Today's Inspired Latina Volume IV took their excitement to New York to mark the official launch of the book at The New York Times, which hosted the sold-out event.

Volume IV captures the poignant stories of 28 authors who share their experiences on overcoming language barriers, self-doubts and other obstacles all of which led to contentment and success in business and in life. Some of Volume IV authors reside in Chicago, New York, Washington D.C, California, Texas and Mexico, to name a few places. Recently, The International Latino Book Awards recognized the book series by awarding it second place in the “Most Inspiring Book Category.”



Volume IV's 28 authors are: Margarita Mendoza, Irene Anzola, Jelena and Maria Sanchez, Deyanira Martinez, Yesi Morillo Gual, Jeannette Collazo, Karen C. Vazquez, Angela Lavelli, Celia Colon, Carolina Herrera, Claudia Freed, Ohilda Holguin, Dee Rivera, Veronica Cruz, Marisel Melendez, Diana Paola Torres, Jennifer Sanchez, Wendy Bonilla, Erika Quezada Sanchez, Ivys Ramirez, Zenaida Landeros, Irma Lopez, Gloria Romo, Elizabeth Santiago, Milagros Pacheco, Elsie Guerrero, Judith Banda. Dr. Yolanda Ayubi wrote the preface.

One of the evening's focal points was the authors sharing with guests, influencers and representatives of 26 local media outlets such as Al Rojo, Latinaus TV and Hispano América News what inspired them in their lives.

“It was an unbelievable experience,” said Jacqueline Camacho-Ruiz, director of Fig Factor Media LLC and publisher of Today's Inspired Latina Volume I, Volume II, Volume III and Volume IV. “You could just sense the range of emotions that filled the room. There were tears and laughter and everything in between.”



ABOUT THE BOOK SERIES:

Today's Inspired Latina is a book series of inspiration and hope, a poignant collection of personal stories that will activate your passion. These are success stories that need to be told, to motivate our community and generations to come. By overcoming language barriers, self-doubts and other obstacles in their way, these strong Latinas are a great example of how inspiration and perseverance can lead you to happiness and success in business and life. It's a positive, empowering read for anyone sitting on a dream and thinking it can't come true. *Today's Inspired Latina* shows that it can! Learn more at www.todayslatina.com.

