



Speaking Truth with Power: Effective Communication

Educating, Engaging, Empowering



Speaking Truth with Power for Leaders, Teams, Teachers, & Practitioners starts with the performance of poetry and storytelling that leads audiences through a process of considering their own sense of self, community, and agency. As we learn to express ourselves more clearly, we also learn to listen more actively and compassionately to our fellow community members.

This interactive workshop will be led by Dr. Sonny Kelly, an expert in interpersonal communication. Participants will actively engage in the practice of forging diverse personal connections in innovative and practical ways. Using storytelling, poetry, and examples from participants' own experiences, Dr. Kelly will lead them through a process of diagnosing and developing positive and confirming communication climates versus negative and disconfirming communication climates. Participants will learn clear tactics to effectively create and maintain positive and confirming communication climates, while speaking truth to power ("coaching up") and speaking truth with power ("coaching down" and "coaching laterally"). Finally, participants will garner some crucial skills that will help them to navigate and positively impact existing conflict, as well as negative or disconfirming communication climates. All of this is rooted in a commitment to adopting a *dual perspective* – putting ourselves in others' shoes just long enough to understand the world through their eyes (Communication scholar, Julia T. Wood, 2020).

Format:

This workshop can be conducted virtually or face-to-face. Dr. Kelly will use a PowerPoint slideshow, dialogue with participants, and a large notepad (chat box when virtual) to conduct this workshop. The workshop duration can be 60 to 120 minutes.

The Speaking Truth to & with Power Workshop has the following objectives:

- Participants will understand the definition and elements of a confirming communication climate, where all participants feel heard, respected, and empowered to engage in productive cooperation and conflict.
- Participants will understand the elements of a disconfirming communication climate, where participants feel shut out, disrespected, and disempowered.
- Participants will learn and practice tactics for building and maintaining positive confirming communication climates through cooperation and conflict.
- Participants will learn effective practices of coaching up (to superiors), coaching laterally (to peers), and coaching down (to their students, troops or employees) in confirming, connective and convincing ways.

THE END GOAL: Everyone is empowered to impact the organization positively!
To learn more, please visit www.legacyheirsproductions.com



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The Power of Dialogue

My use of the term dialogue is also based upon David Bohm's (*On Dialogue*, 1994) definition of dialogue as an open, empathetic, collective, coherent, iterative, and reflexive sharing of unique perspectives, ideas, and ideals between participants that comprises a "stream of meaning flowing among and through us and between us." The kind of dialogue that *The Talk* pursues is what Lisa Schirch and David Campt (*The Little Book of Dialogue for Difficult Subjects*, 2007) conceptualize in their work on "dialogue for difficult subjects" as an open and continuous mutual learning process that "aims to build relationships between people as they address a common concern" (p. 6). It is through the episteme of critical dialogic performance and performance-making that I seek to facilitate intrapersonal and interpersonal dialogue that can reframe and reclaim a positive, dignified, and agential sense of self for, and with diverse community members.

About Dr. Sonny Kelly (CEO & Lead Teacher/Learner)

Dr. Sonny Kelly is a professional performer, storyteller, motivator, speaker, veteran, and scholar. Currently a full-time professor of Communication at Fayetteville Technical Community College, Dr. Kelly holds a PhD in Communication from UNC Chapel Hill. He is a graduate of St. Mary's University (MA, Communication Studies, '08) and Stanford University (BA, International Relations, '98). Dr. Kelly has been a professional actor on stage and television for over 30 years. He has served our nation as a U.S. Air Force officer, and his community as a non-profit organization program director, a youth worker and church minister. Dr. Kelly volunteers as an Artist in Residence and trainer with schools, community agencies and youth serving organizations across North Carolina.

Rider:

- Lavalier or headset microphone
- Large screen for projection
- Projector with USB or HDMI connection to project video and slides
- At least 30 minutes for sound check and rehearsal in the space

Cost

- \$7,000 for 1 – 6 hours (\$500 for each additional hour) within 100-mile radius of Fayetteville, North Carolina
- \$8,500 for 1 – 6 hours (\$500 for each additional hour) outside 100-mile radius

Prices are negotiable for non-profit and youth-serving organizations

- \$2,500 + travel for 60 – 120-minute session
- \$4,500 + travel for 2 – 4 hours
- \$5,500 + travel for 4 – 6 hours

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Legacy Heirs Productions Inc has conducted performances, lectures, and workshops for hundreds of satisfied clients like:

GlaxoSmithKline, QIAGEN, The Association of Community Health Workers, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, HMA Community Strategies, RTI, Sentara Health, The USO, The US Air Force, The US Army, The Junior League, Cumberland County Arts Council, Duke University, Syracuse University, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, East Carolina University, Fayetteville State University, Georgia Tech University, St. Andrews University, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Sandhills Community College, Durham Technical Community College, The Levin Jewish Community Center, Cumberland County Schools, as well as numerous churches, community organizations, and K-12 schools across the nation.

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