



MICHAEL HOULIHAN Testimonials

Michael's reputation as a successful entrepreneur precedes him. He is on top of his topics and consistently delivers news we can use. He has given my staff sales tools and insights that have resulted in increased sales and a new appreciation for customer relations. He is clear, understandable and practical. He shares his real world business experience with passion and intensity. Nobody dozes off when Michael is speaking!

– Jeff Stevenson
Founder and CEO, VinoPRO Inc.

Michael provided very useful advice to our students. His suggestions and lessons learned complemented our curriculum in a variety of areas, including customer discovery and validation, promotional strategy and branding, and bootstrapping. I highly recommend Bonnie and Michael as speakers both for students and experienced entrepreneurs.

– Maddison Pedigo
Associate Director, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programs, Naveen Jindal School of Management, University of Texas at Dallas

Michael's presentation to our students during Business Week was spectacular. Their story and the management principles they have developed excited and inspired our students.

– Rachel Croson
Dean, College of Business, The University of Texas at Arlington

You were wonderful and filled the room with such knowledge and wisdom that many lives of our students will be changed as a result of your visit. You truly inspired us with your "Barefoot Spirit".

– Bonnie Chavez
Chair of the Business Administration Department, The Scheinfeld Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

I had the opportunity to hear Michael Houlihan tell The Barefoot Spirit story in the company of over 400 university professors and administrators at the annual conference of the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Michael's story, while in many respects the quintessential American entrepreneurial story, commanded mine and the audience's attention because it is a story of both humility and dogged determination to succeed through innovation in an industry where innovation is a rarity.

–Pat Dickson
President, The United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Associate Professor, Wake Forest University, North Carolina

On behalf of the Entrepreneurship Club at UT Dallas, we would like to you for coming to our school and telling the fascinating story of Barefoot Wine, to our students. We received great feedback after the event and are still receiving it.

–Parth Acharya
President, E-Club, Graduate Student at The University of Texas at Dallas

We completed a very productive conference in San Francisco. Michael Houlihan was our plenary speaker. His talk was entertaining, timely, inspirational, and poignant. Our attendees were electrified with his candid, real-world appraisal and practical recommendations for entrepreneurial success.

–Becky Gann, MBA
Executive Director USASBE

Michael was great! It's hard to be the last speaker at a conference and he pulled it off. So many people commented on his presentation. He really is connected on a very special level. Well done!

– Pat Murphy
CEO, The Institute for Social, Search, and Mobile Marketing

I was truly inspired by your leadership, your positive attitude and your kindness.

– Rea Wilke
CEO & Founder, Coaching by Rea and Blog Talk Radio

Michael Houlihan speaks from a place of passion rooted in real world pragmatism. Engaging fully with each set of eyes in a room, he makes his "you-can-do-this" challenge to audiences entirely palpable. Michael turns the most apathetic listener into a player ready to take it on with renewed purpose.

– Craig Anderson
Executive Director, LandPaths

Michael is an engaging, funny, experienced, wise, and philosophical speaker who will leave members of your audience feeling empowered, ready to tackle the world, and with a smile on their faces. I strongly recommend him.

– Jim Lapsley, Ph.D. Adjunct Associate Professor, Dept. of Viticulture and Enology, UC Davis;
Researcher, UC Davis; Emeritus Continuing Educator, UC Davis Extension

Michael is an informative, challenging and engaging speaker. He holds the attention of the audience while he entertains and educates. He gives a unique perspective that can only come from experience.

– Dr. William Silver, Dean
Professor of Business Administration, School of Business & Economics, Sonoma State Univ.

Michael is a dynamic speaker to whom audiences respond very well. His effective speaking style combined with his vivid examples taken from his successful career as an entrepreneur always command a very positive audience response. He has an energetic style combined with rich stories.

– Vic Motto
Co-founder, Chairman and CEO of Global Wine Partners LLC

Michael has been a guest speaker on many occasions at the Wildwood Foundation. His talks have an immediate and continued positive effect on donations. He is a motivator and a producer! We look forward to having him speak again.

– Martin Meier
Events Manager, Wildwood Conservation Foundation

We've known Michael for twenty-five and watched him grow one of the great brands in the industry bottle by bottle, account by account, month by month, and year by year. Michael has been there, done it, and now has graciously put himself out there to pass on the wisdom to others.

– John Hinman
Hinman & Carmichael LLP