

Lea Deesing

Assistant City Manager, former CIO at City of Riverside

Riverside, CA, US

Motivate staff and spark innovation. Encourage kids to pursue STEM fields. Increase government transparency and improve cyber security.

Biography

Lea Deesing was the first in her family to go to college, became a self-made tech geek, and has risen to the top ranks of municipal government. For the past five years, Lea served as the Chief Innovation Officer for the City of Riverside leading a national-award-winning department and publishing various technical articles on topics ranging from social media use in government to cybersecurity. She has spoken both internationally and nationally about technology and leadership topics including smart city technologies, social media, project management, technology policies, cyber security, leadership, and “sparking” innovative thinking.

In Lea’s breakthrough inspirational speech, “Finding Light at the End of a Math Formula: A Tech Geek’s Guide to Career Success”, she will describe her formula for success and share with you in a very real and honest presentation her professional trials and tribulations, including several failures she experienced along the way and how she overcame them. She will delve into several of her key fork-in-the-road decisions, which made a life-changing difference her career and she will discuss the professional and personal traits needed to set oneself apart from others.

In her heartfelt speech, Lea will entice you to ponder how innovative thinking can change your trajectory, she will describe how one key ingredient in life will help you realize the authentic version of yourself you are destined to become, and she will present to you a working copy of an actual formula you can take away and apply to your own life to foster years of career success in your own life.

Biography:

Lea’s experience includes 31 years in the IT field with 20 years specific to local government. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems degree from the University of Redlands. Lea also holds a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

Prior to moving into her executive leadership role as Assistant City Manager, Lea’s background was in computer programming. Her love for programming originated from her fascination with codes and ciphers, known as cryptology. She cracked the Tiger Beat Magazine’s fan club secret code when she was just nine years old. When she was sixteen, Lea started programming computers. Lea regularly speaks to young students, hoping her story will inspire them to become interested in the computer science field.

Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Corporate Training

Industry Expertise

Information Technology and Services, Computer/Network Security, Government Administration

Areas of Expertise

Information Technology, Innovation, Leadership, STEM Education, Government, Open Government, Cybersecurity

Affiliations

MISAC, Whitehead Leadership Society

Event Appearances

Finding Light at the End of a Math Formula (30 Minute Motivational Keynote)
Annual Riverside County Women's Leadership Conference

Cybersecurity Panelist on Plenary Stage
Midmarket CIO Forum

Digital Transformation Panelist on Plenary Stage
Public CIO Forum

"Narrowing the Digital Divide and Ensuring Equity" Speaker
Leadership Riverside Education Day

The Future of IT and Smart Cities Speaker
CSMFO Annual Conference 2018

Women in Tech Panel
Laserfiche Empower 2018 Conference

Speaking Tech Talk: How to Partner with IT to Drive Innovative Change, A Four-Hour Interactive Session
International Institute of Municipal Clerks Meeting

Panelists for "28 Conversations to Transform The Way Government Works"
Government Technology Los Angeles Digital Government Summit

Women in Leadership Panel (Plenary Session)
Government Technology's Los Angeles Digital Government Summit

Organizational Behavior Guest Lecturer
Cal State Fullerton

Co-Speaker on "Balancing Responsiveness & Resource Management"
National Webcast for Viewpoint

Speaker on "Narrowing the Digital Divide Through Technology and Education"

Leadership Riverside Education Day

Speaker on "Entrepreneurship Thinking - Organizational Development"

ERepublic Magazine's California Public Sector CIO Academy

Keynote Speaker on Coding and STEM

Inland CS For All Summit

Inspire Her Mind

Keynote Address for Inspire Her Mind (240 High School Girls)

Organizational Behavior Guest Lecturer

Cal State Fullerton

Technology & Your Community Panelist

Latina Empowerment Day

CIO and City Manager Panel on Innovation

Municipal Information Systems Association of California (MISAC) San Diego, CA

The Pros and Cons of Outsourcing

Municipal Information Systems Association of California (MISAC)

Innovation Panelist

Local Government Commission 7th Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum

Narrowing the Digital Divide Through Technology and Education

Leadership Riverside Education Day

IT Policies: What is At Risk?

GFOA Annual International Conference

Panelist during the closing plenary session

7th Annual Statewide Energy Efficiency Forum

Keynote speaker and emcee for 375 high school girls interested in nontraditional careers

Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW) Day

Reinventing your Agency for a Digital Age: Presentation & Panelist

Municipal Management Association of Southern California

Spark Your Innovation: A Four-Hour Interactive Session

International Institute of Municipal Clerks Meeting

Boosting Your Smart City Credentials: Speaker & Panelist
IEDC Annual Conference

Chief Innovation Officer Panelist
Harvard University 2015 Strategic Innovation Summit

Spark Your Innovation: A Two-Hour Interactive Session
PMI California Inland Empire Dinner Meeting

Spark Your Innovation: A Two-Hour Interactive Session
International Institute of Municipal Clerks 2015 Annual Conference

The Pitfalls of Information Technology Purchases
Association of Government Accountants Local Meeting

SmartRiverside Program Update
California Emerging Technology Fund Local Government Officials Roundtable

Panelist for "Innovative Solutions for Changing Communities"
Local Government Commission Conference for Local Policymakers

Digital Inclusion and E-waste Recycling
US/Mexico Sister Cities Association 52nd Annual Conference

Panelist for "Daily Work: Data-Driven"
Governing Magazine's Summit on Government Performance & Innovation

Cyber Security Panelist
Cal State University Cyber Security Summit

Panelist to Encourage 8th Grade Girls to Enter STEM Field
American Association of University Women STEM Conference

Information Management and the Challenge of Technology
League of California Cities City Clerks New Law & Elections Conference

Open Data Panelist
The UCR Child Wellbeing Conference

Government Transparency and Open Data
ICF Connections Online International Webinar

Keynote speaker and emcee for 200 high school girls interested in nontraditional careers
Nontraditional Employment for Women (NEW) Day

The Hive: Project Management Portal

MISAC Annual Conference

Avoiding the Pitfalls of IT Purchases

CAPPO Riverside County Purchasing Seminar

Innovation at the Local Level

CSMFO Channel Counties Chapter Meeting

Transparency, Open Data, and Innovation for Financial Information

CSMFO & MISAC Webinar

Innovation at the Local Level

California Forward Summit on Data

The Trends in Transparency, Innovation, Open Data & Constituent Reporting Initiatives

California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) Annual Conference

Cryptology and Logic: In Everyday Life and in the Field of Computer Programming

ABLE/STEM Day

Cryptology and Logic: In Everyday Life and in the Field of Computer Programming

STEM Speaker Day

Government E-Transparency

MMASC Annual Conference

Panelist on Open Data

University of Riverside Child Well Being Conference

Innovation and Mobility: Sparking Innovation Within Your Organization

Midmarket CIO Conference

Women in Information Technology

8th Grade Girls Math and Science Conference

Effective Use of Social Media

California Municipal Utilities Association's (CMUA) Energy Services and Marketing Committee Annual Conference

Cities Using Social Media

League of California Cities 2012 Annual Conference

Mobile Applications

Municipal Management Association of California Annual Conference

Social Networking Made Easy for Government Agencies

MISAC Meeting

Time Management

Municipal Management Association of California Annual Conference

Microsoft Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

Microsoft CIO Summit

Live Demonstration and Presentation of Application I wrote

JD Edwards/Peoplesoft International Users Conference

Education

California State University-Dominguez Hills

MPA Public Administration

University of Redlands

BSIS Information Systems

PMI

PMP Certificate Project Management

Accomplishments

Published

See my LinkedIn Account for a list of articles I have either written or contributed to.

www.linkedin.com/in/leadeesing/

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