

# 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.

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## 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.

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## Availability

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Corporate Training

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## Industry Expertise

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

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## **Areas of Expertise**

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

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## **Affiliations**

MISAC, Whitehead Leadership Society

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## **Event Appearances**

### **Applying Innovation To Do More With Less - Panel**

2019 League of CA Cities Mayors & Council Members Executive Forum

### **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

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## **Education**

### **California State University-Dominguez Hills**

MPA Public Administration

### **University of Redlands**

BSIS Information Systems

### **PMI**

PMP Certificate Project Management

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Published**

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

[www.linkedin.com/in/leadeesing/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/leadeesing/)

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