

Karen Ferrero

Different minds. Stronger teams. Better futures.

Speaker · Neurodiversity Advocate · AI Strategy & Professional Services
Executive · Inclusive Leader



About Karen *(short bio)*

Karen Ferrero is a professional services and AI go-to-market executive, speaker, and neurodiversity advocate. Across 20+ years at Microsoft, Cisco, Box, Trellix, and EY-Parthenon, she has owned P&Ls up to \$54M, scaled global delivery, and built inclusive, high-retention teams that beat their numbers. As a special-needs parent and caregiver, she helps organizations unlock the potential of every mind.

BOOK KAREN

Email: karen@karenferrero.com

Web: karenferrero.com/speaking

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/kferrero

Based: Remote, United States

Signature talks

Different Minds, Stronger Teams

Building a neuroinclusive workplace

What neurodiversity means at work, why neuroinclusive practices lift everyone's performance, and specific changes managers can make, from job descriptions to 1:1s.

Leading Through Life's Plot Twists

Caregiving, career, and resilience

Karen's story as a special-needs parent and caregiver while leading teams at the highest levels, and how employers can help caregivers thrive.

Inclusion Is Non-Negotiable

Inclusive leadership that performs

The daily habits behind 100% team retention and 134.5% quota attainment: trust, career advocacy, psychological safety, and honest feedback.

AI for Every Mind

Practical, inclusive AI adoption

A jargon-free look at generative AI tools, using them responsibly, and how they can make work more accessible for people who think differently.

Formats & audiences

Keynote

Fireside chat

Panel

Workshop

Lunch-and-learn

Podcast

Virtual or in person

Neurodiversity & disability ERGs

Caregiver & parent ERGs

Women's ERGs

Leadership teams

Conferences

Faculty development

Full bio

Karen Ferrero is a professional services and AI go-to-market executive who helps organizations turn emerging technology into revenue, and helps leaders build teams where different minds do their best work.

Over more than 20 years, Karen has led services, sales, and partner organizations at Cisco, Box, Microsoft, Trellix, Softura, and EY-Parthenon. At Cisco she managed a \$54M services P&L and 100+ delivery resources. At Microsoft she led a national team of technical specialists serving state and local government to 134.5% of a \$1B+ quota, with 100% team retention. At Trellix she scaled service delivery 370% year over year and secured a \$34M strategic renewal. Most recently, she built a unified AI go-to-market framework adopted across Western Europe with EY-Parthenon's Europe West CTO office, and has taught generative AI to college faculty and staff.

Karen's life changed the day she heard the words "your son has autism," and again six months later, when her husband was in an accident that left him paralyzed. Those experiences made her a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities. She served as Accessibility Lead for Microsoft's State & Local Government business, mentored in Microsoft's Neurodiverse Community and Neurodiversity Hiring Program, and spent more than a decade on nonprofit boards, including as Vice President of the Autism Society of Illinois.

Karen speaks to employee resource groups, leadership teams, and conferences about neurodiversity, inclusive leadership, caregiving and careers, and inclusive AI adoption. She holds a BA in Management and Computer Information Systems from North Central College.

On-stage introduction *(read aloud, ~30 seconds)*

Our speaker has spent more than 20 years leading teams at companies like Microsoft, Cisco, and Box, owning P&Ls up to \$54 million and leading teams past billion-dollar goals. But the lessons she'll share today started at home, as the mom of a son with autism and a caregiver to her husband after an accident left him paralyzed. She's a neurodiversity advocate, an inclusive leader, and a firm believer that different minds make stronger teams. Please welcome Karen Ferrero.

Speaking experience

- Microsoft: presentations on neurodiversity and inclusive hiring; D&I panels
- Microsoft SLG "Google Compete Blitz" for ~80 sellers
- Cisco Women Executive Leadership Panel
- Joliet Junior College EDUCON: generative AI for faculty and staff
- Youth Motivation Speaker: Chicago Chamber of Commerce & McDonald's
- Podcast guest: "How to Financially Plan for a 2 Special Needs Family" (Ep. 233)

Fast facts

- 20+ years leading teams and customers through change
- Enterprise (Fortune 200) and public sector experience
- Board VP, Autism Society of Illinois; board member, Easterseals Joliet Region and Special Connections of Grundy County
- Mentor, Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
- Make-A-Wish Wish Granter
- PMP (2002–2021), PRINCE2 (2002–2020), Enterprise Architect (EACOE)

Let's make your event memorable. Email karen@karenferrero.com or book at karenferrero.com/book-a-call