

Introduction/Biography Options For Dr. Debra Peppers

One line bio: From high school dropout to Emmy award winning Hall of Famer, 30 year educator/radio/TV host brings audiences to their feet with inspiration, humor, and motivation.

Short Bio: A professional speaker in business, education and health care for the past 25 years, Dr. Debra Peppers was one of five teachers inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame upon retirement from teaching high school in St. Louis, Mo. Featured on radio and television nationally she has been a guest speaker at the Kennedy Center, CNN, The National Press Club and the Crystal Cathedral. Among her honors is the Emmy award winning teen-issues play *CHOICES*, as well as outstanding alumni at Webster University where she has been on the adjunct faculty for over ten years. For three years Dr. Peppers has hosted a weekly TV Program, The Outreach Connection, and is a weekly columnist for a St. Louis newspaper. As a presenter and journalist Debra has interviewed numerous guests and celebrities including the President of the United States. A member of the National Speakers Association, Dr. Peppers and her husband have traveled to all states and 60 countries. As an author Debra is published in fifteen books where she often shares her own story of a 100 pound weight loss and “Troubled Teen to Teacher of the Year.” Honors include St. Louis Hometown Hero, World of Difference Award, Excellence in Education, and the National Community Relations Award. For ten years Debra hosted a daily 3 hour radio talk show called Shakin’ the Salt with Dr. Peppers.

Bio: "Troubled Teen to Teacher of the Year" read a headline when Dr. Debra Peppers, upon retirement from teaching high school in St. Louis, was one of only five inducted into the National Teachers' Hall of Fame. This honor was presented to her in Washington DC by the Secretary of Education, where she also appeared on CNN, C-Span and Fox News. An author, university instructor and current host of a TV talk show, "Outreach Connection", Debra also hosted a weekly TV segment called "Shakin' the Salt with Dr. Peppers" and for ten years hosted a daily 3-hour radio program, "Talk From The Heart With Dr Debra Peppers". She interviewed celebrities from the President of the U.S. to rock stars. Debra has also written a monthly column for a St. Louis newspaper and has been featured in numerous books and publications, including five versions of Chicken Soup for the Soul, Best Classroom Practices, Embrace of a Father, A Cup of Comfort, Living Your Dreams, The Master's Hand and her own It's Your Turn Now! As keynote presenter at the Crystal Cathedral's International Women's Conference, her speech won a national award with the National Federation of Press Women. A member of the National Speaker's Association with a BA in English/Speech, an MA in Education and a Ph.D. in Communication, Dr. Peppers has been speaking professionally for over 25 years and has amassed over 100 honors and awards. Dr. Peppers grew up in a traditional family but at sixteen, weighing 250 pounds, she dropped out of high school, experimented with alcohol and drugs, ran away from home and could have "fallen through the cracks". But with her parents' love, the encouragement of a teacher, and her eventual faith, her life turned around. Having lost over 100 pounds and earning a Ph.D., Debra motivates and inspires audiences all over the world by sharing tools and strategies from research, successful programs, and personal application. She leaves the audience laughing, crying and standing in ovation for Dr. Peppers is the "Real Deal!"

Short Intro: Dr. Debra Peppers, upon retirement from teaching, was one of five inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. Among her honors is the Emmy award winning teen issues play *CHOICES*, as well as Outstanding Alumni at Webster University where she is on the faculty. Debra has been interviewed on radio and television nationally and internationally, and for ten years hosted a daily afternoon drive time radio talk show. Since 2007 Dr. Peppers has hosted a weekly television program where her tagline is “Shakin’ the Salt with Dr. Peppers.” Debra is a member of the National Speakers’ Association and has traveled to 60 countries and all 50 states. Her personal story of a 100-pound weight loss and having been a former high school dropout is featured in several books and *her* own book *It’s Your Turn Now*. Presenting...the *real* Dr. Pepper!

Humorous Poetic Intro:

From high school dropout in St. Louis Missouri, to the Teachers' Hall of Fame,
Plus a 100 pound weight loss – all of this, our speaker overcame.
From “Troubled Teen to Teacher of the Year; that’s what the headline read;
When Debra retired from teaching, to motivate teachers instead.
In her younger days she took negative risks; it’s only the positive now;
Like teaching in prisons, homeless ministry, most places the law will allow.
To 60 foreign countries, in Africa camping with snakes,
To a monsoon in Hong Kong, hurricane in Mobile, and LA’s biggest earthquake,
To scuba diving in Australia, held at gunpoint by a Communist guard;
Climbing the Great Wall in China, getting lost at Scotland Yard.
Camel riding at Egypt’s pyramids, parasailing over Alcapulco,
Ten years daily on radio, and for five years, a TV show!
From the President to prisoners, to celebrities her interviews always vary
And just as with her speaking audiences, some can be quite hairy!
She writes for a St. Louis newspaper, 15 books under her belt,
But speaking is her favorite – you will see it’s quite heart-felt;
Her husband Bud of 38 yrs. travels with her and has been,
The one who stuck beside her – good or bad, through “thick and thin.”
She’s so excited to be here today, for of all the places she will roam,
Schools are her favorite place to speak and St. Louis is her home!
So for all that education does for others, by choice or by default,
She’s glad to be here; may I introduce...Dr. Peppers, Shakin’ the Salt!