



10TH ANNUAL PEAK CYBER SYMPOSIUM

SPEAKER BIO



Dr. Erik Huffman
CEO/Founder Handshake Leadership

Dr. Erik Huffman is an award-winning educator, entrepreneur, and cybersecurity professional. He has worked as an associate dean, dean, and lead instructor at multiple colleges and universities. His work in academia has been recognized worldwide as he continues to redefine cybersecurity from a humanistic perspective. Dr. Erik J. Huffman is a founding researcher in the emerging field of Cyberpsychology, the study of how the human brain works while in a cyber environment. His research has been presented at NASA-Goddard, CyberWyoming, ISACA, and TedxColoradoSprings. Dr. Huffman has begun to uncover biological deficiencies in humans that function for survival in face-to-face interaction, but does not activate in a cyber environment. He has applied his research with positive results in over 20 organizations worldwide.

His research focuses on mental biological deficiencies that every person has in a cyber environment that allow attacks, like phishing and digital social engineering to continue to thrive. It is well noted that people are the weakest link and Dr. Huffman is working to specifically explain how the problem is existing and what can be done to mitigate. To date Dr. Huffman has conducted studies totaling over 10,000 participants.

In 2018 he was awarded the Colorado Springs Mayor's Young Leader in Education, Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center, and a Rising Star in the Colorado Springs Business Journal. In 2019 he was named one of the 'most influential young professionals by ColoradoBiz magazine. Dr. Huffman is the CEO and founder of Handshake Leadership, an organizational development, and cybersecurity education consulting company. In his tenure, Handshake Leadership has won Best Social Impact Company in the Colorado Springs Business Journal in 2018 and 2019. Handshake Leadership provides the education and technical guidance needed to position a school, or entire district, for a successful launch in cyber education.

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