

MICHAEL BUSTAMANTE, MPA, MA

Leading with Cultural Humility

International Speaker • Cross-Cultural Leadership Strategist • Storyteller of Place, Culture, and Belonging

TEXAS • THE NETHERLANDS • COSTA RICA • SAUDI ARABIA • FINLAND • SPAIN

ABOUT

Michael Bustamante is an international speaker and cross-cultural leadership strategist whose worldview was built one border at a time, starting with his own bicultural border town in Texas. A first-generation college graduate and the first in his family to board an airplane, he has served as a delegate at the Harvard World Model United Nations Conference in the Netherlands, studied intercultural communication in Costa Rica, completed a fellowship with the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations in Saudi Arabia, and served as a Global Ambassador with the Cleveland Council on World Affairs in Finland and Spain.

Today, Michael speaks to audiences in higher education, corporate leadership, and travel and hospitality about what it actually takes to lead people across place, culture, and belonging.

SIGNATURE KEYNOTE

A Journey Into Cultural Humility

From an unplanned dance with a stranger in Shanghai to candid conversations with students in Saudi Arabia, this keynote reframes inclusive leadership as a daily choice, not an innate trait, built to create trust and connection across real difference.

ADDITIONAL TALKS

From the Border to the Boardroom

A personal narrative on identity and resilience, tracing the arc from first-generation student in a Texas border town to international speaker and global citizen.

The Business of Belonging

Belonging isn't just a feeling, it's a business outcome tied to retention and performance. Drawing on inclusive leadership research, Michael gives audiences a practical playbook for turning belonging into daily practice.

AT A GLANCE

- First-generation college graduate and first to board an airplane; MPA, MA
- Delegate, Harvard World Model United Nations Conference, *The Hague, The Netherlands*
- Student, La Universidad Latina de Costa Rica, *San José, Costa Rica*
- Fellow, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, *Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*
- Global Ambassador, Cleveland Council on World Affairs, *Helsinki, Finland & Madrid, Spain*

IDEAL FOR

International conferences; university cultural centers and international affairs offices; corporate leadership programs; travel and hospitality events; and culture-focused audiences.

Previous presentations include: the FoodTreX North America Summit, the Institute for Diversity Certification, and Case Western Reserve University.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"Michael impressed our audience not just with his knowledge and experience with the topic, but also his empathy for our sector of the hospitality industry. He presented topics in different ways that no one in our group had thought of previously. He is incredibly easy to work with and an all-around nice guy, as well. Highly recommended."

— **Erik Wolf**, Executive Director & Founder, World Food Travel Association

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Available for keynotes, workshops, and panels — in person or virtual.

