

Meet Mason Metzger

Keynote Speaker, Leader, and Change Agent

Mason Metzger is an award-winning keynote motivational speaker, accessibility advocate, and change agent from Warsaw, Indiana. Mason is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University where he studied communication organizational leadership. Through his studies, Mason began to research and apply universal design principles to serve stakeholders, including individuals with disabilities.

At one year of age, doctors diagnosed Mason with Spastic Cerebral Palsy, a neurological condition resulting in muscle stiffness and impaired mobility. He is classified as a person with quadriplegia and requires assistance with activities related to daily life.

Since 2014, Mason has been pursuing his childhood dream, serving as a keynote motivational speaker and accessibility advocate. Mason is developing expertise in Universal Design, which applies to various industries, such as education, healthcare, and business. Universal Design exists to make the world accessible to everyone in the first place, with only minor adaptations in the future.

Mason has presented more than 70 talks to various audiences, including educational institutions, churches, youth events, and corporate gatherings. In January 2017, Mason spoke on the Indiana House of Representatives floor after a resolution was adopted in his honor, recognizing his strength and courage.

Mason has served as a member of the board of directors for Forte Residential Inc. and Forte Home Health Care Inc. since April 2018. In February 2019, Mason received an international award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) in the category of self-advocacy.

Mason is a digital ambassador for the Riley Children's Foundation. In January 2021, Mason began serving on the Indiana Assistive Technology Act (INDATA) Project Advisory Council at Easter Seals Crossroads. The goal of the INDATA Project is to educate communities on the importance of assistive technology and other topics that impact individuals with disabilities throughout Indiana.

In 2022, Mason participated in Leadership Fort Wayne (LFW) powered by Greater Fort Wayne Inc. LFW is a development program that included monthly workshops, a community action project, and the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors as an LFW intern. For his board internship, Mason selected Community Transportation Network (CTN).

In 2023, Mason was appointed to the Indiana ABLE Authority Board of Directors by Governor Eric Holcomb. INvestABLE is a savings plan designed for Hoosiers with disabilities. The contributions to the savings account made by the account owner or family and friends can be used for disability-related expenses. The program is designed to help Hoosiers with disabilities improve their quality of life and provides a mechanism for individuals with disabilities to prepare for their current and future needs.

In April 2023, Mason started a consulting company called Universal Design Works. Universal Design Works provides comprehensive consulting services involving the application of universal design principles, organizational communication effectiveness, strategic planning, and other unique projects. The aim of Universal Design Works is to assist organizations in serving their stakeholder groups and cultivating a legacy. Mason is thrilled to further develop relationships, serve clients, and contribute to positively impacting communities at large.

"Each day, I strive to work in tandem with the people God places in my path. Together, we can navigate what I have coined life's 'specialized challenges.' We all have them, and yes, one

of mine is cerebral palsy. It is my mission to equip, engage, and empower people connecting authentically and setting a positive example."

"Launching Universal Design Works became the clear path for this season of my life. For nearly a decade, I have been equipping, encouraging, and empowering individuals from a stage. I wanted to find a way to provide strategic guidance to companies as they navigate the opportunities in front of them. The services provided by Universal Design Works are broad enough to assist a wide range of organizations with strategic planning and development activities, while also having the lived experience necessary to support disability-related initiatives."



