

Speaking Bio 2025

Ted Souder is a globally respected expert on Modern Business Transformation, with deep experience at the intersection of technology, leadership, and growth.

As one of Google's earliest employees, Ted spent over two decades helping shape the company's rise from a startup to one of the most influential businesses in history. He held senior roles in both Chicago and Paris, led global teams across the U.S., Southern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and ultimately served as Head of Industry for Retail and Founder of the Google CFO Forum—an exclusive initiative that connected Fortune 500 CFOs with emerging digital trends.

Ted's governance experience includes serving as **Vice-Chair of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce**, and he currently sits on the boards of **1871**, one of the world's top-rated tech incubators, and the **Chicago Council on Global Affairs**, a leading nonpartisan think tank focused on global economics, security, and innovation.

Today, Ted is a highly sought-after **speaker, advisor, and educator**, known for helping businesses, governments, and nonprofits build **AI-first, future-ready cultures**. His work is anchored in the **THRIVE framework**, a practical and strategic roadmap for unlocking growth, accelerating innovation, and strengthening leadership in an era of rapid disruption.

Ted teaches AI strategy on **Section**, a global business education platform, and advises startup founders and growth-stage executives on how to scale with purpose. His talks and workshops are **never off-the-shelf**—they're customized, actionable, and always designed to meet the moment.

When Ted joins your event, he's not just there to speak—he's there to engage. Whether on the main stage in front of thousands or in a closed-door session with senior leaders, he's present, invested, and committed to helping your audience leave inspired and ready to act.

Ted lives in Chicago with his wife Lori, founder of **HTAT Journeys**, a conservation-focused safari company operating in Eastern and Southern Africa. Together, they have two college-age children.