



# BURSTING through Human Connection Workshop

When People Feel Seen & Heard,  
Collaboration Thrives



**BURSTING**  
through.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Only 31% of employees report a very strong sense of belonging at work

## WHY IT MATTERS:

- Employees who feel comfortable being themselves at work are 5.7× more likely to be engaged
- Teams that invest in belonging are 54% more likely to rate their organization's revenue growth as high
- Feeling connected to others correlates with a 56% increase in job performance

## IN ADDITION:

69% of workers say they feel a sense of belonging but, 51% report they don't feel safe sharing opinions freely at work



## WHAT'S POSSIBLE:

- High psychological safety = 72% higher motivation
- High psychological safety = 50% higher engagement
- When employees feel safe to be themselves, retention skyrockets, especially for underrepresented groups. Attrition risk drops to just 3%.

# WHY ORGANIZATIONS MUST BUILD TRUST:

- According to Harvard Business Review research, employees at high-trust organizations report 74% less stress, 50% higher productivity, and 76% more engagement than employees in low-trust environments
- 94% of executives say trust is critical for performance but only 39% say their organization has truly institutionalized trust
- Employees who trust leaders are 4× more engaged and 58% less likely to look for a new job
- When leaders build real connection, they don't just improve culture, they drive engagement, retention, and performance



# WORKSHOP STRUCTURE:

## **PART 1: SPARK**

Bursting Through founder, Steve Petersen, shares a powerful, real story that opens the space for meaningful connection

## **PART 2: CONNECT**

Participants engage in guided discussion and storytelling that helps them see and understand each other in new ways

## **PART 3: APPLY**

The group identifies insights and simple, actionable steps to strengthen relationships and collaboration

# WHAT PARTICIPANTS GAIN

- Deeper connection with each other
- Practical tools for relationship-centered leadership
- Real steps to improve collaboration and culture



# WHY IT MATTERS:

- In high-trust companies, employees report 76% more engagement and 50% higher productivity
- When trust is high, workers report 2× higher productivity, 2.1× better focus, and 4.3× greater overall satisfaction
- The workshop doesn't just create warm feelings. It creates actionable momentum, reducing turnover, increasing productivity, and improving collaboration
- Leaders and teams don't just leave inspired, they leave with tools, trust, and a shared way of working that accelerates collaboration and drives performance



# OUTCOMES:

## Increased Productivity & Innovation

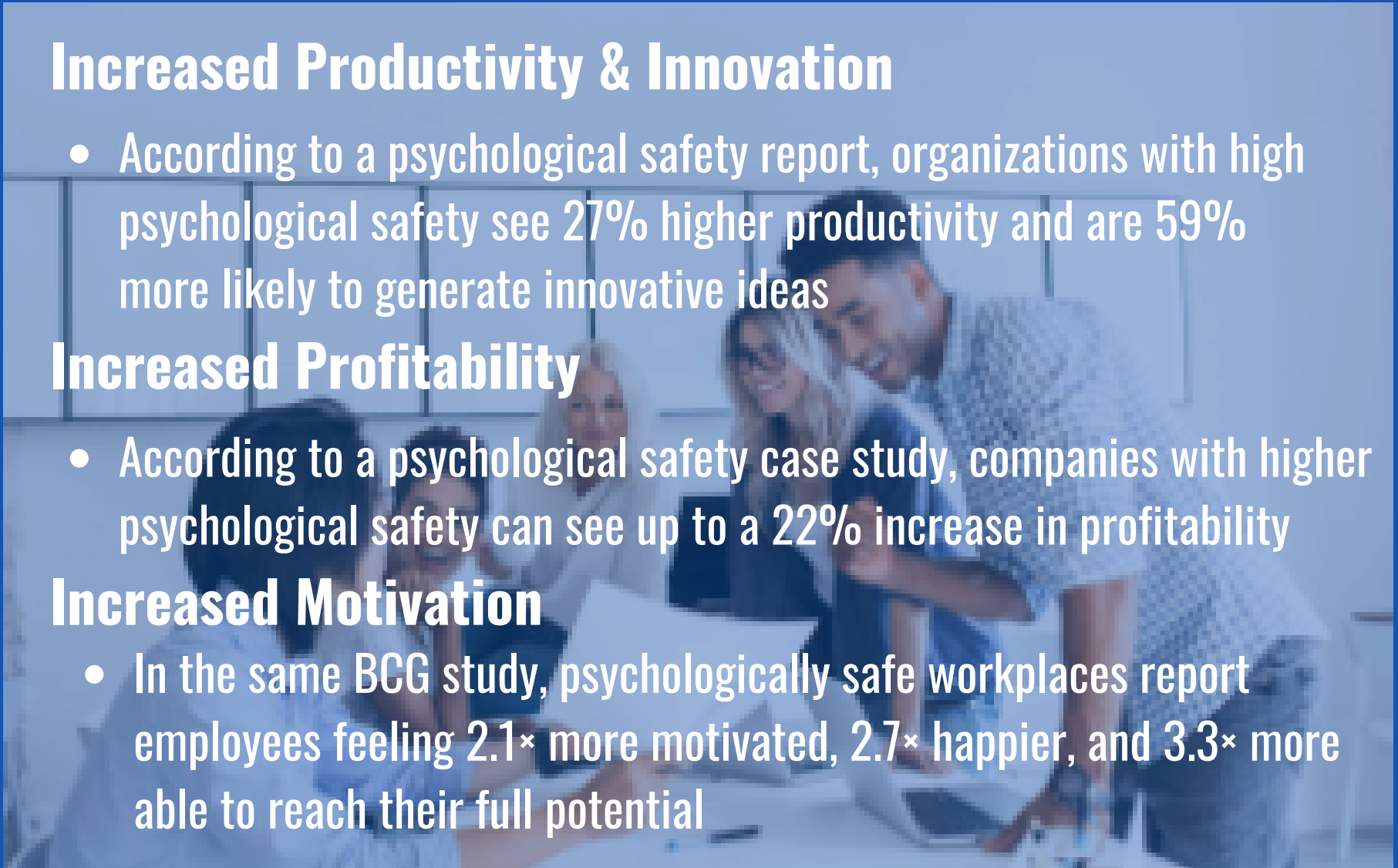
- According to a psychological safety report, organizations with high psychological safety see 27% higher productivity and are 59% more likely to generate innovative ideas

## Increased Profitability

- According to a psychological safety case study, companies with higher psychological safety can see up to a 22% increase in profitability

## Increased Motivation

- In the same BCG study, psychologically safe workplaces report employees feeling 2.1× more motivated, 2.7× happier, and 3.3× more able to reach their full potential





# ABOUT STEVE

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Steve Petersen, founder  
Bursting Through

Steve Petersen is the founder of Bursting Through, a storytelling movement uniting marginalized communities and their Allies. Steve's 27-year career in marketing and visual merchandising took him from rural Iowa to Fortune 500 companies in Manhattan, shaping his ability to see the power of connection, creativity, and visibility.

While professional success informed much of his path, coming out in his mid-20s cemented his core values of compassion, courage, and change. These values fuel the Bursting Through Movement and drive his mission to create sustainable safety, equality, and belonging across all marginalized communities

“The most powerful, effective way to foster compassion, empathy, and understanding is through the superpower of storytelling.”

# WHAT LEADERS ARE SAYING:

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Rob Smith (he/They)  
CEO, The Phluid Project

I'm very excited about the work Steve and Bursting Through are doing. At The Phluid Project, we work to bring more empathy, equity, and compassion into the world — and Steve is doing the same through the power of storytelling. Bursting Through connects people to people, in their communities, where they live and work.

When we begin to see one another clearly, our neighbors, coworkers, and communities we show up in ways that truly matter. Storytelling is a proven method for creating that understanding and driving meaningful change.

Bursting Through is helping people across marginalized communities be seen, heard, and supported, one powerful story at a time.”

# HUMAN CONNECTION WORKSHOP PRICING

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Bursting Through Human Connection Workshops are priced with a flat fee per Workshop + travel.

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## A SINGLE HUMAN CONNECTION WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

- 60-Minute Interactive Workshop
  - Two Reinforcement Check-Ins (2 & 4 Weeks)
  - A Published Story Featuring Your Organization
  - Six Custom 11" × 17" Allyship Posters (plus optional additions)
  - Recognition on the Bursting Through Partners Page
  - A Lasting, Organization-Wide Touchpoint for Connection & Culture
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**\$3000 + FLAT FEE TRAVEL**

# LET'S CONNECT AND EXPLORE WHAT'S POSSIBLE

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Steve Petersen, founder  
Bursting Through

If you are ready to bring more  
human connection to your  
organization, let's talk.

EMAIL: [steve@burstingthrough.us](mailto:steve@burstingthrough.us)

PHONE: 515-554-1132

“My professional and personal experience created a unique combination of skills that allow me to connect deeply and meaningfully with your workshop participants. They will leave with a renewed awareness of each other, the human experience and Allyship“



THANK YOU!  
BURSTING through.us