



DANA BRISTOL-SMITH, FOUNDER & CEO

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dana Bristol-Smith is the Founder and CEO of Leap to Success and a passionate advocate for helping women find their voices, build confidence, and recognize their own worth and personal power.

Dana's journey began with her own experience of building the confidence to become a public speaker. As founder of Speak for Success, she spent years training executives and professionals throughout Southern California and saw firsthand how confidence and the ability to communicate effectively could change a woman's opportunities—and her life.

In 2008, Dana had an idea: *What if confidence and communication skills could help women rebuilding their lives after domestic violence and trauma?* She launched what would become Leap to Success as a volunteer project in collaboration with organizations serving survivors. What began as an idea has grown into a nonprofit that has helped more than 4,000 women build confidence, reclaim their voices, and move forward in their lives. Today, Dana leads Leap to Success with a commitment to making its transformative programs available at no cost to women who are ready to improve their lives.

Dana is an accomplished public speaker, trainer, and author of *Overcome Your Fear of Public Speaking*. Since beginning her speaking career in 1992, she has delivered presentations and training to more than 100,000 people and has served on the faculties of UC San Diego Extension, California State University San Marcos, and San Diego State University.

Her leadership and community impact have earned numerous honors, including recognition from California Assemblymember Tasha Boerner and State Senator Catherine Blakespear, *Power Woman San Diego*, *Woman of Dedication*, *Women in Leadership*, and first place in the Advance San Diego Quick Pitch competition. And while Dana still hasn't met Oprah, she did have her 15 minutes of fame when she was interviewed and quoted in *O, The Oprah Magazine*.