



2014 AVAP Annual Conference
Achieving Peak Performance!

Keynote Biographical Briefs



Jim on the summit of
Cotopaxi, Ecuador
(19,388 ft.)

Jim Davidson, Resilience Expert, Author, Adventure Speaker, Expedition Leader

Jim Davidson has mesmerized audiences across the USA and internationally as a keynote speaker and trainer since 1990. A renowned motivational speaker based in Colorado, Jim owns and operates Speaking of Adventure. His amazing tale of resilience is described in a new adventure memoir that Jim co-authored with Pulitzer-finalist journalist, Kevin Vaughan, entitled [The Ledge: An Adventure Story of Friendship and Survival on Mount Rainier](#) (Ballantine Books/Random House, 2011.)

Prior to becoming a motivational speaker, Jim's business achievements included:

- Leading hundreds of training workshops for scientists, lawyers and corporate managers
- Working 20 years as an environmental consultant, expert witness, & corporate manager
- Founding and running a consulting firm, Alpine Environmental Inc.
- Earning degrees in geology (B.S. from University of Massachusetts-Amherst) and environmental geology (M.S. from Colorado State University)

Jim lives in Colorado with his two adventurous children and his very, very tolerant wife! Every spring, Jim volunteers to teach hundreds of elementary school children to climb. He is an avid rock climber and ice climber. Jim enjoys skiing, backpacking, photography, racing numerous half-marathons and one marathon (3:42), and even running up a 14,000-foot peak occasionally.

During Jim's 30 years of high-altitude climbs, rescues, and dramatic survival situations, he has:

- Summited the sixth highest peak in the world (Cho Oyu at 26,906 feet in Tibet)
- Climbed and led expeditions to Alaska, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico & Nepal

Of special interest, Jim's compelling survival story is featured in a one-hour episode of ["I Shouldn't Be Alive"](#) on Animal Planet (the "Killer Crevasse" episode from 2011).

Jim blends lessons from all of these experiences to share compelling wisdom about being resilient in business and life.



Justin Ware, Director of Interactive Communication, Bentz Whaley Flessner

Justin Ware brings more than a decade of video communication and new media experience to Bentz Whaley Flessner. He began in television news as a reporter, anchor, and producer. From there he joined the University of Minnesota where he developed the top ten most viewed YouTube sites in higher education.

Following his time at Minnesota, he founded the social media firm, Warehouse Media, where he provided media services in higher education, youth

development, environment and green energy, convention and event management, and financial services. With Bentz Whaley Flessner, Justin produces and leverages video and written communication strategies to help nonprofits achieve their goals and communicate their message using new media. He has a BA in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota.