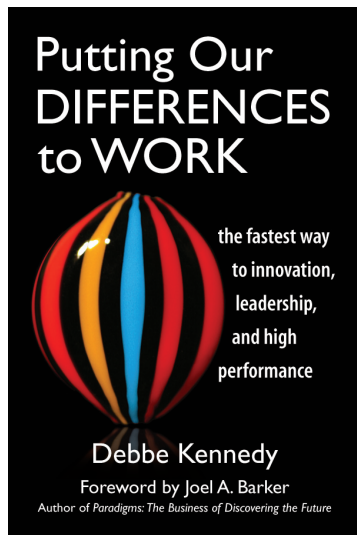


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"What I like best about *Putting Our Differences to Work* is that Debbe teaches us how diversity accelerates innovation to everyone's advantage. This is a win/win/win book in which you and your people win, your organization wins, and the world wins. . . . By the way, Debbe's book has two chapters on innovation at the verge, which we wrote together." —Joel Barker



Debbe Kennedy is founder, president, and CEO of Leadership Solutions Companies, an award-winning enterprise since 1990, specializing in custom leadership, organizational, and virtual communications solutions—and also the Global Dialogue Center, an online virtual gathering place for people throughout the world. Formerly, she had a distinguished leadership career with IBM Corporation for over twenty years.

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Debbe Kennedy

Putting Our Differences to Work

The Fastest Way to Innovation, Leadership, and High Performance

FOREWORD BY **Joel A. Barker**

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- Illuminates five qualities for leaders and innovators at every level.
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- Includes two "innovation at the verge" chapters, which Debbe Kennedy and Joel Barker wrote together.

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See Joel Barker's video commentary about the book at www.innovationattheverge.com



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perspectives about
Putting Our Differences to Work
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"Rarely has there been a more relevant, more needed guidebook for leaders of the future than *Putting Our Differences to Work*. Debbe Kennedy has illuminated diversity, innovation, and leadership in a way that will help leaders across the sectors to redefine the future in our times of massive change."

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Former CEO, Girl Scouts of America

"Personal, reflective, insightful and inspirational. Full of great ideas and a very powerful story that shows how we need to redefine leadership and diversity in order to help make the world a better place. Needs to be widely read – urgently!"

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"The dangers of 'groupthink' are painfully apparent across our world. That's why diversity, broadly understood, is so essential to innovation and progress – as Debbe Kennedy reminds us in this pragmatic and wise guide for leaders."

– **Mike Wing**

Vice President, Strategic Communications, IBM

"The power of Debbe Kennedy's storytelling helps us all see our own accomplishments in a new light. At the same time, the stories encourage us to take our leadership to a new level. The six steps she offers provide a roadmap to leaders and organizations on how to effectively put differences to work."

– **Emily J. Duncan**

former VP, Culture and Diversity, Hewlett Packard
President, Emily Duncan Consulting

"Leaders must find new sources of growth more than ever today. After questioning what leadership means while reading *Putting Our Differences to Work*, I found myself focused on one thing: *I, the leader, must first harness our people's rich and diverse experiences, cultures and perspectives to attract growth.*"

– **Lane A. Michel**

Executive Vice President, Quaero Corporation
Accelerating Marketing Performance

"This book is a celebration. It's also a handbook for a revolution in leadership, relationship and creativity. It celebrates and gives guidance for a future that is happening now and is accelerating and touching, *thank God*, every part of life around the world. Debbe Kennedy guides you with fascinating stories, poems, art, visuals, solid approaches and heuristics, and resources that will be relevant for years to come."

– **Michael Ray**

Professor, Stanford University Graduate School of Business
John G. McCoy-Banc One Professor of Creativity, Innovation and Marketing, Emeritus; author of *Creativity in Business* and *The Highest Goal*

"*Putting Our Differences to Work* is valuable precisely because it can be applied by organizations of any size, starting TODAY. Kennedy uses a clear, welcoming writing style to communicate real-life stories of change agents across the for-profit and non-profit spectrum. The good news, as she shows us, is that whether you are an owner, C-level executive, manager or rank and file employee, we ALL have the resources necessary to transform our own organizations."

– **Christopher G. Kenny, J.D.**

President, Star Consulting Group

"I own the hardcover version of the book *Putting Our Differences to Work: The Fastest Way to Innovation, Leadership, and High Performance*, but the book came to life when I was able to actually read the book as a PDF E-book. I am completely blind and I was very happy to find that the PDF E-book was accessible and read well with my screen reader. Debbe Kennedy truly knows the benefits of putting our differences to work and what it takes to be an effective leader."

– **Bill Tipton**

Project Manager, Hewlett Packard

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*"Welcome the unexpected. Watch for the uncharted path that bears your name.
Look for the signs that lead to the verge of differences.
I'll meet you there. Lead the way!"*

–Debbe Kennedy

