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ANNIVERSARY



Edie Hand's  
**WOMEN**  
OF TRUE GRIT™



**Women of True GRIT Conference @ Miles College**  
**The Art of Story Telling – Friday April 21, 2023**  
**Lauryn Bodde's Presentation**

First thing, I'd like to ask you all to close your eyes and take one deep breath in your nose and out your nose.

Now with your eyes still closed, please raise your hand if you've ever heard a story from a teacher, mentor, friend, or family member that left you with those lovely goose shivers on your shoulders and inspired you...

\* That is the POWER of storytelling \*

It's a light in our lives, that we can all share.

- I am Lauryn Bodde and I work for an entrepreneurship centre at the University of Windsor Ontario Canada, just across the river from Detroit Michigan.
- My role is to connect students and community members with entrepreneurs.
- We often ask this question to our members: what is your definition of an entrepreneur?
- So, I ask you the same today, how would you define an entrepreneur?

An entrepreneurial spirit is a drive and motivation to create something that doesn't exist yet.

Entrepreneurs are some of the best storytellers and at the heart of every idea, is a new story that needs to be told.

I had the privilege to hear the stories of eight women entrepreneurs from many corners of the United States in a project called "The Entrepreneurship SpeakHER Series".

The women in this series work in several different industries from tech, to fitness, arts, culture, culinary, non-profit, and engineering.

Some of these incredible speakHERs are here in this room today.



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- The collection of these stories and connections is what introduced me to Edie Hand. We partnered on a virtual event creative a global classroom bringing together women, students, mentors and professionals from both Canada and the United States. If it weren't for these beautiful cross border connections, I wouldn't have the honour to be here with you all creating more CAmerican moments. Following Edie's session with us, we had a student share afterwards: "Miss Edie took the time to learn my name and ask about my story!"
  - That is the POWER of connections. \*
- When you connect with someone, and really listen to the wisdom and experiences they have to share, it can leave you speechless until it turns you into the storyteller.
- Making new connections can lead you to amazing adventures and expand your world!

When you really listen to those around you, you will meet teachers everywhere. One of my mentors and teachers inspired me to have the courage to travel on my own. I took an adventure of work and travel to beautiful Ireland.

My lovely friend and earth angel Caroline said to me before we parted, and I would venture on my own: "be a good friend to Lauryn while I am gone." She taught me the value of being "good company" to myself.

I learned one of life's biggest lessons from her: be good to yourself, because one of the only certainties in your world is that you are spending this life with yourself.

\* If you are good to you, that can be your superpower \*

- If you choose a path for yourself to be an entrepreneur, you will be faced with a lot of uncertainty.
- Imagine that moment of pause when you have an empty canvas, and you have to decide where to start making the marks on it.
- Many of our speakHERs shared that in those times of "not knowing", you can always find comfort in being surrounded by strong women and people to help guide you
- (this includes yourself by the way- you also find out in moments of pause WHAT YOU ARE MADE OF).



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- I encourage you all to watch the speakHER sessions, as well as Edie's session for inspirational words that have given strength to women all over the world.
- I'd like to share with you all today, a quote that I wrote during my solo travels that I hope will touch your hearts.
  - Here it is: "Keep an open mind and heart, because I promise nothing will fall out."

I will leave you with this: all our minds will naturally compare our lives to those of others.

No matter where you are in YOUR story, what challenges you have faced or are facing now, you are important and worthy.

We are all the writers and readers of our own story, and your chapter could never be compared to anyone else's.