

# JESS PETTITT

## Short Bio

Perhaps it's her Texas roots, but Jess Pettitt, MBA, M.Ed., CSP, believes that to really thrive in this world, you have to ride two horses—one of giving and one of receiving. For Jess, the giving horse is her passion for service, and the receiving horse is the high she rides entertaining audiences.

For almost 10 years, Jess rode one horse by day, serving as an administrator in student affairs for university Diversity and Inclusion programs, and the other by night, performing and hosting three times a week doing stand-up in New York City's most popular comedy clubs (ask her about George Carlin's nickname for her or sharing an eggroll birthday cake with Bob Newhart).

Eventually, Jess discovered she could ride both horses at the same time in the same career, and a speaker in the DEI space was born. Now, nearly 20 years and half a million audience members later, Jess gallops from coast to coast delivering her "Good Enough Now" message to anyone willing to take the leap toward creating a much more inclusive (read: much more effective) organization.

If you'd like to discuss bringing in one of the funniest speakers you'll ever hear to deliver actionable content on everything you've ever wanted to know about Leadership and Diversity but were afraid to ask, [reach out to Jess today.](#)



# JESS PETTITT



## Long Bio

Jessica Pettitt isn't a chef by any stretch of the imagination, but like a great chef that knows exactly which ingredients will elevate a dish, Jess pulls from her own storied life, her direct crisis-management experience, thousands of consulting clients, and her years as a stand-up comic, trainer, and keynote speaker to elevate conversations.

Jess's foray into DEI began with her work in student affairs as a college administrator in universities in South Carolina, Oregon, New York, and Arizona. It was there she discovered her passion for engaging in and supporting conversations across difference. But it was her experiences in the Peace Corps, the Crisis Management program at the University of South Carolina, and the Corporate Social Responsibility focus of her MBA program, that allowed her to **raise the industry's typical diversity talks to the level of true action oriented conversations.**

At that level, Jess is able to serve organizations building skills that examine privilege, oppression, entitlement, and our collective responsibility to make change in ways that level up employee retention, crisis resolution, collaboration, and innovation—the foundation of organizational performance, growth, and impact (and precluding getting sued).

**Jess blends politics, identity, and homespun charm with humor, high energy, and big city passion through direct, individualized, and interactive conversations.** Her webinars, consulting, and keynotes don't just leave participants feeling invigorated but inspired and motivated to follow through with the action that creates change in their organizations, communities, and lives.

Having lived in many communities and environments and having experienced so many cultures all over the world as a student, teacher, administrator, and active community member, Jess sees issues of diversity from a very unique vantage point. It is from this position that she leads participants through a confronting, but very safe, process of examination, self-reflection, and open dialog that is as rewarding as it is challenging.

Responses to Jess's programs include comments ranging from "This was awful—I've never had to think so hard while laughing!" to "I can't believe my boss brought her—thanks for actually treating us like adults" to "She answered all of my questions knowledgeably and without making me feel dumb for asking."

**Jess understands what it takes for large corporations and associations to implement policy changes and how much is at stake.** But she also knows that the greater risk is in doing nothing, in not trying, in not aiming for better. Nearly 20 years of helping clients value the perspectives of all of their people has shown her that **a more inclusive culture creates a more creative, innovative, collaborative, profitable, and impactful organization. The trick is to start trying** and to know that you and your teams are Good Enough Now to do "the best you can with what you've got some of the time," no matter the topic, challenge, or crisis.

Whether you need change within leadership, within a department, or across your organization, the way forward is to understand that you are Good Enough Now to create the change you want to see and that your people need in order to do their best work. Reach out to Jess today and take the first powerful steps to creating that change.