

Steve

Sheppard



Steve Sheppard is a frequent speaker to employee-owned companies and the ESOP community on the financial and transformational potential of employee ownership.

Now, in partnership with The ESOP Association, Steve is scheduling speaking engagements with business leaders and opinion makers who are not aware of the transformational power of employee ownership through an ESOP for employees and companies sponsoring ESOPs.

So Steve, former CEO of the employee-owned Foldcraft Company in Kenyon, Minnesota, will travel the US speaking to local groups, such as the Rotary, Lions Clubs, Kiwanis and other civic groups about employee ownership.

Steve's presentation will be at **NO CHARGE** to the sponsoring organization!

### What People are Saying...

*"An enthusiastic speaker and a great ambassador for employee ownership through ESOPs in America."*

*- J. Michael Keeling, CAE  
President, The ESOP Association  
Washington, DC*

*"Steve spoke at our First Annual Key Impact ESOP Meeting. Steve did a tremendous job. More Americans need to hear Steve's real world message about the power of broad-based ownership. "*

*- Butch Cassidy  
Chairman, Key Impact Sales Systems  
Columbia, MD*

# Steve Sheppard

Steve Sheppard is the retired Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Foldcraft Co., a Kenyon, Minnesota manufacturer of seating, tables and related millwork found in restaurants, hotels and other hospitality settings. The Company also operates four subsidiary companies in California and elsewhere in Minnesota.

Sheppard graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and attended William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. He served in the Human Resources field for nearly 20 years, 16 of them with Foldcraft. His Human Resources service included establishment of programs that were innovative for their time, including an Employee Assistance Service in 1975, a Company Wellness Program in 1982, a voluntary drug-screening program in 1986, a nationally-recognized risk-rating program for health insurance premiums in 1989 and Cross-Boundaries, an educational travel program which sent employees to Third World countries for cultural awareness-raising.

Steve became the Company's Chief Executive Officer in 1990, and served on the Foldcraft Co. Board of Directors as its Chairman for 16 years. During his leadership term, Foldcraft became 100% employee-owned and adopted a corporate culture oriented strongly toward employee involvement, open-book management and stewardship through servant leadership. The Foldcraft Foundation, a charitable foundation funded solely through the corporation, was created in 1998. The Company was an early participant in The Minnesota Keystone Program as a result of its practice of annually contributing 10% of pre-tax profits to charitable causes.

In 1993, the Company was recognized for having the Outstanding Employee-Owner in the nation, in 1996 and 1998 was recognized as the Outstanding Employee-Owned Company in Minnesota, and in 1998 was chosen as the Outstanding Employee-Owned Company in America. Foldcraft earned the national Corporate Conscience Award for Charitable Giving by The Council on Economic Priorities in 1993.

Foldcraft and its many innovative practices have been spotlighted on National Public Radio, in Tom Peters' On Achieving Excellence, at professional conferences around the country, in management books and articles and in numerous local and national media features.

Steve has been a frequent speaker to companies and professional associations on the subjects of Foldcraft's innovative programs and management approaches, employee-ownership, corporate culture, and leading organizations that are based upon positive values. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Winds of Peace Foundation, which supports Indigenous peoples, womens' organizations and rural poor located primarily within Nicaragua.

***For additional information on how to contact Mr. Sheppard to speak at a civic organization in your area or to suggest a group, please send an email to [esop@esopassociation.org](mailto:esop@esopassociation.org).***

Steve Sheppard is affiliated with The ESOP Association. The ESOP Association is the national trade association for companies with employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) and the leading voice in America for employee ownership. Founded in 1978, The ESOP Association represents over 1,400 ESOP companies and 750,000 employee owners who believe that employee ownership will improve American competitiveness, increase productivity through greater employee participation and strengthen our free enterprise economy. For more information, visit [www.esopassociation.org](http://www.esopassociation.org).