

Kathleen Wood

Kathleen Wood is the Founder and CEO of **Kathleen Wood Partners (KWP)**, an award-winning growth strategy firm dedicated to transforming visionary concepts into market-leading realities. With over two decades of executive leadership experience, Kathleen has established herself as the preeminent authority on scaling Founder-led businesses into industry icons and billion-dollar brands.

As a nationally recognized growth strategist, Kathleen specializes in developing acceleration strategies that optimize businesses for maximum performance and profitability. Her expertise lies in working directly with Founders and Executives to transform small companies into national brands across hospitality, healthcare, technology, service, manufacturing, and retail sectors.

Kathleen's executive experience includes serving as President and COO of Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, where she led the company through its critical first growth phase—increasing annual revenue from \$25 million to \$150 million in just two years while successfully navigating the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Her executive leadership background also includes key roles at MasterCard and TGI Fridays.

As a thought leader in founder success, Kathleen hosts the popular **"Founderology - Built to Breakthrough"** podcast, where she shares actionable insights and interviews successful entrepreneurs about their scaling journeys. She is the author of two influential books: *"Founderology: The Ultimate Employee Guide to Work with Any Boss in Any Workplace"* (2021) and *"The BEST Shift of Your Life"* (2010), which focuses on developing managers to their full potential.

Kathleen is the Founder of the **Founderology Growth Summit**, the only event specifically created for restaurant founders to network, connect, and accelerate their growth. This unique gathering brings together visionary restaurant entrepreneurs seeking breakthrough success in a collaborative and strategic environment.

Her industry leadership extends to her Advisory Board roles for Bama Foods, Luci Creative, and Life's Foods, where she provides strategic guidance on growth initiatives and market expansion. Kathleen has served as a past president and board member of the Council of Hotel and Restaurant Trainers (CHART) and as an Executive Committee Member and Board Member for the Women's Foodservice Forum.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Hotel Restaurant and Management from the University of Wisconsin–Stout and a Master in Business Administration from Loyola University Chicago.

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