



Michael “Bret” Hood spent 25 years as an FBI Special Agent leading complex investigations with a focus on leadership, financial crimes, corruption, and money laundering. After retiring in 2016, Bret launched 21st Century Learning & Consulting, LLC—a premier training and consulting firm dedicated to helping leaders forge meaningful connections and build ethical, resilient cultures that stop misconduct before it starts.

Since retiring from the FBI, Bret has been recruited as adjunct faculty by both the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) and the University of Virginia, where he teaches courses on fraud, leadership, corporate governance, implicit bias, and ethics. In recognition of his impactful speaking and training, Bret was honored with the ACFE’s James R. Baker Speaker of the Year Award in 2020. He currently serves on the Southern Illinois University Board of Accounting and previously held a position on the advisory council for the forensic accounting program at Mount St. Mary’s University.

In 2023, Bret was invited to deliver two separate TEDx talks on ethics, further cementing his reputation as a thought leader in the field. He has been interviewed and quoted by international outlets including the *Financial Times* and is widely sought after by Fortune 500 companies and global organizations for his fully interactive programs on leadership, ethics, fraud, and the role of implicit bias in decision-making. During his distinguished FBI career, Bret earned multiple Special Agent of the Year honors and received two FBI Director’s Awards recognizing his leadership talent and innovation in creating interactive executive leadership curriculums.

Bret is the author of the critically acclaimed books, [Eat More Ice Cream: A Succinct Leadership Lesson for Each Week of the Year](#) & [Get Off Your Horse! 52 Succinct Leadership Lessons from U.S. Presidents](#).

Links to Bret’s Ted Talks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5Vmcl6RQW0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6rzq3lQnrQ>