

BIO

Kevin Karafa grew up in Detroit, Michigan. He has lived in Grand Rapids for the last 23+ years with his wife and 4 sons ranging in age from ages 14-27. He was able to play high school varsity basketball even after being cut from the team in 8th grade. He went on to play basketball in college at NAIA Div I Orchard Lake St Mary's College and at NCAA Div II Basketball at Northwood University, both schools in Michigan. He earned a Dual BBA in Computer Science and Business with 3 minor degrees; Mathematics, Social Sciences and Language and Arts graduating Magna Cum Laude from Northwood.

He worked for EDS/GM – Perot Systems right out of school where he was exposed to the groundbreaking technology of Network Attached Storage (NAS) working with Auspex Storage Systems. He then went to work for Auspex Systems in 1995. He transitioned to Network Appliance (NetApp) in 1998 where he held a number of positions covering business partners for 19 years. At one point he covered the Earth as his territory leading the Global Systems Integrator Avanade relationship for over 12 years. He worked for a short time at Tegile/Western Digital before going to Veeam in 2018. He was a National Technical Partner Manager covering 15 National Partners and 2 Major National Partners covering the USA for the SE, the Midwest, and Ohio Valley Territories. He released a 5-part podcast series in December 2020 that is #1 in plays all time on Arrow Bandwidth since their inception 5 years ago. He currently works at Amazon Web Services (AWS) as a Principal Storage Specialist for US-Central Enterprise customers. He sets the strategy and direction for repeatable sales motions for AWS storage services obsessing over customers every day in 17 states and 34 business markets.

In his spare time – you can catch Kevin watching some level of live basketball and/or playing basketball with one of his sons, albeit maybe as the coach. He volunteered as the lead on the sidelines for each of his 4 sons for 23 years dating back to 1998. The past 2 years he has coached 8th grade boys basketball (as it was the turning point for him and his life) to help young men achieve big things on and off the court. He enjoys speed walking, bike riding, weightlifting, and competing at a high level in any exercise. He lives by the mantra – “You can only control 2 thing at all times: your attitude and your effort. Always be positive and work hard. Whatever you choose to do in life- dream big and be the best you can be!”