

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM

The Sports Economy Team is comprised of sports industry professionals from various Colorado Springs based sports organizations, manufacturers and businesses. The purpose of the team is to help grow, support and communicate the vitality of the Colorado Springs sports industry. The team meets with sports companies that are considering expanding or relocating operations to the Colorado Springs region, represents the region at national trade shows and conferences and collaborates with local sports companies to help resolve issues and concerns. In addition, the Sports Economy Team provides the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce & EDC with newsworthy stories which are shared through our communications outreach and works on projects that help further brand the region as an amateur sports mecca.



COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Doug Martin
Co-Chair

Prior to joining the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation (The Sports Corp) in 2003, Doug was the Director of Development for the National Congress of State Games from 1999-2003 where he focused on sponsorship and membership development, creation of new State Games organizations and planning of the organization's annual conventions. He served as the Director of The Sports Corp's Rocky Mountain State Games (annual statewide sports festival) from 2003-2013 as well as the National Director for the State Games of America (biennial national sports festival) from 2004-2009. Doug is currently the Chief Operating Officer at the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation.

About Colorado Springs Sports Corporation

Established in 1978, the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation (The Sports Corp) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit sports commission committed to a strong regional sports presence through economic development, event development/promotion and dedication to youth sport and community development activities. Annual events of The Sports Corp include: Rocky Mountain State Games (statewide sports festival), Pikes Peak Airstrip Attack (street car racing), Pikes Peak Cycling Hill Climb, Labor Day Lift Off (hot air balloon festival) and the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame along with a golf tournament and several luncheons. The Sports Corp has also co-hosted national and international events such as the USA Boxing National Championships, U.S. Open Ultimate Championships, USA Pro Challenge (cycling), Haute Route Rockies (cycling), and the NCAA West Regional Ice Hockey Championships among others. (thesportscorp.org)



Cheryl McCullough,
CSEE
Co-Chair

Cheryl joined Visit Colorado Springs in 1997 and was promoted to the Sports & Special Events market in 2007. Cheryl's Bachelor of Science in Technical Management with a Concentration in Sales & Marketing, convention and visitors bureau experience and native roots in Colorado Springs provide her with a great background to assist sports event-rights holders, tournament directors & event organizers with their planning needs.

About Visit Colorado Springs

Visit Colorado Springs is the premier marketing organization for Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region. Established in 1980 as a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization, Visit Colorado Springs, the City of Colorado Springs' convention and visitors bureau, works under a contract with Colorado Springs to brand, promote and sell Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region to leisure and group visitors. The region is defined as El Paso, Fremont and Teller Counties. As Visit Colorado Springs fulfills its mission to bring more visitors to Colorado Springs at Pikes Peak, its staff works collaboratively with government entities and organizations throughout the region to drive economic vitality through tourism, our region's third-largest industry. (visitcos.com)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Adam Andrasko

Adam Andrasko is the CEO at USA Synchro. He accepted that position in Nov. of 2018. Originally from Hawk Run, Pennsylvania, Adam played collegiate football and received his bachelor's degree in sport administration from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania. He then went on to earn his master's degree in education with a focus in sport management from Old Dominion University. Immediately following graduation he moved to Colorado Springs to begin an internship with the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC). Following the internship Andrasko served the USOPC in Lake Placid, NY. After approximately eight months in that role he returned to Colorado Springs as the Manager, Training Sites and Community Partnerships for the USOPC. In January of 2016 he accepted the Member Services Director position at USA Field Hockey where he served for nearly three years.

Adam is the co-founder of the USOC's Emerging Leaders in Sport and a member of the Briargate YMCA Advisory Board. He is a 2011 graduate of Leadership Pikes Peak's LNOW! Program, 2015 graduate of Center for Creative Leadership Community Program, 2016 Colorado Springs Business Journal Rising Star and a Colorado High School Activities Association wrestling official.

About USA Synchro

United States Synchronized Swimming, Inc. (USA Synchro) is the member of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) for the sport of synchronized swimming, and as such is recognized as the national governing body (NGB) for the sport of synchronized swimming in the United States, responsible for the conduct and administration of the sport throughout the country. The organization is focused on providing the best sports experience for its 6,000+ member coaches, judges and athletes, while supporting athletes in their pursuit of regional, national, international and Olympic excellence. (usasynchro.com)



Bob Bodor

Bob Bodor is the Director of Member Services at USA Fencing working with all aspects of membership recruitment and retention as well as strategic planning for the advancement of the sport. Previously, he served as the Manager of Membership at USA Racquetball. In addition to membership, he served as Event Coordinator for the six annual racquetball National Championships. Prior to joining USA Racquetball, Bob spent 22 years in intercollegiate athletics, both as a coach and as an administrator. He was the Head Football Coach at Colorado College in Colorado Springs from 2003-2009 in addition to serving as Operations and Facility Manager for the El Pomar athletic facility and the Game/Event Manager within the department. Beginning in 1991 at Johns Hopkins University, he has been a part of eight college and university athletic departments including two Ivy League institutions and has coached at all three Divisions of the NCAA. Bob is a frequent volunteer with local organizations including the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation, USA Wrestling and the National Wheelchair Basketball Association.

About USA Fencing

USA Fencing is recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport. The organization annually conducts National Championships and sanctions hundreds of tournaments for players of all ages and skill levels. In addition to events, USA Fencing supports the Adult and Junior National Fencing Teams, administers national player ratings, manages a college scholarship program and supports the introduction of new athletes to the sport. (usfencing.org)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Terrell Brown

Terrell Brown joined El Pomar Foundation as a member of the 2016 Fellowship Class. As a Fellow (Senior Program Associate), he worked closely with the Southeast Colorado Springs Project, the El Pomar and Denver Broncos Health and Wellness Partnership, and the Emerging Leaders Development Program. In addition to his role at El Pomar Foundation, Terrell created a youth development program, “Hillside Connection”, designed to leverage the game of basketball to create pathways to opportunity for kids in Southern Colorado Springs. In 2017, he received the Mayor’s Young Leader Award for Innovation in Sports and Wellness for his effort in creating and leading Hillside Connection.

Born and raised in Colorado Springs, Terrell earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business Marketing from Montana State University. He was a member of the MSU basketball team and spent his free time mentoring children in the community.

Terrell is currently a Multicultural Student Success Coach at Pikes Peak Community College where he advises a cohort of students from underrepresented populations that need assistance in achieving their academic and career goals. He is also the President/CEO of Hillside Connection.

About Hillside Connection

Established in 2017, Hillside Connection uses sport as a tool to empower youth in Southern Colorado Springs. The majority of Hillside Connection kids (boy’s grades 1st- 6th) come from single parent and/or low income households. Kids participate in basketball clinics, enrichment activities, volunteer opportunities, and are exposed to leaders throughout the Pikes Peak Region. Hillside Connection has coordinated several volunteer workdays to replace backboards and restripe the basketball courts in Memorial Park. The resulting improvements have allowed Hillside Connection to host a competitive Summer Basketball League in Memorial Park for 60 4th and 5th grade boys in the community. All programming is provided free of charge. (hillsideconnection.org)



Steve Czarnecki

Steve Czarnecki, Executive Director of Colorado Springs Youth Sports, Inc. (CSYS), brings nearly 20 years of non-profit management experience to the position. In his current role, he leads all operations for CSYS, which includes strategy, fundraising, marketing, spearheading capital improvements and partnering with both local and national organizations to host events that benefit those organizations, their members, and the Pikes Peak Region community.

Prior to CSYS, Czarnecki served as Executive Director of USA Racquetball. He also spent more than 13 years managing the charitable programs of the United States Golf Association. Having worked in Programming at Dish Network, he brings valuable Fortune 200 for profit experience to the organization. A graduate of the University of Missouri, Czarnecki holds a bachelor’s degree in Marketing and Management as well as an MBA.

About Colorado Springs Youth Sports, Inc.

Founded as a nonprofit organization in 1997, CSYS owns and operates the El Pomar Youth Sports Park, a 58-acre facility with nine baseball/softball grass fields, nine soccer/lacrosse fields (eight grass, one lighted artificial turf) and an inline hockey rink. The Park hosts approximately 125,000 primarily youth participants annually, which includes local leagues, schools and clubs as well as national tournaments that enhanced local tourism. (csyouthsports.org)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Scott Douglas

Scott Douglas is the Sr. Director of Business Development and Membership at the NSCA, responsible for leading the organization's national and international growth initiatives as well as oversee the NSCA's membership and marketing departments. Scott was previously NSCA's Director of Marketing and brings a background of more than 15 years of integrated marketing across a wide spectrum of industries. Scott holds an MBA from the University of Colorado and continues the learning process as an adjunct college instructor in management and marketing.

About National Strength and Conditioning Association

The National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) is the worldwide authority on strength and conditioning, supporting and disseminating research-based knowledge and its practical application to improve athletic performance and fitness. The NSCA is an international nonprofit educational association founded in 1978. Drawing upon its vast network of members, the NSCA develops and presents the most advanced information regarding strength training and conditioning practices, injury prevention, and research findings. The NSCA offers respected credentials of distinction including: the Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist® (CSCS™), Certified Special Populations Specialist (CSPS®), NSCA-Certified Personal Trainer® (NSCA-CPT®), and the Tactical Strength and Conditioning Facilitator (TSAC-F®). (nsca.com)

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Jim Fox

Jim Fox is the Director of Partnership Marketing at USA Swimming. Jim is a Colorado Springs native and a graduate of Colorado State University. In his initial role as Marketing Coordinator, he focused on sponsor services, event promotions and consumer marketing. In 2008, Jim was promoted to Marketing Manager where he expanded his focus on membership acquisition and retention programs and helped run the USA Swimming online store. Since 2011, Jim has managed the development for USA Swimming's official mobile app Deck Pass™. Today, Jim leads a team that executes digital marketing applications, Athlete Partnership Agreement, Club promotion and event marketing. He is also a key contributor for SwimToday, USA Swimming's industry initiative devoted to grow the sport of swimming in the United States.

About USA Swimming

As the National Governing Body for the sport of swimming in the United States, USA Swimming is a 300,000-member service organization that promotes the culture of swimming by creating opportunities for swimmers and coaches of all backgrounds to participate and advance in the sport through clubs, events and education. The membership is comprised of swimmers from the age group level to the Olympic Team, as well as coaches and volunteers. USA Swimming is responsible for selecting and training teams for international competition including the Olympic & Paralympic Games, and strives to serve the sport through its core objectives: Build the base, Promote the sport, Achieve competitive success. (usaswimming.org)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Chris Graham

Chris Graham is the sixth Commissioner of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) in the 104-year history of the conference and began his duties in December of 2013. As Commissioner, he serves as Chief Administrative Officer of the conference and RMAC Office. Graham is a member of the Division II Management Council, the Division II Injury Surveillance Task Force, the NCAA Minority Opportunities and Interests Committee, the NCAA Convention Planning Team and the D2 Collegiate Commissioners Association. He also serves on the Board for the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association and the Association of Chief Executives of Sport.

Before joining the RMAC, Graham was Executive Director of the Midwest Conference, a NCAA Division III conference located in Ripon, WI. A Division III two-sport student-athlete, Graham graduated from Ripon College with a Bachelor's of Arts in Business Management and holds a Master's of Science degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

About the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference

The RMAC is a premier NCAA Division II conference with 16 member institutions in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Utah. The RMAC competes in 23 NCAA Division II sports and has earned 61 NCAA Division II national championships and 48 national runners-up since 1992. Founded in 1909, the RMAC is the most historic athletic conference headquartered in the western U.S. and also in Division II. (rmacsports.org)



Carolayne Henry

Carolayne Henry is a Senior Associate Commissioner at the Mountain West Conference (MW). Her responsibilities include overseeing MW and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rules compliance and governance, running the MW's background check program on game officials and serving as liaison to various MW committees. Henry has served on a number of NCAA committees, the most recent of which is the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball (selection) Committee (2009-2014; chair 2013 & 2014).

A former member of the University of Michigan women's basketball team, Henry earned a B.A. in political science from Michigan and a Juris Doctor from the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Law. She holds court admission to the United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Henry is a past member of the Colorado Springs Girl Scouts Wagon Wheel Council Board of Directors. She has resided in Colorado Springs since 1999 and now calls it home.

About Mountain West Conference

From its inception in 1999, the Mountain West (MW) has been committed to excellence in intercollegiate athletics, while promoting the academic missions of its member institutions. Progressive in its approach, the MW continues to cultivate opportunities for student-athletes to compete at the highest level, while fostering academic achievement and sportsmanship. The MW has been assertive in its involvement with the NCAA governance structure and has taken a leadership role in the overall administration of intercollegiate athletics. (themw.com)

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Keith Hodges

Keith Hodges is the Assistant General Manager for the Rocky Mountain Vibes Baseball Club. He handles much of the sales & activation of many of the promotions, events & sponsorships at the stadium throughout the year. Keith has been a part of the Colorado Springs community since 2005 when he began work as a group sales manager with the Colorado Springs Sky Sox Baseball Club.

About Vibes Baseball

Vibes Baseball is the rookie-advanced minor league affiliate to the Milwaukee Brewers & will kick off its inaugural season in 2019. Vibes Baseball expects about 150,000 fans during its 38-home game schedule & hosts upwards of a thousand events every year at its facilities. (milb.com/rocky-mountain)



Fritz Hoff

A native Coloradoan and a Colorado Springs resident since 2000, Fritz has a 19 year tenure as a RockShox Product Manager for SRAM LLC., a global bicycle component manufacturer based in Chicago, IL. As a Product Manager, Fritz directly oversees eight unique suspension platforms comprising the entry and core level suspension fork portfolio at the SRAM Colorado Springs Development Center, a design and testing facility for RockShox and SRAM mountain and road components.

Travels throughout the year take Fritz to Taiwan, China, Canada, and many countries within Europe to work closely with the numerous bicycle brands to plot the future direction for bikes and suspension. Fritz earned a BA in Music with a minor in Journalism from the University of Northern Colorado in 1990. Colorado Springs' quality of life suits Fritz's various outdoor pursuits well, where easy access for rides, runs, hikes, and even visits to the dog park are typically punctuated by blue skies and sunshine.

About SRAM Corporation

SRAM Corporation began with the goal of creating the absolute best shifting system and changed the cycling world forever with the introduction of Grip Shift. To support the innovation, SRAM invested in Sachs Bicycle Company and built a state of the art manufacturing facility in Schweinfurt Germany. With the vision and desire to expand SRAM's presence in the industry, they found the best suspension company, RockShox, joined forces with them, creating huge excitement in the global cycling community. Not content to stop there, SRAM knew expanding the line with the best brakes, bottom brackets and cranksets would fine-tune the ride even more. So SRAM teamed up with Avid and Truvativ. Now that SRAM has achieved total drive train nirvana, they will continue to seek and deploy technological and engineering advancements, as they compulsively refine and redefine the pinnacle of the ultimate ride. (sram.com)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Dana Kahlhamer

Dana Kahlhamer joined Pikes Peak International Raceway (PPIR) as Director of Sales in early 2017. Since joining the team, she has been instrumental in planning new and signature events at PPIR in addition to expanding their exposure in the Pikes Peak Region. As a member of HSMIAI (Hospitality, Sales & Marketing Intl), she works closely with the hospitality, tourism and business communities to promote Corporate, Group and Special Events, 365 days/year. PPIR has a goal of providing amazing experiences for groups and individuals who visit the facility.

Kahlhamer brings over 20 years of hospitality and sales experience to PPIR, most recently serving as Associate Director of Sales at Hotel Eleganté. During her tenure with the hotel, she handled the Sports market and became deeply engrained in the culture of Colorado Springs. She holds a BA degree in Hotel & Restaurant Management from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. Prior to moving to Colorado Springs in 2005, she spent 12 years working for Winter Park Resort and enjoying all that the Fraser Valley had to offer.

About Pikes Peak International Raceway (PPIR)

PPIR offers Group & Corporate team building and driving experiences with the Drive365 Program. The Performance Driving Xperience (PDX), offers a “Your Car, Our Track, No Cops” experience, with Professional Driving instruction from our team. The Time Attack series features monthly Autocross racing for drivers of all skill levels, in their own vehicles. PPIR also hosts a series of signature events throughout the year, featuring motorsports entertainment and live music. (ppir.com)



Nick Kiger

Nick Kiger is the Chief Program Officer of the Air Force Academy Athletic Corporation (AFAAC). As a critical member of the senior executive management team he manages a significant portfolio of programs and related services including the events management division, sports camps and clinics programs, Cadet Ice Arena operations as well as a number of other programs. Kiger also assists in articulating and implementing the strategic vision and leadership of the organization and assists in the overall development, strategic planning, service delivery and daily management of the organization across multiple sites and departments.

Kiger has worked in athletics at the Air Force Academy since 2007 in multiple roles. From 2015-2018 he served as the Associate Athletic Director – Events and Services for the AFAAC, a role in which he was responsible for managing all aspects of the AFAAC special events program and he also served as the director of the sports camps program. Under his guidance the AFAAC was able to grow both its sports camp program and special events program significantly and has played a critical role in finding new streams of revenue to carry the department into the future and enhance the overall brand of the AFAAC and Air Force Academy locally and nationally.

From 2013-2015 Kiger was the Assistant Athletic Director for Camps and Clinics and from 2007-2013 he served as the Special Events Coordinator for AFA Athletics. Kiger holds a bachelor’s degree in Technical Journalism from Colorado State University and a Master of Business (Sport Management) Degree from Deakin University (Melbourne, Australia).

About Air Force Academy Athletic Corporation

Formally established in 2013, the Air Force Academy Athletic Corporation (AFAAC) serves as the fundraising arm of the Air Force Academy Department of Athletics. The mission of the AFAAC is to support the Air Force Athletic Department mission of producing leaders of character for our Nation and to generate the necessary revenue to support Air Force Intercollegiate Athletics and promote the Air Force Academy to the Nation through athletics. (goairforcefalcons.com)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Carly Kobasiar

Carly Kobasiar is the Special Events Supervisor for the City of Colorado Springs. She oversees the permitting and management for Citywide special events, as well as events held within City-owned park sites. The City permits more than 500 events annually, including sporting events, large and small. Carly was the Director of Marketing Communications at the Augusta (Ga.) Convention and Visitors Bureau and Marketing and Events Manager at the Augusta (Ga.) Sports Council before relocating to Colorado Springs in 2014. She is a graduate of Georgia State University with a BA in Public Relations.

About Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

The Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department maintains a diverse network of parks and trails, and creates a variety of recreational and cultural opportunities for the community, to provide a high quality of life for residents and a world-class destination for visitors. The department oversees 152 parks, 146 miles of urban trails, 14,000 acres of open space, five community centers, two golf courses, two cemeteries, three sports complexes, the Colorado Springs Pioneer's Museum, the City Auditorium, Pikes Peak America's Highway and hundreds of programs, events and activities annually. (ColoradoSprings.gov)



Scott Lowenberg

Scott Lowenberg joined Colorado College in 2005 and serves as Associate Athletic Director for External Operations as a member of the Colorado College athletics senior staff. A dedicated and successful athletics administrator with more than 20 years experience, he oversees the corporate sponsorship program, all marketing and sales campaigns, the radio & TV network, ticket operations, the Tiger Pride Fund and Center Ice Club fundraising organizations, the athletics communications office, the licensing and sales of merchandise, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, as well as event management and athletic equipment. His department has raised more than \$15 million - record high numbers for Colorado College - in external funds since his arrival.

The Iowa native previously worked as assistant vice president and general manager for Tulane University IMG Sports College, helping the program during the time of Hurricane Katrina. Lowenberg earlier held Assistant AD positions at Northern Illinois University and the University of Maine from 1996 through 2005. Scott was the administrator during the 1999 Maine Hockey National Championship. Prior to Northern Illinois and Maine, he held marketing, fund-raising and sports information positions at the University of South Alabama, East Tennessee State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. Lowenberg is a 1993 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, where he went on to earn a master's degree.

About Colorado College

Colorado College (CC), a private institution located in Colorado Springs with an enrollment of 2,000 students, is annually ranked as one of the best liberal arts colleges in the nation. The Athletics program is home to two NCAA Division I programs: men's ice hockey and women's soccer. The other 16 sports participate in NCAA Division III. (coloradocollege.edu)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Aron McGuire

Aron McGuire is the Senior Director of the Olympic & Paralympic Training Centers for the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC). The Colorado Springs Olympic & Paralympic Training Center rests on a 35-acre complex located near downtown Colorado Springs and provides housing, dining, training facilities and other services for up to 500 coaches and athletes at one time. In this role, he oversees the teams that manage the day-to-day Operations, Venues, Transportation and Food & Nutrition in Colorado Springs, as well as the Lake Placid Olympic & Paralympic Training Center, which is the primary training location for many winter sports. Prior to the USOPC, he was the Associate Director of International Teams for USA Track & Field where he coordinated logistics for over 15 international teams which included 650 athletes each year. Additionally, Aron was a member of the USA National Bobsled Team. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Akron and MBA from Indiana University.

About the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee

Founded in 1894 and headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee serves as both the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States. As such, the USOPC is responsible for the training, entering and funding of U.S. teams for the Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, Pan American and Parapan American Games, while serving as a steward of the Olympic & Paralympic Movement throughout the country. (teamusa.org)



Martin Palmaz

A graduate of Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Architecture, Martin Palmaz has been with the US Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association (USHPA) since 2005 and was promoted to Executive Director in 2011. Between 2015-2016, he helped fund and create Recreation Risk Retention Group, a captive insurance company dedicated to insuring the hang gliding & paragliding industry throughout the U.S. Martin is a member of the Association of Chief Executives for Sport (ACES) to support and enhance the business interests and professional development of non-profit member sport organizations. Most recently in 2017, he also began serving as a board member of the National Aeronautics Association.

Aviation has been an integral part of Martin's life starting with hang gliding at Kitty Hawk, NC in 1984. Although his pursuit of hang gliding was brief, it evolved into flying sailplanes during high school before finally settling on paragliding in 1996. He is an advanced rated paraglider pilot with over 22 years of flying experience.

About US Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association

USHPA is a 501(c)3 membership organization dedicated to the development and promotion of hang gliding & paragliding in the U.S. through advocacy, competitions, education, site preservation, and flight training. USHPA (then USHGA) was established in 1973 in Southern California and relocated to Colorado Springs in 1989. (ushpa.aero)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Nick Ragain

Nick Ragain is the President of the Colorado Springs Switchbacks Football Club. As President, he works primarily in sales and marketing while providing leadership to align each department with the club's mission: "To engage our community and industry by selling soccer through excellence in competition and production quality to create sustained excitement around our brand and sport." Ragain earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in History from Evangel University (EU) in Springfield, Missouri. He played on the EU football team that won the 2001 NAIA Heart of America Conference and has an intimate knowledge of sports facilities and public funding mechanisms in Colorado from his years with MUSCO Sports Lighting (2005-2010) and the CCMRD Board (2008-2014). Ragain also owned and operated a digital marketing franchise from 2010 to 2013 based in Evergreen, Colorado.

About the Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC

The Colorado Springs Switchbacks Football Club (SFC) was announced in 2013 and completed its inaugural season in October of 2015. The USL is the oldest professional soccer league in the U.S. and has 36 teams and 2 conferences participating in the 2020 season. The USL is Tier 2 which is directly under Major League Soccer (Tier 1) in the USSF pyramid of soccer. (switchbacksfc.com)



Ian Ratz

Ian Ratz is the Sport Management Assistant Director: Student Services in the College of Business at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Ian is in charge of organizing opportunities for students to gain practical experience in the sport industry along with program recruitment and student activities. Prior to UCCS, Ian was Senior Director for Healthy Living at the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region, National Team Performance Support Consultant for USA Swimming, and completed his Bachelors and Masters degrees at Eastern Michigan University in Exercise Physiology. Ian and his family moved to Colorado Springs in 2009 and enjoy all the outdoor activities in our backyard such as skiing, biking, hiking and anything fitness.

About UCCS Sport Management Program

The UCCS Sport Management program is a unique emphasis area in the AACSB-accredited College of Business. Our small class sizes are led by academically and industry qualified faculty members who engage students with industry relevant coursework meant to result in discussions that challenge, foster creativity and motivate the pursuit of success. Being located in Colorado Springs, known as Olympic City USA, provides our students access to numerous organizations across the Olympic, Collegiate, Professional and Recreational sectors of sport. Additionally, we are partners with the Nuggets, Avalanche and Rapids in Denver, CO and have sent more than 20 students to England to complete internships with English Premier League soccer clubs. Our students graduate with their Bachelor of Science in Business with an emphasis in Sport Management and are prepared to provide impact in their future careers. (uccs.edu/smp)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Micah Rice

Micah Rice is the Vice President of Event Strategy and Operations for Sports Strategies and the Executive Director of the Pikes Peak APEX, the largest mountain bike event on Colorado's front range. Previously he was Head of Operations for OC Sport, overseeing all North American operations for OC Sport's cycling brand Haute Route, the world's most prestigious multi-day amateur cycling events. Micah moved to Colorado Springs in 2009 for a position with USA Cycling, running the national events department for eight years and overseeing National Championship, World Cup, and World Championship events around the country as Vice President of National Events. In his current role at Sports Strategies, he works with cities and regions around the country to identify their sports tourism assets and create legacy events to best expand economic development.

About Sports Strategies

Sports Strategies helps communities identify, leverage and develop assets to drive sports tourism as a source of economic development and works with event owners, destinations, causes and stakeholders to develop and execute winning events. (sportsstrategies.com)



Chad Sunderland

Chad Sunderland is part of the Strategic Planning team at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC). In this role, Chad helps set the strategic direction for the USOPC and supports a variety of key projects across the organization. Prior to joining the Olympic & Paralympic Movement he held various senior leadership roles driving marketing technology innovation, and worked as a strategy consultant for energy companies. He was student-athlete at the University of Kansas where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and graduated from NYU's Stern School of Business with an MBA.

About the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee

Founded in 1894 and headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee serves as both the National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee for the United States. As such, the USOPC is responsible for the training, entering and funding of U.S. teams for the Olympic, Paralympic, Youth Olympic, Pan American and Parapan American Games, while serving as a steward of the Olympic & Paralympic Movement throughout the country. (teamusa.org)

COLORADO SPRINGS SPORTS ECONOMY TEAM



Tim Yount

Tim Yount was named the first Chief Operating Officer in the history of USA Triathlon in February 2011. USA Triathlon's longest-tenured employee, Yount has managed nearly every major program within the organization since joining the national office staff in 1989 as intern then Regional/National Championship and Team USA Coordinator. Tim was promoted to Assistant Executive Director in 1992, a position he held for 14 years. He was named USA Triathlon's the Senior Vice President, Marketing and Communications in 2005 and served in that capacity until being named Senior Vice President, Sport Development in February 2010. Tim has managed, or helped manage, the U.S. delegation at more than 65 ITU World Championships and served as Team Leader of the U.S. Olympic Team for triathlon's debut at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia. Additionally, he was integral to the development of several core USA Triathlon programs. He also played a key role in the creation of USA Triathlon's 10 Regions, junior programs, various merchandising and retailer programs, as well as the Paratriathlon and Clydesdale/Athena Divisions at National Championship events. He was instrumental in founding the USA Triathlon Hall of Fame and developing the Athletes of the Year Awards.

About USA Triathlon

Founded in 1982, USA Triathlon is proud to serve as the National Governing Body for triathlon - the fastest growing sport in the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Movement - as well as duathlon, aquathlon, aquabike, winter triathlon, off-road triathlon and paratriathlon in the United States. USA Triathlon sanctions more than 4,300 races and connects with more than 455,000 members each year, making it the largest multisport organization in the world. In addition to its work with athletes, coaches, and race directors on the grassroots level, USA Triathlon provides leadership and support to elite athletes competing at international events, including International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Championships, Pan American Games and the Summer Olympic Games. USA Triathlon is a proud member of the ITU and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC). (usatriathlon.org)



Tammy Fields
Chamber & EDC
Senior Vice
President,
Economic
Development

Tammy joined the Chamber & EDC organization in 1994 and has over 25 years of experience doing economic development in Colorado Springs. She leads the business attraction efforts for the Chamber & EDC and works directly with companies and site location consultants considering Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region for business locations assisting with site visits, incentive analysis, real estate needs, etc. Tammy has been instrumental in helping to attract over 29,000 jobs to the region. She was selected as a 2009 Women of Influence by the Colorado Springs Business Journal. Tammy currently serves as the Immediate Past Board Chair for the Economic Development Council of Colorado and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Southern Colorado Commercial Brokers.