Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Sarah Allen

VP, Marketing, Sales & Business Development
Kaiser Permanente

Sarah Allen is a Vice President of Marketing, Sales, and Business Development for Kaiser Permanente, where she brings more than 20 years of leadership experience driving growth, transformation, and strategic impact. A former athlete and award-winning executive, Sarah is known for building and leading high-performing teams, strengthening stakeholder relationships, and turning complex strategic visions into measurable results.

Throughout her career, she has successfully led more than 60 transformational projects delivering $400 million in financial improvements, achieved 100% client retention for six consecutive years, and driven workforce optimization initiatives resulting in significant operational efficiencies. Her ability to balance innovation with execution has consistently delivered bottom-line impact while positioning organizations for long-term success.

Allen's leadership style is rooted in collaboration, integrity, and resilience. She is recognized as a skilled communicator, public speaker, and strategist who inspires teams to align around common goals and creates solutions that benefit employees, clients, and communities alike. Passionate about sustainable success, she continually seeks opportunities to elevate conversations and build strategies that drive both immediate results and future growth.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Dale Anderson

Senior Vice President of Economic and Defense Development & Government Affairs
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

A seasoned leader with more than 30 years of experience in public service, military affairs, and federal policy, Dale Anderson is a longtime advocate for the Pikes Peak region and its role as a national leader in aerospace and defense.

Before joining the Chamber & EDC in 2025, Anderson spent 18 years on Congressman Doug Lamborn's staff, including six years as Chief of Staff. He also served as District Director and Senior Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison, and most recently as Senior Advisor to Congressman Jeff Crank. Throughout his career, he has built deep relationships across government, military, and industry, and earned recognition for his ability to guide high-stakes initiatives and strengthen community partnerships.

A U.S. Army veteran, Anderson played a leading role in statewide efforts to secure U.S. Space Command's permanent headquarters in Colorado Springs. He is widely respected for his strategic leadership, coalition-building, and dedication to supporting military families, veterans, and defense-related economic development.

In his current role, Anderson oversees the Chamber & EDC's aerospace and defense initiatives, guides economic development strategies, and advances local, state, and federal policy priorities. He also leads the launch of the Colorado Aerospace & Defense Economic Council (CAD-EC), a strategic initiative to position Colorado as a premier hub for aerospace and defense innovation.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Cory Applegate

District 4 Commissioner
El Paso County Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Cory Applegate was elected in November 2024 to represent District 4 on the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners and was sworn in for his first term on January 14, 2025. His district covers southern and eastern El Paso County, including Fountain, Security/Widefield, Hanover, Rush, Ellicott, Yoder, and portions of Colorado Springs. District 4 also is home to Fort Carson, Peterson Space Force Base, and Schriever Space Force Base.

At 33 years old, Applegate became the youngest known elected commissioner in El Paso County history. A journeyman electrician with a decade of experience in code, construction, and commercial maintenance, he brings a practical understanding of how policy and regulation affect development. His priorities as commissioner include strengthening public safety and improving infrastructure.

Before joining the Board of County Commissioners, Applegate served on the Fountain City Council and the Fountain Planning Commission. A resident of Fountain since 2005, he enjoys outdoor sports such as hunting, fishing, archery, and recreational shooting, and is an active member of Restoration Church in Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Windy Bailey

Director of Agent Advocacy
Keller Williams Realty

Windy Bailey is a highly respected real estate professional and community leader who brings over a decade of experience to her leadership roles.

In 2025, Bailey was appointed President of the Pikes Peak Association of REALTORS® (PPAR), where she advocates for ethical standards, market transparency, and the continued growth of the regional housing sector. She is actively involved with the National Association of REALTORS® and the Women's Council of REALTORS®, contributing to local, state, and national initiatives.

Bailey earned her MBA from Columbia College and holds a bachelor's of business administration and management from the University of the Incarnate Word.

Recognized for her strategic insight and collaborative leadership, Bailey remains dedicated to supporting both her clients and fellow agents, while helping shape the future of real estate in the Pikes Peak region.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Andrea Barlow

Principal, NES Inc.
2025 President, Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs

Andrea Barlow is a respected leader in land use planning and development, serving as Principal at NES Inc., a premier planning and landscape architecture firm based in Colorado Springs. With a career rooted in designing thoughtful, sustainable communities, Barlow brings a wealth of expertise in urban design, entitlements, and project management to public and private sector clients across the Pikes Peak region.

In 2025, Barlow was named President of the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs (HBA), where she leads advocacy efforts for the homebuilding industry and champions policies that foster attainable housing, smart growth, and economic vitality. Her leadership reflects a deep commitment to aligning development with long-term community priorities.

Known for her strategic vision, collaborative spirit, and ability to navigate complex regulatory environments, Barlow plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of Colorado Springs. She continues to be a trusted voice at the intersection of design, development, and public policy – ensuring that growth enhances quality of life for generations to come.

A graduate of De Montfort and Leeds Beckett Universities in Great Britain, Barlow earned her MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

M.J. Benenati

Director of Government Affairs
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

M.J. Benenati serves as the Director of Government Affairs for the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, where he leads the organization's policy and advocacy initiatives on behalf of the region's business community. In this role, he works closely with elected officials, community leaders, and member organizations to advance pro-business policies, strengthen the region's economic competitiveness, and ensure that the voice of local employers is represented at the local, state, and federal levels.

Benenati's professional background includes time as an officer in the U.S. Army and various leadership roles at the Springs Rescue Mission and the Navigators. He has dedicated his life to community and public service, including volunteer firefighting, being a former member of the Colorado Springs Planning Commission, and as a graduate of the Colorado Springs Mayor's Leader Fellowship. He earned bachelor's degrees in history and international relations from Penn State and his master's in public policy from Northwestern University.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Travis Bockenstedt

Chief Experience Officer
Pinnacle Advanced Primary Care

Travis Bockenstedt serves as Chief Experience Officer at Pinnacle Advanced Primary Care, where he leads business development, marketing, and membership initiatives. With more than 15 years of experience in the media industry spanning journalism and advertising, Bockenstedt brings creativity, strategy, and a strong communications background to his role. Before relocating to Colorado, he was the R.J. McElroy Chair in Journalism and Communication at Wartburg College in Iowa, where he taught and helped establish the college's digital cinema and production program.

Bockenstedt is deeply engaged in the Colorado Springs business community. He chaired the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC Small Business Advisory Council from 2022-24, serves as Membership Co-Chair of the Southern Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce, and serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Symphony of the Rockies and Vice Chairman of the Board for the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

Outside of his professional and community commitments, Bockenstedt enjoys traveling, camping, and collecting vinyl records with his partner. Having lived in Denver for the past seven years, they are proud to call Colorado their home and are passionate about contributing to its thriving communities.

SherryLynn Boyles

President & CEO
Joint Initiatives

SherryLynn Boyles has served as President and CEO of Joint Initiatives since 2019, where she leads collaborative efforts to strengthen the lives of children, families, and communities in El Paso County. Under her leadership, the organization has advanced early childhood education by developing the county's universal preschool plan, securing $1.5 million for a new Juvenile Assessment Center and youth shelter, and bringing partners together through the region's early childhood summit.

Previously, Boyles served as CEO of TESSA and built a national consulting practice that raised more than $100 million for nonprofits and advocacy organizations, including the National Domestic Violence Hotline. She has also overseen major initiatives such as the $54 million capital campaign for San Antonio's Tobin Center for the Performing Arts. Earlier in her career, she held senior leadership and advocacy roles in Texas, including executive director, campaign manager, registered lobbyist, and legislative chief of staff.

Her leadership and advocacy have been recognized with multiple state and national honors, including Colorado Springs Living Well's "Most Inspirational Women" award and recognition from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, the Texas Council on Family Violence, and Lifetime Television's national campaign. Boyles earned her law degree from the University of Texas School of Law and a bachelor's degree in mass communications from the University of Texas, where she also served as student body president.

Jan Breslin

Retired Paralegal

Jan Breslin is a retired paralegal whose adventurous spirit has taken her from living on a boat in Alaska for seven years to making her home in the mountains of Guffey, Colorado. A lifelong traveler and lover of new experiences, she recently adopted a shelter dog who keeps her on her toes.

Breslin also is proud to be the mom of Jen Furda, UCCS's Director of Partnerships, Governmental Affairs & Military Liaison, and is excited to join the Fly-In to see the work Furda is so passionate about.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Brian Burns

President
Bryan Construction Inc.

Brian Burns serves as President of Bryan Construction Inc., where he leads the company's strategic direction, operations, and client engagement. With more than 25 years of construction experience, Burns has built a strong track record of delivering complex projects with excellence and integrity.

He joined Bryan Construction in 2008 as Group Manager, where he successfully oversaw major commercial and federal projects for more than a decade before being appointed President in 2019. Prior to Bryan Construction, Burns spent over six years as a Project Manager with Pinkard Construction Company, gaining extensive expertise in project management and client services.

Burns holds a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in construction management from Colorado State University. His leadership emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and sustainable growth, guiding Bryan Construction's mission to deliver outstanding projects while building stronger communities across Colorado and beyond.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Justin Burns

President, Strategic Insurance
Associate, CBRE

Justin Burns is the owner of Strategic Insurance, a boutique agency serving over 1,000 clients and managing more than $5 million in annual premiums. He also is an associate with CBRE who brings extensive experience in business development and more than a decade of experience in insurance and 12 years in telecommunications to the role.

An active community leader, Burns serves on the LAS Advisory Committee at UCCS and the Government Affairs Council at the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, where he was Vice Chair from 2019 to 2021. He has held leadership roles with the Housing & Building Association, Downtown Partnership, and currently serves as Vice President of Pikes Peak Pride.

Justin has also supported local nonprofits through past roles with the Colorado Springs Philharmonic Guild, Homeward Pikes Peak, and as co-founder of *Derby for Diabetes*, an annual fundraiser for children with Type 1 diabetes. His work reflects a strong commitment to advancing both business and community in Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jaron L. Cook

Community Liaison & Instructor
Brink Literacy Project

Jaron “Jay” Cook is a justice-impacted community leader, published author, and proud father of two daughters. His journey with Brink Literacy Project began as a student in the Frames Comics Program, and today he serves as a Community Liaison, Instructor, and Partnership Director, living proof of the transformative power of storytelling and opportunity.

His graphic memoir *Good As Gold*, published in Brink’s literary magazine *F(r)iction*, was distributed nationally through Barnes & Noble, reached tens of thousands of readers, and has been shared with more than 10,000 prisons across the United States. Through his work and writing, Cook shares his story to inspire underserved communities, advocating for justice reform, reentry support, and peer recovery coaching.

At Brink, Cook leads partnership efforts that center lived experience, amplify overlooked voices, and create access to non-clinical healing, opportunity, and change. His mission is rooted in the belief that every voice deserves to be heard and that storytelling can spark resilience and hope.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Victor Correa

GSA Account Manager
OS Offices

Victor Correa is the GSA Account Manager for OS Offices (formerly OfficeScapes), where he brings over 20 years of experience in office furniture installation and project management. Based in Colorado Springs, Correa specializes in federal government accounts, following a successful assignment managing installations at Peterson Air Force Base.

Throughout his career, Correa has served in roles including Project Manager, Warehouse Manager, and Installation Supervisor, gaining deep industry expertise across markets in Denver, Boulder, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs. He has worked with leading manufacturers such as Steelcase and is known for his attention to detail, operational efficiency, and commitment to client satisfaction.

Correa's longstanding dedication to quality and service has made him a trusted partner in delivering office environments that meet the highest standards for both government and commercial clients.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Aimee Cox

Chief Housing and Homeless Officer
City of Colorado Springs

Aimee Cox, a Colorado Springs native, brings extensive experience in housing and homelessness initiatives to her role as the City's Chief Housing and Homelessness Officer. She previously served the City from 2002–2017 in multiple capacities, including Community Development Manager and as the first administrator to City Council under the strong-mayor form of government. She later joined the Mayor's Office to focus on homelessness response.

Beyond Colorado Springs, Cox served as Chief Impact and Strategy Officer for the San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness and as Senior Advisor with National Healthcare and Housing Advisors. In her current role, she works alongside the Mayor to lead the City's strategic priorities for addressing housing and homelessness challenges in the community.

Cox earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Mike Coy

Senior Benefits Analyst
Aflac

Splitting his time between Colorado Springs and Austin, TX, Coy brings over 50 years of experience in employee benefits, financial consulting, and leadership development. A Registered Financial Consultant and Certified Professional Behavioral Analyst, he is known for helping organizations and individuals make smart decisions about benefits and long-term planning through his *Customized Employee Benefits & Protection Plan (CEBP)*.

A best-selling author and sought-after public speaker, Coy combines education, motivation, and humor in his presentations. He is a Past President of the Austin Westlake Chamber of Commerce, a long-time Senior Benefits Consultant with Aflac, and remains active in the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC and Men's Senior Baseball.

Coy's background also includes a decorated baseball career as both player and coach, winning multiple state, national, and international championships, and earning a minor league contract offer from the New York Mets. His latest book, *A Random Act of Kindness*, is available now.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Vineet Daga

Director, Capture Management & Legislative Affairs
AMERICAN SYSTEMS

Vineet Daga is a business development executive with more than 20 years of experience in the aerospace and defense sector, where he has led senior capture and strategy roles resulting in nearly $2 billion in contract wins. His career has taken him across more than 15 countries, with deep experience in India, the Middle East, and Western Europe, as well as customer engagements in East Asia and South America.

Since 2018, he has served as Director of Capture Management & Legislative Affairs at AMERICAN SYSTEMS, where he oversees a team of corporate capture managers, leads strategic recompetes, and serves as President of the company's PAC. Under his leadership, the company has implemented capture best practices that significantly increased win rates and year-over-year bookings.

Previously, Daga spent nearly 16 years at Raytheon, advancing through multiple leadership roles. As Senior Capture Manager, he oversaw a portfolio exceeding $200M, secured more than 25 winning programs across training, O&M, logistics, and construction, and earned recognition with the 2013 Business Development Excellence Award and the 2015 Six Sigma CEO Award

He holds both a B.A. and M.A. in international affairs from George Washington University and earned a Certificate in Innovation and Critical Thinking from Duke University.

Travas Deal

Chief Executive Officer
Colorado Springs Utilities

Travas Deal joined Colorado Springs Utilities in 2017 as Field Services Manager. In 2018, Deal transitioned to the Energy Services Division, serving in a district manager role then two general manager positions, leading significant process improvements for the utility. He was named Chief Operations Officer in April 2020, responsible for the safe and reliable operations of the utility's four services – electric, natural gas, water and wastewater. He also served as the utility's acting CEO prior to being named CEO.

Deal served as a U.S. Marine for a decade before a successful career in transportation – first in rail-based freight transportation and later at Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana. He joined Duke Energy in 2008, working at Gibson Generating Station, the largest coal generating plant in the United States at 3,250 megawatts. During his tenure at Duke, he held various management roles in operations and maintenance, including operations excellence manager. Deal holds a Bachelor of Science in organizational management from Oakland City University.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Liz Denson

President & CEO
Early Connections Learning Center

Liz Denson is the President and CEO of Early Connections Learning Centers, a high-quality early education organization serving more than 300 children daily across Colorado Springs. She joined Early Connections in 2016 as Vice President of Community Engagement and was named President and CEO in 2022. With 18 years of experience in community engagement, development, marketing, and public relations, Denson is passionate about advancing early learning opportunities for children and families in the Pikes Peak region.

She serves as Co-Chair of Alliance for Kids, sits on the Executive Committee of the Early Childhood Business Council, and Co-Chairs the Sustainable Funding Committee for Colorado Springs' Family Friendly City Initiative. Denson also serves on several local and state committees, including the Nutrition Camp School Foundation Board and Empty Stocking Fund Community Advisory Board. A graduate of the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute ('25) and Leadership Pikes Peak's Signature Program ('21), she has been recognized as a *Rising Star* by the Colorado Springs Business Journal and a *Woman to Watch* by Girl Scouts of Colorado.

Originally from Houston, Texas, Denson earned her bachelor's degree from Texas Tech. Denson and her husband relocated to Colorado Springs in 2008 and are the proud parents of their daughter, Bailey.

Stan “Scott” Diamanti

Senior Program Manager
Leidos

Scott Diamanti served 35 years in the military: three years as a logistician in the Marine Corps, more than eight years as an electronic warfare technician in the Air Force enlisted corps, and 24+ years as communications and cyber officer in the Air Force officer corps. He moved 29 times in his 35-year career and deployed multiple times to different theaters of operations from the middle east to South Korea and held command at the squadron and group levels. He retired in 2018 as a Colonel from Air Force Space Command.

Diamanti joined Leidos in 2019 and has served as a Program Manager and now as a Senior Program Manager, overseeing several contracts. He is well known for his servant leader style leadership, while building strong teams that provide proven results both during his military career and now with Leidos.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jim DiBiase

Director & Principal
Olive Real Estate Group

Jim DiBiase is a Director and Principal at Olive Real Estate Group and has been a leader in Colorado Springs commercial real estate since 1992. Over his career, he has completed more than $1 billion in transactions across corporate services, tenant representation, and development, with notable projects including multiple Marriott hotels and major office headquarters relocations.

With expertise in financing, joint ventures, and complex lease negotiations, DiBiase has served clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to local organizations. A graduate of Villanova University with a bachelor's degree in finance, he began his career in New York City managing large corporate transactions before relocating to Colorado.

Deeply connected to the community, DiBiase also has served on nonprofit boards, including the Boys & Girls Club, and continues to champion projects that drive growth and opportunity in the Pikes Peak region.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Trevor Dierdorff

Founder / CEO
Amnet

Trevor Dierdorff is the Founder and CEO of Amnet, a leading IT and cybersecurity consulting firm that has been serving businesses across Colorado since 1998. What began as a passion project while he was working at Best Buy during the Windows 95 era has grown into a trusted technology partner for companies with 20 to 400 employees, stretching from Fort Collins to Trinidad. Under Dierdorff's leadership, Amnet has built a reputation for safeguarding organizations against ever-changing cyber threats while providing innovative, people-first technology solutions that empower businesses to thrive.

Dierdorff's fascination with technology began at just 10 years old, when he took his first BASIC programming class. That early spark of curiosity has since evolved into a lifelong career defined by entrepreneurship, problem-solving, and helping others harness technology to achieve their goals. Today, he blends his expertise with a deep passion for community, often sharing his knowledge as a speaker and advocate for cybersecurity awareness, small business resilience, and regional economic growth.

Known for his humor and humility, Dierdorff describes himself as an entrepreneur, computer geek, community fanatic, and "wanna-be golfer." He is also an avid traveler who loves exploring new cultures through their food, art, and traditions.
Yet no matter where his adventures take him, Dierdorff is always happiest returning to the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and the community he proudly calls home.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Margaret Dolan

Chief Executive Officer
Pikes Peak Community Foundation

Margaret Dolan is the Chief Executive Officer of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation (PPCF), an organization dedicated to facilitating philanthropy for individuals, families, and businesses. Under her leadership, PPCF identifies the most pressing issues facing the Pikes Peak region and builds enduring charitable assets to ensure nonprofits have the resources to drive meaningful impact and improve quality of life today and for generations to come.

Prior to joining PPCF, Dolan held numerous executive leadership roles, including President & CEO of Launch Tennessee, LocalShares, and Saint Thomas Health Foundations. She also served as Vice President of Community Relations for Ingram Industries, where she played a lead role in guiding family and corporate philanthropic initiatives. Dolan began her career at KPMG, LLP, gaining foundational experience as a CPA.

She serves on the boards of the Foundation for Colorado Springs Future, the Pikes Peak Real Estate Foundation, and the Empty Stocking Fund. She also is a member of the Colorado Springs Estate Planning Council and the AICPA.

Dolan earned her B.S. in business administration (accounting) from the University of Tennessee and her MBA from Vanderbilt University. She is a licensed CPA in both Colorado and Tennessee.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Stephanie Edwards

Vice President & Chief Marketing Officer
Gold Hill Mesa

As Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Gold Hill Mesa, Colorado Springs' vibrant west side residential development, Stephanie has oversight of strategic planning, marketing, management, and business development. In this capacity, she has proven results in leading the project through the market downturn, shaping, and growing the residential neighborhood for over a decade. She works alongside the company's chairmen in ground floor planning of a future commercial village.

Prior to joining Gold Hill Mesa in 2006, Edwards worked as a promotions producer for KOAA News.

Edwards hails from Atlanta, GA, and is a graduate of Agnes Scott College. She began her career at Turner Broadcasting's CNN Headquarters as associate producer for the Environmental Unit's "Earth Matters" and Time Magazine Show.

In addition to her responsibilities at Gold Hill Mesa, Edwards is active in the local community, having served as a columnist for the Cheyenne Edition, covering non-profit news, and as a contributing writer for Springs Style Magazine. She has organized many collaborative civic events, concerts, and art exhibits at Gold Hill Mesa's community center to help promote local non-profits, the arts, and to connect business/ government leaders and citizens who shape Colorado Springs and build community. Edwards has served on the Board of the Colorado Springs School and the Catamount Institute, as well as Rocky Mountain PBS Advisory Committee, Pikes Peak Opera League, Discover Goodwill, Pikes Peak Community College, The Resource Exchange, and Newborn Hope committees.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Brandon Eldridge

Executive Director
Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center

Brandon Eldridge is the Executive Director of the Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center (SBDC), where he leverages more than 23 years of management experience to drive the growth and success of small businesses across the region. A passionate advocate for economic development, he has dedicated his career to building a vibrant and sustainable local economy in Colorado Springs, where he has lived since 1998.

With a strong background in nonprofit leadership, Eldridge brings expertise in community needs, governance, and strategic planning. He has served on multiple nonprofit boards, earning recognition as a Leadership Pikes Peak Community Trustee (2019) and a *Colorado Springs Business Journal* Rising Star (2020).

A graduate of Colorado Tech with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Eldridge is cyber-certified through the SBDC NorthStar program and has completed EDCC 101, equipping him with advanced knowledge in cybersecurity and economic development. His leadership style emphasizes inclusivity, collaboration, and innovation, ensuring that small businesses and nonprofits alike have the tools they need to thrive.

Emily Evans

City Council Administrator
Colorado Springs

Emily Evans serves as City Council Administrator for the City of Colorado Springs, where she directs the legislative division with a focus on public policy, strategic planning, and stakeholder collaboration. She brings more than 20 years of experience in public service and the nonprofit sector, including her previous role as Deputy City Clerk. She also is certified through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).

In addition to her career in local government, Evans has worked with several nonprofit organizations, including more than a decade at CommonSpirit Health at St. Francis Hospital as a Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator (LCCE). Raised in the Pikes Peak region, she spent 10 years in Chicago before returning home to Colorado Springs.

Evans holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Chicago and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, along with graduate certificates in public management and local government management. Committed to lifelong learning, she continues to pursue professional development opportunities that enhance her service to the community. Most importantly, Evans is a proud and devoted swim mom to her son, with whom she shares a love for road trips, new adventures, and big dreams.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Mike Francolino

Chief Customer & Enterprise Services Officer
Colorado Springs Utilities

Mike Francolino serves as the Chief Customer & Enterprise Services Officer for Colorado Springs Utilities, bringing more than 30 years of global experience across industries including telecommunications, water utilities, and the testing, inspection, and certification (TIC) sector. With a strong background in global supply chain management, he has successfully transitioned into public service, where he now leads critical functions including economic development, customer services, cyber security, information technology, and supply chain.

Known for his ability to build strong partnerships and relationships, Francolino believes collaboration is the foundation of organizational success. By fostering connections with stakeholders, suppliers, and customers, he ensures Colorado Springs Utilities can leverage diverse expertise, drive innovation, and achieve shared goals, resulting in high-performing teams and sustainable impact for the community.

Francolino holds both a bachelor's degree in economics and an MBA from Seton Hall University. He and his wife live in Colorado Springs with their two children, where they enjoy the city's vibrant community and access to the outdoors.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jenifer B. Furda

Director of Partnerships, Governmental Affairs & Military Liaison
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Jenifer Furda serves as the Director of Community Engagement, Governmental Affairs, and Military Liaison at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), where she leads efforts to build strong partnerships with local government, military organizations, and regional stakeholders to advance the university's mission and impact. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and has more than two decades of leadership experience across business, healthcare, higher education, and nonprofit sectors.

Prior to joining UCCS, Furda held leadership roles with the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Springs Business Journal, National Cybersecurity Center, and Kaiser Permanente Colorado. Known for her collaborative approach, she has been a consistent advocate for innovation, regional growth, and community connection.

Deeply engaged in civic leadership, Furda currently serves as Chair of the Downtown Partnership Board of Directors and is a member of the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board. A proud Colorado Springs resident since 1988, she and her husband, Jon, enjoy the Colorado lifestyle with their two young adult children, Rhyan and Wyatt.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jill Gaebler

Executive Director
Pikes Peak Housing Network

Jill Gaebler serves as the inaugural Executive Director of the Pikes Peak Housing Network, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing housing affordability, access, and production in the region. A longtime advocate for a thriving community, Gaebler previously served for eight years as the Colorado Springs City Councilwoman for District 5, where she focused on multimodal transportation, attainable housing, downtown development, and local food systems.

Her career reflects a deep commitment to public service and housing equity. Before her Council service, Gaebler was Development Director at Greccio Housing, an affordable housing nonprofit, and co-founded the Colorado Springs Charter Academy. She has also served on numerous community boards, including the Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees, the Downtown Development Authority, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, the Colorado Municipal League, Homeward Pikes Peak, and the Front Range Passenger Rail District.

A U.S. Air Force veteran, Gaebler served seven years as a Contracting Officer before moving to Colorado Springs in 2000. She and her husband of 35 years make their home in the Patty Jewett neighborhood, where they enjoy cycling and taking advantage of the city's vibrant outdoor amenities.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Matthew Gaebler

Retired Commercial Airline & USAF Pilot
Community Volunteer

Matthew Gaebler retired in August 2025 following a distinguished 35-year career as a commercial pilot with American Airlines. Since joining the airline in December 1989, Gaebler operated both domestic and international routes, flying a wide range of aircraft including the Boeing 727, 757, 767, 777, and 787, as well as the MD-80.

Prior to his commercial aviation career, he served for seven years as an A-10 pilot in the United States Air Force.

Gaebler began his academic journey at the United States Air Force Academy (1978–1980) and completed his undergraduate studies in mathematics at UCLA (1980–1982).

Now retired, Gaebler remains actively involved in the Colorado Springs community, supporting local initiatives including PikeRide and Bread & Butter Market.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Martinique Gann

Operations Associate
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

Martinique Gann is the Operations Associate for the Colorado Springs Chamber & Economic Development Corporation, where she supports the Board of Directors, Board of Governors, and executive leadership team. She manages board communications, meeting preparation, minutes, and event logistics, while also overseeing grant tracking, cross-departmental initiatives, and special projects. She is helping the organization explore new technologies and process improvements to enhance communication, streamline reporting, and strengthen member engagement.

Originally from Germany, Gann moved to Colorado Springs two years ago with her husband, a federal agent with the U.S. Air Force. Before relocating, she served as Division Lead at the German State Lottery, where she oversaw lottery ticket evaluation, verified winnings, and managed large-scale money transfers. Passionate about collaboration and innovation, she is dedicated to advancing the Chamber & EDC's mission to drive economic prosperity in the Pikes Peak region.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Carrie Geitner

Chair and District 2 Commissioner
El Paso County Board of County Commissioners

Chair Carrie Geitner was first elected District 2 Commissioner in 2020 and began her second four-year term in January 2025. Her district stretches from eastern Colorado Springs through Cimarron Hills, Falcon, Peyton, Calhan, and Ramah. With a background in communications, outreach, and nonprofit leadership, she is dedicated to strengthening trust in local government and fostering stronger community relationships.

Geitner is the first in her family to graduate college, earning a degree in English with minors in psychology and marketing from the University of Central Florida. She has worked extensively in fundraising and community outreach, supporting hospice, a school for the blind, and military families through the creation of a memorial foundation. A military spouse, she brings personal insight into the challenges faced by veterans and military families, which continues to guide her servant-leadership approach.

In addition to her role as commissioner, Geitner founded a charter school in District 2, where she serves as board president, and has owned and operated a small business. She and her husband, Tim Geitner, live in El Paso County with their two sons. A former State Representative, Tim Geitner is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regional Administrator for the Rocky Mountain Region (Region VIII).

Bonnie Goff

Director of Market Development
Underline

Bonnie Goff, a Colorado Springs native who earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, serves as Director of Market Development for Underline, a fiber infrastructure company dedicated to providing fast, fair, and affordable connectivity in communities such as Colorado Springs and Fountain. In this role, she leads strategic expansion efforts, bringing high-speed fiber to homes, businesses, and critical community institutions.

Passionate about the outdoors and community engagement, Goff serves on several nonprofit boards, including the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance and First Tee – Southern Colorado, where she is Vice Chair of the Executive Committee. Her leadership focuses on sustainable growth, youth development, and expanding access to recreational opportunities.

Outside of her professional and civic commitments, Goff enjoys golfing, fly fishing, and mentoring others in the community.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Andrew Gunning

Executive Director
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Andrew Gunning has been the Executive Director of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) since 2018, leading a regional planning agency that supports collaboration among local governments in El Paso, Teller, and Park counties. Under his leadership, PPACG addresses some of the region's most pressing issues, including long-range transportation planning, infrastructure funding, environmental protection, military support, aging services, and housing. Working with a governing board made up of elected officials from across the region, Gunning plays a key role in fostering regional cooperation to meet shared challenges and opportunities.

With more than 30 years of professional experience in planning and regional development, Gunning has a deep background in both local and regional governance. Prior to his tenure in Colorado, he served as Planning Director for the City of Rockville, Maryland, in metropolitan Washington, D.C., where he focused on growth management and community development. He also served as Deputy Director for the regional planning organization in Tucson, Arizona, overseeing initiatives related to transportation, land use, and sustainable development.

Gunning holds a master's degree in city and regional planning from Clemson University and has dedicated his career to advancing communities through thoughtful planning, collaboration, and strategic investment in infrastructure and services.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Dani Hedlund

Founder & CEO
Brink Literacy Project

Dani Hedlund is the founder and CEO of Brink Literacy Project, a global nonprofit dedicated to harnessing the power of storytelling to transform lives. Since launching Brink in 2007, she has guided its growth into an international leader in education, behavioral health, and literary innovation, amplifying diverse voices, disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline, and developing programs in schools, prisons, and shelters across five continents.

She also serves as editor-in-chief of *F(r)iction*, Brink's flagship publication and one of the fastest-growing literary magazines in the world. Hedlund is the creative force behind projects such as the viral Literary Tarot and Frames, a graphic memoir program for incarcerated individuals that fosters literacy, healing, and self-expression.

An international speaker and advocate for education reform, Hedlund has lectured at universities, appeared on major conference stages, and shared Brink's mission through outlets including *The Times*, *The Sun*, KOA Radio, CW, Channel 4, and Fox 31. Her work underscores a core belief: stories build empathy, inspire hope, and change lives.

Hedlund earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Northern Colorado and also studied at the University of Oxford.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Felipe Hernandez

Medical Office Chief & Family Physician
Kaiser Permanente Englewood

Dr. Felipe Hernandez is a dedicated family medicine physician and Medical Office Chief at Kaiser Permanente's Englewood Medical Offices. Born into a military family and raised in Southern California, Dr. Hernandez pursued a career in medicine to help close the gap in Latino representation within the healthcare field. He earned his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco and completed his residency at UCLA before relocating to Colorado in 2005.

Dr. Hernandez chose family medicine for its unique opportunity to build long-term relationships with patients across generations and within the context of their communities. He has a strong clinical interest in adolescent health and LGBTQ+ care, and his practice includes a diverse patient base ranging from pediatric to geriatric populations. Recognized for his compassionate approach, Dr. Hernandez was named a 5280 Magazine Top Doctor in 2020.

Committed to evidence-based, cost-conscious care, he empowers patients by providing clear, thoughtful information to support informed decision-making and long-term wellness.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Eric Hiraga

Chief Strategy Officer & Board Member
Matrix Design Group

Eric Hiraga is Chief Strategy Officer and a Board Member at Matrix Design Group, a multidisciplinary, employee-owned consulting firm providing planning, engineering, environmental, and consulting services. With 11 offices and headquarters in Denver, Matrix serves public and private clients nationwide, including local and state governments, federal agencies, private developers, and special districts.

In his role, Hiraga leads Matrix's national business development and business strategy, guiding the firm's growth across diverse markets. He also oversees the Denver office, providing senior leadership, strengthening client relationships, and driving competitiveness across Matrix's full suite of services, including civil and transportation engineering, water resources, environmental consulting, landscape architecture, urban design, construction management, surveying, GIS, and government consulting.

Hiraga brings more than 25 years of experience in economic development, real estate development, aviation and transportation, government affairs, international business development, finance, and public-private partnerships. Prior to joining Matrix, he served as Executive Director of Denver Economic Development & Opportunity (DEDO) under Mayor Michael B. Hancock, leading the Denver's efforts to build an inclusive and innovative economy. He also previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Denver International Airport (DEN). In addition to his public-sector leadership, he has worked for several private real estate developers, giving him a unique perspective on bridging public and private interests to advance major projects.

Daniel Hodges

Government Affairs Manager, Colorado Springs Utilities
Executive Director, Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU)

Daniel (Dan) Hodges serves as Government Affairs Manager for Colorado Springs Utilities and as Executive Director of the Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities (CAMU), the statewide trade association representing Colorado's public power utilities. With more than 25 years of experience in state and federal public policy, he is recognized for his expertise and long-standing commitment to advocacy on behalf of municipal utilities.

Hodges joined Colorado Springs Utilities in 2005, where he leads government affairs initiatives at the local, state, and federal levels. Since 2009, he has also served as Executive Director of CAMU, helping guide the organization through an evolving policy landscape while advancing the interests of public power communities across Colorado.

He began his career in Washington, D.C., serving on the legislative staff of U.S. Senator Sam Brownback. Hodges holds a master's of public policy from American University and a bachelor's degree in public affairs and English literature from the University of Denver.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jeffrey Jensen

Managing Director | Financial Advisor
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

Jeff Jensen is Managing Director of Wealth Management and founder of the Jensen Group at Morgan Stanley, where for more than 25 years he has provided customized investment advice to families, foundations, nonprofits, private companies, and reinsurance portfolios. An alumnus of the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, he holds the Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA®) designation from The Wharton School and the Chartered Retirement Plans Specialist (CRPS®) designation. At Morgan Stanley, he has earned recognition as both a Family Wealth Director, a distinction held by fewer than four percent of the firm's Financial Advisors, and a Corporate Retirement Director.

A strong advocate for community engagement, Jensen founded *Build Community Capital*, a quarterly lecture series bringing together business, nonprofit, and civic leaders to explore new opportunities for regional growth. He is also a member of the Association of Professional Investment Consultants (APIC).

Jensen lives in Colorado Springs with his wife and two children. In his free time, he enjoys photography, running, hiking, skiing, and traveling the world with a goal of visiting every country.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Shelley Jensen

Founder | Chief Executive Officer
We Fortify

Shelley Jensen is the Founder and CEO of We Fortify, a nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals move out of poverty and into lives of stability, resilience, and connection. Through an innovative model that combines supportive housing, trauma-responsive therapies, life skills education, and career training, We Fortify provides a comprehensive pathway for people to rebuild their lives and thrive.

Her career reflects a deep commitment to problem-solving and community building. She began at MCI leading the Strategic Management of Architecture, Resources, and Technology (SMART) program, later co-founded BRIDGES, a youth leadership initiative, and the Pikes Peak Lacrosse Association. As Director of Operations and Strategic Development for the United States Box Lacrosse Association, she guided the organization's growth nationwide while fostering a strong, positive culture.

Originally from Minnesota, Jensen has made Colorado Springs her home since 1994. With decades of experience spanning technology, youth leadership, and nonprofit innovation, she continues to dedicate her career to creating healthier, more connected communities.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Tarah King

SVP Middle Market Relationship Manager
Umpqua Bank

Tarah King serves as Senior Vice President and Middle Market Relationship Manager at Umpqua Bank, bringing more than 18 years of banking experience and a strong commitment to community impact. Throughout her career, she has built and led high-performing teams, earning recognition as a trusted advisor to large commercial clients with complex financial needs.

A proud Manitou Springs native, Tarah earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder. She actively serves on the boards of Newborn Hope, the Fostering Hope Foundation, and the Rotary Club of Broadmoor District. She has also been recognized as a Colorado Springs *Rising Star* by the *Business Journal*, is a graduate of the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute (Class of 2024), and is a Mayor's Civic Leader Fellow.

Beyond her professional and civic leadership, Tarah is a devoted mother who values family at the core of her life. She enjoys the outdoors, exploring new destinations, and creating meaningful connections at home and in the community.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Alex Kovacs

Director of Aviation
Colorado Springs Airport

Alex Kovacs was appointed Director of Aviation for the Colorado Springs Airport in July of 2025 after serving as Acting Director since February of this year. As Director of Aviation, Kovacs leads the airport team, manages, plans, and directs airport operations, maintenance, construction, economic development, marketing, and long-term planning activities; implement policies and procedures; ensures compliance; and develops programs and strategies to maximize the potential of the Colorado Springs Airport to include business development at Peak Innovation Park.

In his previous role as Assistant Director, he oversaw Finance, Properties, and Design & Construction, playing a key role in the airport's growth and modernization. Prior to joining COS, Kovacs spent 16 years with the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority, where he most recently served as Director of Finance. He also has served as Treasurer of the Nevada Aviation Association and on the Board of the Southwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (SWAAAE).

Kovacs holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, an MBA, and a Master of Science in management and leadership. He is a certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives and is currently pursuing the Accredited Airport Executive designation. Under his leadership, the Colorado Springs Airport is building on record passenger growth, expanded air service, including its first international destination, and a new modern concourse.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Denise Larzo

Director of Membership
Pinnacle Advanced Primary Care

Denise Larzo is the Director of Membership at Pinnacle Advanced Primary Care, where she leverages more than a decade of expertise in business development, digital marketing, and community engagement. In this highly visible role, she serves as a dynamic ambassador for Pinnacle across Southern Colorado, cultivating relationships through extensive networking, representing the organization at community events, and leading outreach initiatives that connect businesses and individuals to affordable healthcare solutions with exceptional benefits.

Deeply committed to service, Larzo has spearheaded volunteer programs and is the founder of the Safe Housing and Rehabilitation Outreach Network (S.H.A.R.O.N), an initiative focused on providing critical support and resources to those in need. She continues to expand her expertise by pursuing a degree in business management with an emphasis in marketing and recently completed The Thrive Network's Business Development Program, further enhancing her leadership in the community.

A Colorado native originally from Denver, Larzo now calls Colorado Springs home. Outside of her professional work, she enjoys traveling, photography, rollerblading, and gathering loved ones around the table, something she treasures as an empty nester who still delights in cooking and hosting. Known for her energy, warmth, and dedication, Larzo is passionate about making a positive impact both personally and professionally.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jess Lee

CEO
413, LLC

Dr. Jess Lee is the CEO and owner of 413, LLC, a boutique consulting firm providing analytical and advisory services across Africa and beyond. With more than 15 years of experience in international development, human rights, and deaf culture, she has partnered with NGOs, governments, the military, and private sector organizations to design and implement projects that foster social change, empowerment, and inclusion.

Holding a Ph.D. in anthropology and an M.A. in deaf studies, Dr. Lee brings a unique expertise that bridges cultural, linguistic, and disciplinary divides. In addition to leading 413, LLC, she serves as adjunct faculty at Gallaudet University, where she teaches qualitative methods. Her professional interests extend to messaging, strategic planning, and data visualization, where she combines insight and creativity to help organizations achieve lasting impact.

A committed community advocate, Dr. Lee serves on the board of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. She is passionate about lifelong learning, collaboration, and challenging herself to find innovative approaches to complex global issues.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Becky Leinweber

Executive Director
Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance

Becky Leinweber is the Executive Director of the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA), where she leads efforts to strengthen the region's outdoor industry through collaboration, advocacy, and stewardship. Under her leadership, PPORA has received multiple honors, including the Spirit of Tourism Award and recognition as Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Southeast Region Partner of the Year.

Leinweber also is co-owner of Angler's Covey, a fly-fishing outfitter in Colorado Springs, where she champions women's involvement in the sport through education and community programs. She is actively engaged in organizations such as Pikes Peak Trout Unlimited, Casting for Recovery, and Project Healing Waters, supporting veterans and breast cancer survivors through therapeutic fly-fishing experiences.

A lifelong Coloradan with deep roots in public lands—her father served in the National Park Service—Becky is passionate about connecting people to the outdoors and promoting responsible recreation. She enjoys hiking, camping, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, and fly fishing throughout the Pikes Peak region.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

David Leinweber

Colorado Springs City Councilmember
At-Large

Councilmember Leinweber has dedicated his life to the outdoors, both professionally and personally. He has worked in the outdoor recreation industry for more than 40 years and, with his wife Becky, has owned and operated Angler's Covey, a specialty fly fishing shop, guide service, and learning center in Colorado Springs, for over 26 years. Colorado natives, David and Becky have been married for 40 years and moved to Colorado Springs in 1991 with their twins, Rachel and Jonathan.

In 2016, Leinweber founded the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA), in partnership with the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC and Visit Colorado Springs. PPORA works to strengthen the outdoor recreation industry in the Pikes Peak region through leadership, collaboration, and stewardship. Under his leadership, PPORA has been recognized as the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Southeast Region Partner of the Year (2020) and the Rocky Mountain Field Institute Stewardship Partner of the Year (2022).

Passionate about giving back, Leinweber also established the Morning Hatch Foundation in 2022 under the Pikes Peak Community Foundation. The foundation's mission is to support organizations and programs that address the mental and emotional needs of the local community through transformational outdoor experiences that inspire hope.

In 2023, Leinweber was elected as an At-Large Colorado Springs City Councilmember. He holds a bachelor's degree from Rockmont College.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Rachael Maxwell

Director of Operations and Finance
Exponential Impact

Rachael Maxwell brings a wealth of expertise in operations, finance, and community engagement to her role as Director of Operations and Finance at Exponential Impact. Since 2019, she has streamlined organizational operations, managed grant administration, and expanded the organization's digital presence.

Her previous roles include serving as a Program Associate at Innovations in Aging Collaborative, where she enhanced community visibility and supported key initiatives. She also served as a government affairs intern for the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC and worked as a finance intern for Senator Michael Bennet's campaign.

Maxwell holds an MPA with a certificate in grant writing from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and a BA in history-political science from Colorado College.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Christopher Meek

Construction Manager
Adolfson & Peterson Construction

In his role as Construction Manager, Chris Meek's responsibilities include leading, managing and directing large scale, complex projects, and project teams. He provides primary client interface, develops new business, participates in long-range corporate planning, and supports all corporate policies and standards.

Meek currently co-chairs the Value Based Client Relationship Group, is on the Risk Management Team, Office Tactical Team and K12 Tactical Team. Meek is also valued for mentoring, training, and guiding his direct reports, project staff and AP's future.

Meek has been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally for his involvement on project teams. He has managed projects that received awards such as the Adolfson & Peterson's Project of the Year (twice), AGC Best Building, ENR Best K-12, USGBC Green Building of the Year, AGC ACE Award, ABC Excellence in Construction, ABC Greener Tomorrow and ENR's Best Green Project award.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Andrew Merritt

Chief Strategy Officer
The O'Neil Group

With over 30 years of leadership experience spanning government, military, non-profit, and the private sector, Andrew Merritt brings a wealth of expertise to his position. Prior to joining ONE Funds and The O'Neil Group Company, from 2017 to 2021 Merritt served as the State Director for former US Senator Cory Gardner. In this capacity, he led a team that supported Senator Gardner's key policy initiatives, including the relocation of the Bureau of Land Management headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Grand Junction, CO, the establishment of a national suicide and mental health hotline, and the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the maintenance backlog on our nation's public lands.

Before his tenure on Senator Gardner's staff, Andrew served as the Chief Defense Industry Officer for the Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC from 2013 to 2017. In this role, he was responsible for providing community support to the five local military installations, fostering the growth and recruitment of aerospace, defense, and cyber companies, and overseeing the government affairs program. From 1995 to 2013, Andrew held senior positions on the staffs of former Representative Mike Coffman and Senators Hank Brown and Wayne Allard. Following his departure from the U.S. Army in 1992, he began his career in the private sector as a NASD Series 7 licensed Registered Representative for Intervest International, an international financial planning and investment firm, and later at Atlas Securities, a division of Golden West Financial.

Andrew is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and served as an Army officer with assignments in South Korea and Fort Carson, CO.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Yemi Mobolade

Mayor
City of Colorado Springs

Mayor Yemi Mobolade is the 42nd Mayor of Colorado Springs, where he leads with a commitment to the health, growth, and flourishing of the community. A Nigerian immigrant, entrepreneur, and community advocate, Yemi has made his impact through economic development, entrepreneurship, ministry, and leadership development. Before being elected in 2023, he served as the City's first Small Business Development Administrator and later as Vice President of Business Retention and Expansion at the Colorado Springs Chamber & Economic Development Corporation.

An entrepreneur at heart, Mayor Yemi co-founded the Wild Goose and Good Neighbors Meeting Houses, Niche Coaching and Consulting, and COSILoveYou, a gospel movement uniting churches to serve the city. He also served as Minister of City Outreach and Engagement at First Presbyterian Church and began his career in quality control manufacturing.

Mayor Yemi holds two master's degrees and is deeply engaged in community service through multiple boards, including the Pikes Peak Community College President's Advisory Council, Springs Rescue Mission, and Thrive Colorado Springs. He is a graduate of the Colorado Governor's Fellows (2020) and Colorado Springs Leadership Institute (2016). His leadership has been recognized with honors including the Pikes Peak Hospice Foundation's Quality of Life Award, Small Business Champion of the Year, *Colorado Springs Business Journal* Rising Star, and the Mayor's Young Leader Award for Economic Impact.

He and his wife Abbey, a nurse educator, are proud parents of three children.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jason Molnar

Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer
Infinity Labs

Jason “Thor” Molnar is the Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer of Infinity Labs, bringing nearly 20 years of leadership experience across government and industry. A decorated U.S. Army combat veteran, Molnar served as an Armored Reconnaissance Platoon Leader during the surge years of Operation Iraqi Freedom, an experience that shaped his lifelong commitment to service, teamwork, and mission-driven leadership.

At Infinity Labs, Molnar is responsible for shaping and communicating corporate strategy and vision. He serves as the focal point for business development, building and strengthening relationships with customers and collaborators across state, local, and federal government, as well as industry and academia. In addition, he oversees all aspects of marketing and corporate communications, including branding, advertising, digital presence, and public relations.

Beyond his role at Infinity Labs, Molnar is a dedicated advocate for veterans, championing medical rights, K–12 education opportunities, and veteran entrepreneurship. He serves on several boards of directors, advancing initiatives that support and empower service members as they transition into civilian and business life.

Molnar earned his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and forensic science from Xavier University and a master’s degree in intelligence and complex data analysis from American Military University.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Adam Murka

Founder & Principal
Fidelity Strategies

Adam Murka brings over two decades of experience at the intersection of politics, higher education, nonprofits, and business to his role as the founder of Fidelity Strategies. His expertise spans federal and state government relations, strategic consulting, executive leadership, and revenue development.

Before launching Fidelity Strategies, Murka co-founded Q&A Strategies and served as Vice President for External Affairs and Chief of Staff to the President at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. There, he led efforts in federal and state advocacy, grant writing, crisis communication, and multi-million-dollar fundraising, playing a pivotal role in advancing student access, workforce innovation, and campus expansion.

Murka began his career in national politics, serving as District Director, Communications Director, and Campaign Manager for Congressman Mike Turner.

His work across political and nonprofit campaigns has driven hundreds of millions of dollars in public and private investment, while shaping policy and opportunity for thousands. Murka is recognized for his strengths in legislative advocacy, project execution, executive coaching, and crisis and strategic communications.

When he's not advising clients or analyzing policy, Murka is probably watching the Cincinnati Bengals, cooking, or doing both at once.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

William Mutch

President
Mutch Government Relations

William Mutch is a principal at Mutch Government Relations, a boutique firm serving clients at the federal, state, and local levels. He has more than 25 years of experience in government relations, political consulting, and legislative advocacy, with a strong track record of winning legislative victories, building effective grassroots programs, managing political action committees, and organizing statewide initiative campaigns.

Mutch has represented major businesses, associations, and legislative coalitions on a wide range of issues, including taxation, water and natural resources, financial services, economic development, land use, international trade, and public policy. He has also served in leadership roles with Morgan Douglas Mutch & Associates, the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs, and Colorado Concern, and has managed campaigns for state and federal offices.

He holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Montana and an M.P.A. in public policy and public finance from George Washington University.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Donna Nelson

Chief Development Officer
Pikes Peak State College Foundation

Donna Nelson is the Chief Development Officer for the Pikes Peak State College Foundation, where she leads fundraising and community engagement to expand educational access and student success. A U.S. Army veteran, she served nine years as a Medical NCO with three overseas tours, including a deployment to Iraq during Desert Storm/Shield. She later worked in municipal government as the City of Colorado Springs' first Economic Vitality Specialist, managing key mayoral initiatives and international partnerships.

Active in the nonprofit sector, Nelson has held leadership roles with the Colorado Springs Conservatory, Pikes Peak United Way Women's Leadership Council, Mt. Carmel Board of Managers, the Women's Community Leadership Initiative, and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation. In 2025, she launched the Foundation's inaugural Giving Day, raising critical funds for scholarships, emergency aid, and student services.

A dedicated advocate for collaboration and community impact, Nelson is known for her integrity, service, and ability to bring people together to solve challenges. Her career reflects a lifelong commitment to lifting others up and building opportunities that strengthen both individuals and the wider community.

Nelson earned her bachelor's degree in business management from National American University.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Lauren Nelson

District 1 Commissioner
El Paso County Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Lauren Nelson is a Colorado Springs native and proud graduate of District 11 schools, including Palmer High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science in nutrition and food science from Colorado State University, concentrating in food science and food safety.

Appointed in June 2025 to represent District 1 on the El Paso County Board of Commissioners, she brings a blend of scientific training, practical leadership, and community engagement to the role. Previously, she served on the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education, where she championed academic growth, fiscal responsibility, and strong school-community partnerships.

Before entering public service, Commissioner Nelson worked as a food scientist in product development for six years, managing product launches and cross-functional teams for major corporations. She also remains active in the community as Assistant President of the Quaker Ridge Camp & Conference Center board, a children's Bible study teacher, and a violinist with the Pikes Peak Philharmonic.

Kristine Neumeister

Senior Research Associate
413, LLC

Kristine Bell Neumeister is a research associate with 413, LLC, a Women-Owned Small Business in Colorado Springs, and an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. She has more than eight years of experience studying history, domestic and transnational extremism, and national security issues. At 413, she supports Department of Defense and State Department contracts through mixed-methods research, OSINT, data collection and analysis, stakeholder engagement, and report writing, while also contributing to the company's infrastructure and consulting portfolios.

A Fulbright Scholar and fluent German speaker, Neumeister has conducted research across Europe and Africa on extremism, governance, and democracy. She has contributed to U.S. government security cooperation assessments and led project management initiatives, including supporting the design and compliance of a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) in partnership with the City of Colorado Springs.

Neumeister serves on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Springs World Affairs Council and is a frequent public speaker on global security issues, including far-right extremism and climate-related security risks.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Marla Novak

Executive Director
Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs

Marla Novak is the Executive Director of the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs (HBA), where she leads the organization's strategic vision, operations, and advocacy on behalf of the building industry. She has been with HBA since 2007, serving 17 years as Director of Government Affairs before stepping into the executive role in 2024. In that capacity, she worked extensively on public policy, regulatory issues, and political action initiatives, helping strengthen the voice of the housing industry across the region.

Beyond her work at HBA, Novak has owned J & M Cleaning, Inc. since 2003 and previously served as Purchasing Director at Copperleaf Homes and as a Colorado State Certified Lead Paint Inspector/Assessor. With a career spanning business ownership, housing policy, and industry advocacy, she brings a unique perspective to advancing housing affordability and responsible growth in the Pikes Peak region. Outside of work, Novak enjoys camping, gardening, and exploring Colorado's outdoors.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Lindsay Pack Moll

Chief Executive Officer
InnovaFlex Foundry

Lindsay Pack Moll is the Chief Executive Officer of InnovaFlex Foundry, where she leads with a blend of engineering expertise, global business experience, and a passion for innovation in manufacturing. She has held leadership roles across the public, private, and government sectors, bringing a unique perspective to delivering creative technological solutions.

Before joining InnovaFlex, Pack Moll managed global businesses with customers and manufacturing operations around the world for companies such as Philips and Becton Dickinson. With an engineering background and deep involvement in developing cutting-edge technologies, she has always emphasized the importance of integrating manufacturing capabilities into the product design process. She carried this expertise into her government service at the Food and Drug Administration, where she served as both a lead scientist and senior manufacturing engineering reviewer and spearheaded a reorganization focused on the total product lifecycle.

A graduate of Arizona State University, Pack Moll earned her bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering.

Committed to investing in her community and country, Lindsay serves on the boards of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC and the Colorado Advanced Manufacturing Association. Outside of her professional life, she is the proud mother of six boys and enjoys spending time with them on outdoor adventures.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Paul Palmer

Senior Broker
Olive Real Estate Group

Paul Palmer is a Senior Broker with Olive Real Estate Group, specializing in office and industrial leasing as well as investment sales. He is actively involved in some of the largest commercial projects in Colorado Springs, bringing expertise and a results-driven approach to each client engagement.

Before beginning his career in commercial real estate, Paul was a member of the U.S. National Kayaking Team and a National Champion. His athletic career took him around the world before he returned to Colorado to earn his bachelor's degree in business from Fort Lewis College.

Today, he combines his competitive spirit and global perspective with deep market knowledge to deliver value to clients and contribute to the growth of the Pikes Peak region.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Lee Patke

Executive Director
Greccio Housing

Lee Patke has served as Executive Director of Greccio Housing in Colorado Springs since 2010, leading the organization's mission to provide affordable housing and supportive services to individuals and families in the Pikes Peak region. With 30 years of experience in both corporate and nonprofit settings, he brings a career that spans business operations, strategic planning, workforce readiness, housing development, and program management.

Before joining Greccio, Patke spent 12 years with Griffith Centers for Children, where he worked as a wilderness-based therapist, program director, and later Chief Operating Officer. His leadership in housing and human services has made him a key voice in addressing affordable housing needs and strengthening collaborative solutions across El Paso County.

A member of the Pikes Peak Kiwanis Club for nearly 20 years, Patke also served for six years on the Board of Housing Colorado and five years on the Board of Innovations in Aging Collaborative and is the co-founder of the Affordable Housing Collaborative in El Paso County. He holds a B.A. from Sam Houston State University and an M.S. in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Lee and his wife, Laura, live in northern El Paso County, where they raised their four daughters. Together, they enjoy Colorado's outdoor lifestyle and remain deeply engaged in their community, having lived, worked, and volunteered in the Pikes Peak region for 25 years.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Vincent Persichetti

Vice President, Administration
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

Vincent “Vinnie” Persichetti serves as Vice President of Administration for the Colorado Springs Chamber & Economic Development Corporation, where he oversees the organization’s day-to-day operations and internal functions. In this role, he provides leadership across asset management, compliance, procurement, IT, finance, and office operations, ensuring the Chamber & EDC is well-positioned to fulfill its mission and values. Persichetti also works closely with the senior leadership team to set strategic goals and drive organizational effectiveness.

Before joining the Chamber & EDC, Persichetti served in the United States Air Force, retiring in 2017 as a Chief Master Sergeant after 30 years of distinguished service. His military career instilled in him a commitment to excellence, teamwork, and leadership that continues to guide his work in the business community today.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Rick Powers

Sr Vice President Weapon Systems Engineering
Davidson Technologies

Rick Powers serves as Senior Vice President of Weapon Systems Engineering at Davidson Technologies, where he leads programs supporting key customers including the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. Working closely with the executive leadership team, Powers has been with Davidson since 2011 and is responsible for expanding and advancing Davidson's engineering capabilities across the enterprise.

Powers began his career as a software engineer with Ferranti International Controls in Houston, Texas, developing Energy Management Systems and SCADA systems for large electrical utilities from 1986-1997. He went on to join MCI, where he managed multimillion-dollar IT and telecommunications projects and led software and database teams on complex development efforts. In 2002, Powers joined SPARTA Inc., where he led modeling and simulation software teams, most notably directing the Missile Defense Space Warning Tool (MDST) program on the JRDC. Since transitioning to Davidson Technologies in 2011, he has successfully led several high-profile defense programs while driving growth strategies for the Engineering Services organization.

Powers holds a Bachelor of Science in computer science and information science from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. With decades of leadership across software, defense, and aerospace industries, he continues to guide teams in delivering innovative solutions to meet national security and defense needs.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Roland Rainey, Jr

Colorado Springs City Councilmember
District 6

Councilmember Roland Rainey, Jr. is a senior defense industry executive, entrepreneur, professional football scout and broadcaster, and retired U.S. Air Force/Space Force Lieutenant Colonel. He holds master's degrees in international relations and counseling and leadership development from Troy University and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, respectively, as well as a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in human development and family studies. He also earned a Certificate in Entrepreneurship Essentials from Harvard Business School.

In addition to his City Council service, Rainey is a Commissioner on the Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission and has held leadership roles with the Colorado Springs World Affairs Council, CSU–Pueblo, and the El Paso County Citizen's Outreach Group.

A lifelong football enthusiast, he founded and operated the Colorado Springs Cyclones semi-professional football team from 2009–2018, mentoring young athletes while promoting the sport statewide. Rainey has worked with the San Francisco 49ers, Philadelphia Eagles, and Denver Broncos, and hosted the ESPN Denver 1600 talk show *The EXTRA Point*.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer

President & Chief Executive Officer
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer is the President & CEO of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC. She has a distinguished background in leadership roles, including serving as President and CEO of the Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Cincinnati, and holding leadership positions at Duke Energy, Citigroup, United Way of Greater Cincinnati in Ohio and Kentucky, the Obion County Chamber of Commerce and the Jackson Downtown Development Corporation in Tennessee.

Reeder Kleymeyer is a proud graduate of the University of Memphis (BA in Communications), Thomas More University (MBA), and attended the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute (OUEDI) where she earned a certificate in economic development from the International Economic Development Council.

As the inaugural President and CEO of REDI Cincinnati, Reeder Kleymeyer led a 15-county, three-state regional economic development organization. Under her leadership, REDI Cincinnati achieved over 175 project wins, created 25,000 jobs, and secured $1.4 billion in new capital investment within four years.

In 2022, she became the President & CEO of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, Southern Colorado's largest chamber of commerce and economic development organization. Since then, she has led major initiatives in aerospace and defense development, legislative advocacy, and has successfully overseen the securing of 34 economic development projects, creating over 5,000 jobs and attracting over $1.8 billion in capital investment with an average wage of $121,637.41.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Ingrid Richter

Broker & Developer
Olive Real Estate Group

Ingrid Richter is a commercial real estate broker and project management professional with more than 30 years of experience in real estate development, property management, and strategic business initiatives. Since joining Olive Real Estate Group in 2018, she has focused on property management, tenant representation, acquisitions, and the development of hospitality and mixed-use projects, while also providing consulting services across industries.

Over her career, Richter has secured approvals for more than 20 residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments and helped raise over $175 million in private capital to finance more than 30 projects. She has held leadership roles with the O'Neil Group Company, Catalyst Campus for Technology and Innovation, Paramount Group, Colorado Springs Utilities, and Oakwood Homes, among others.

A Colorado Springs resident for more than 35 years, Richter also has served on nonprofit boards including Partners in Housing and Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center, and was elected to the Manitou Springs City Council from 2010–2014.

Richter holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and a bachelor's in political science and government from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Beth Roalstad

Executive Director
Homeward Pikes Peak

Beth Roalstad has served as Executive Director of Homeward Pikes Peak since 2017, leading the organization's mission to provide pathways out of homelessness through housing, treatment, and supportive services. Under her leadership, Homeward Pikes Peak has expanded significantly, growing from serving 150 clients in 2016 to more than 800 in 2021, and more than doubling its budget through contracts, earned income, and philanthropy. Roalstad has spearheaded new initiatives including the organization's first Street Outreach program, expanded community-based treatment and transitional housing for women and families, and the development of its first permanent supportive housing apartment complex, launched with a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit award and groundbreaking in 2021.

Prior to joining Homeward Pikes Peak, Roalstad held leadership positions across the nonprofit sector, including Senior Vice President of Engagement at Pikes Peak United Way, Executive Director of the Innovations in Aging Collaborative, and Executive Director of the Women's Resource Agency.

She earned her Master of Social Work from the University of Denver in 2000 and a Bachelor of Science in political science from the State University of New York College at Oneonta in 1991. Roalstad also is a graduate of the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute (2014) and the Denver Community Leadership Forum (2005).

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Shannon Rogers

Business Engagement Executive
Kaiser Permanente

As a Business Engagement Executive with Kaiser Permanente, Shannon Rogers brings a passion for community health and collaboration to every partnership. A proud Colorado Springs native, her roots run deep in the region she serves. Before joining Kaiser Permanente, Rogers held leadership roles at UCCS and in the nonprofit sector, where she developed a strong commitment to community impact and advocacy.

Rogers currently serves on the Colorado Springs Senior Center Advisory Board and the Board of United Way of Pueblo County, supporting programs that strengthen families, seniors, and underserved communities. Outside of work, Rogers enjoys exploring Colorado's natural beauty with her husband and two amazing daughters. A travel enthusiast, adventurous cook who loves taking local cooking classes wherever she travels, and recent pickleball convert, she's always up for new adventures and opportunities to connect.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Margaret Sabin

President
Dochas Consulting

Margaret Sabin is President of Dochas Consulting, an entity she founded six years ago. She focuses on issues impacting children and youth, particularly mental health. The Irish translation of Dochas is “there is hope.”

With nearly 40 years of experience in healthcare administration, Sabin is a national leader in population health management and a pillar of the Colorado Springs healthcare community.

She joined Children’s Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs in 2018 and led the opening of its new 111-bed pediatric hospital and affiliated regional programs in May 2019. She recently transitioned to full time oversight of the pioneering program “Resilience for Healthy Kids” that she founded in 2018.

Prior to being named President of Children’s Colorado’s Southern Region, Margaret served as president and Chief Executive Officer of Penrose-St Francis Health Services in Colorado Springs, where she created a culture of high performance, leading to increased quality care for patients. Under her leadership, Penrose-St Francis was named one of Healthgrades America’s 50 Best Hospitals for 10 consecutive years. Sabin also has held three other CEO titles in her career.

Margaret earned her master’s degree in healthcare administration from George Washington University and her bachelor’s degree in biology/pre-med from Villanova University. She and her family have lived in Colorado Springs for over 13 years.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jared Schmidt

Market President
Central Bank

Jared Schmidt joined Central Bank in 2025 as Market President after a 17-year career with Key Bank, bringing experience in banking across retail leadership, cash management, commercial banking, and executive leadership to his new role.

Recognized for his collaborative approach, creative problem-solving, and results-driven leadership, Schmidt is dedicated to building strong relationships and fostering economic growth within the community.

A proud Colorado Springs native, Schmidt attended graduated from Air Academy High School and went on to swim for Metro State University where he was team captain and earned his bachelor's degree in history.

Blake Schwank

CEO and Co-Founder
CCS IT Pros Colorado Computer Support

Blake Schwank is the CEO and co-founder of Colorado Computer Support (CCS IT Pros), which he and his wife, Christie, launched in 2001. Based in Colorado Springs, CCS IT Pros provides IT services, cybersecurity solutions, and technology support for commercial and government organizations.

A Colorado Springs native who grew up on the Air Force Academy, Schwank graduated from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in 1988 and went on to serve 11 years as a U.S. Army Medical Service Corps Officer. After a role as IT Director in the private sector, he shifted his focus to building CCS IT Pros into a trusted technology partner for organizations that strengthen the community, including Mt. Carmel Veterans Service Center, Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC, and Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity.

Schwank is actively involved in Rotary and serves on the Pueblo Community College Health Information Technology Community Advisory Committee. He has also participated in international mission trips with VisionTrust International, deploying technology in Cambodia and the Dominican Republic to create new opportunities for children. He and Christie have two adult daughters who continue to live in Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Eric Scofield

Senior Vice President, Community Impact
Norwood Development Group

Eric Scofield serves as Senior Vice President of Community Impact for Norwood Development Group, where he leads the philanthropic and impact investment strategies of both Norwood Corporate and the Norwood Foundation. In this role, he is responsible for shaping and advancing initiatives that strengthen the economic vitality and quality of life in the Pikes Peak region. With a strong background in fundraising, board development, and community engagement, Scofield brings the expertise and vision necessary to expand the Foundation's impact and foster sustainable partnerships that benefit residents, businesses, and nonprofits alike.

Prior to joining Norwood, Eric built a distinguished career with Young Life, where he served as Principal Gifts Officer. There, he successfully led high-level fundraising initiatives, secured transformational gifts, and cultivated long-term relationships with donors and partners across the country. His work was instrumental in advancing the organization's global mission and strengthening its ability to serve youth and families.

A recognized leader in community impact, Scofield is deeply committed to building meaningful connections and championing collaborative efforts that drive positive change. His career reflects a consistent dedication to helping organizations grow, thrive, and deliver on their missions while creating opportunities for people to flourish.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Kathryn (Kat) Seibert

Occupational Therapist
Fitness to Drive

Kathryn “Kat” Seibert is a licensed occupational therapist and certified driver rehabilitation specialist with more than 30 years of experience in healthcare. A graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in occupational therapy, she has worked across inpatient, outpatient, home health, and managerial settings in both Colorado Springs and Denver.

Through the Fitness to Drive program, Seibert provides specialized assessments for older adults, individuals recovering from illness or injury who may require adaptive equipment, and young people with conditions that impact traditional driver education. Her work helps clients maintain safe mobility and independence while supporting families and communities through education and advocacy.

Kat and her husband, Tim, have been married for 30 years and have two adult children. In her free time, she enjoys playing tennis and mountain biking with Tim.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Tim Seibert

Sr. Vice President
Norwood Development Group

Tim Seibert serves as Senior Vice President at Norwood Development Group, where he provides strategic leadership for the company's expansive portfolio of master-planned communities. His work spans some of the region's most notable developments, including Wolf Ranch, Mesa Ridge, and more than 18,000 acres of future growth in the Banning Lewis Ranch area. With a background as the founder and principal of his own land planning and landscape architecture consulting firm, Seibert brings both entrepreneurial insight and deep technical expertise to his role in shaping the built environment of Colorado Springs.

A dedicated community leader, Seibert served as Board Chair of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC in 2024 and President of the Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association in 2016. He has been an active voice on numerous task forces and committees addressing land use, transportation, and economic development, helping guide policies and projects that advance regional prosperity. In recognition of his leadership, in 2019, Seibert was honored as a Colorado Governor's Fellow, a program that promotes engagement between the private sector, non-profits, and public agencies to ensure entrepreneurial leadership throughout the community and encourages leaders to become more engaged in the future of Colorado.

He and his wife, Kathryn, have two children, Emma and Jack. As a family, they share their passion for Colorado by enjoying the state's numerous outdoor activities.

Seibert earned his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Ball State University and his master's in urban and regional planning from the University of Colorado Denver.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Anne Marie Smith

CEO
Pikes Peak Association of Realtors

Anne Marie Smith serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Pikes Peak Association of Realtors (PPAR). With more than 45 years of experience in association management at PPAR, she brings unmatched knowledge of the organization's operations and strategic priorities.

In her role, Smith is instrumental in guiding the development of PPAR's long-term strategic plan, ensuring that the Association's mission, vision, and values are fully aligned with its initiatives. She also oversees day-to-day operations and management decisions, providing steady leadership to ensure the organization continues to serve its members and the community effectively.

Smith earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Julie Smyth

President
Pikes Peak Library District

Julie Smyth is President of the Board of Trustees for the Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD), which serves more than 650,000 residents across El Paso County. In this role, she helps guide policy, budgets, and strategic priorities for one of the nation's leading library systems. Under her leadership, the Board has advanced key initiatives to expand services and ensure equitable access, including the acquisition of two branch libraries to strengthen community reach.

A Colorado Springs resident since 1992, Smyth brings professional experience in publishing, nonprofits, and education. She holds a B.A. in Journalism and an M.A. in Applied Biblical Studies. She volunteers with local nonprofits, serves in youth and children's programs at her church, and enjoys mentoring, hiking, visiting museums, and attending cultural events. She also loves long walks with her adopted dog from the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Creed Spillane

Founder, Managing Broker, Realtor
Quantum Residential Group, LLC

Creed Spillane is the Founder and Managing Broker of Quantum Residential Group, LLC, a full-service real estate brokerage supporting builders, investors, sellers, and buyers across the Front Range. With over 21 years of experience, he has worked on projects ranging from custom residential and equestrian communities to retirement neighborhoods and commercial developments in the medical, retail, and hospitality sectors.

He began his career in sales and marketing at The Broadmoor Hotel, later joining the Broadmoor Development Company and contributing to luxury projects such as The Broadmoor Brownstones. He went on to help launch Flying Horse Realty in 2007 before co-founding Quantum Residential Group in 2016, where he has since led numerous successful developments.

Beyond real estate, Spillane is active in community service and currently serves as Board President of Bakhita Mountain Home, a nonprofit supporting survivors of human trafficking. He and his wife, McKae, are raising their five children in Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

David Sprenger

Senior VP of Government Affairs & Credit Union Advocacy
ENT Credit Union

David Sprenger serves as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and Credit Union Advocacy at Ent Credit Union, where he leads efforts to engage state and federal policymakers on legislation that supports credit union members and strengthens Colorado communities. He brings extensive experience in government relations and advocacy across higher education and healthcare, with a track record of building strong relationships with elected officials, launching advocacy ambassador programs, and guiding complex economic development initiatives.

A champion of the credit union movement, Sprenger is dedicated to advancing policies that protect members' financial interests and ensure the long-term strength of the industry. His collaborative, strategic approach reflects Ent's mission of improving financial well-being and supporting communities across Colorado.

Sprenger holds a master's degree in public policy from George Mason University and a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Regis University. Outside of work, he and his wife, Katie, enjoy camping, hiking, and fly fishing, and they love spending time with their young daughter, Ella Joy.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Kathy Stout

Executive Vice President
Central Bank

Kathy Stout's journey in the banking/mortgage industry began in 1994 as a loan originator in Colorado Springs. Since 1998, she has been a driving force in managing and building teams. Continuing to collaborate with many of the same team members today is a testament to the enduring power of culture and its ability to foster lasting professional relationships. Stout has been with Central Bank for eight years and was a pivotal member of the leadership team that successfully launched the Central Bank brand in Colorado.

Stout recently completed a master's degree in organizational and strategic communication at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. This academic journey, which she undertook to enhance her leadership and communication skills, was enriching and invigorating. It also solidified a passion for continuous learning and professional growth. Her commitment to staying updated with the latest industry trends and best practices is critical to her professional success. She hopes to inspire others to embrace a similar mindset.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Michelle Talarico

Co-Owner and Co-Founder
Picnic Basket Catering Collective

Michelle Talarico is Co-owner and Co-Founder of Picnic Basket Catering Collective, Cravings Five Star Events and Buffalo Gals Grilling Company. Alongside her partner, Kathy Dreiling, she has made a lasting social and economic impact through her catering businesses, which employs nearly 100 staff and has been consistently recognized as “Best in Catering” in Colorado Springs. Talarico has been a leader in the Colorado Springs community for over 36 years and served as the Colorado Springs City Councilmember for District 5 from 2023-25.

A Colorado College alum with a passion for community and service, Talarico has served on many non-profit boards including Colorado Springs Leadership Institute, Colorado Caterers Association, The International Caterers Association, Pikes Peak Hospice and Palliative Care and Care and Share. Talarico was recently named as a board member for We Fortify and named Board Chair for Visit Colorado Springs earlier this year.

Talarico is a 2002 graduate of the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute who was honored with CSLI’s 2024 Smith Tutt Positive Impact Award. She also was recognized by the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC's with the 2021 Athena Award which honors businesswomen for professional excellence, community service and mentorship of other women.

Talarico also is the proud mother of her son, Sam, a 2021 graduate of the University of Colorado Boulder.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jeff Thormodsgaard

Vice President of Government Affairs
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

Jeff Thormodsgaard brings over 15 years of experience in public policy, strategic advocacy, and government relations to his role as Vice President of Government Affairs at the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC. Before joining the Chamber & EDC, Thormodsgaard spent several years as a full-time rancher in Park County, raising cattle and managing land-use issues firsthand. His recent return to the professional world reflects his passion for advancing economic prosperity and rural resilience through policy.

Thormodsgaard previously served as a partner at Michael Best Strategies, where he advanced the business interests of more than 35 clients through proactive engagement with all levels of government. He also founded Precision Policy Group – leading efforts that resulted in the passage of over 200 policies – and was a longtime partner at Mendez Consulting, representing more than 60 clients across sectors.

A graduate of the University of Colorado Boulder with a degree in political science and constitutional law, Thormodsgaard was named to Denver Business Journal's "40 Under 40" list in 2018. In his current role, he leads the Chamber & EDC's policy strategy, oversees the Government Affairs Council, and advocates for a business-friendly environment across Southern Colorado.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Ryan Trujillo

Deputy Chief of Staff
City of Colorado Springs

Ryan Trujillo serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for the City of Colorado Springs, where he manages multiple city departments, strategic projects, and key initiatives in support of the Chief of Staff and Mayor's Office. Since joining the City in 2014, Trujillo has built a strong reputation as an innovative and solution-oriented leader. He previously served as Director of Support Services, overseeing the Office of Innovation, Facility Maintenance, Fleet Maintenance, and Office Services, and earlier as Innovation & Sustainability Manager, where he led the City's smart city and sustainability programs.

Before entering public service, Trujillo spent eight years in the private sector with Holcim, a global manufacturer, gaining experience in procurement, commodities, project management, and renewable energy. He began his career with the City as a Contract Compliance Manager, overseeing major citywide contracts before advancing into leadership roles.

Trujillo holds a B.A. in business administration from Colorado College and an MBA from Regis University. He serves on the Board and Executive Committee of the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance and is an honorary commander for the U.S. Air Force Academy. A Colorado native who grew up in Penrose, Ryan is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys spending time with his wife, Rhiannon, and their four children.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jared Verner

Public Policy & Communications Manager
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Jared Verner serves as the Public Policy and Communications Manager for the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), a regional planning organization addressing transportation, environmental, military, and aging-related issues across El Paso, Teller, and Park Counties. In his role, Verner leads the organization's communications strategy and supports policy initiatives that strengthen regional collaboration among local governments, community partners, and stakeholders.

With a background in public relations and communications, Verner brings experience in message development, stakeholder engagement, and media relations to his work at PPACG. He is committed to helping the region address cross-jurisdictional challenges through effective communication and public policy leadership.

A graduate of Northwest Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Verner previously worked as a deputy public information officer for El Paso County Public Health and as a director of communications for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Kathleen Walker

Retired Certified Appraiser

Kathleen H. Walker (Kathie) moved to Colorado Springs in 1979, raised four children, and contributed to the community through volunteer activities focused on their education and art enrichment. She continued her own education, earning an MBA from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and became a certified appraiser, working for the County Assessor's office from which she retired in 2024.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Kevin Walker

Planning Director
City of Colorado Springs

Kevin Walker is the Planning Director for the City of Colorado Springs, where he has provided strategic leadership for the city's long-range and current planning, land use, and development review efforts since 2024. Walker plays a pivotal role in guiding how one of the fastest-growing cities in Colorado will accommodate growth while protecting its unique character, ensuring thoughtful infrastructure investment, and supporting a high quality of life for residents.

With a master's degree in city planning from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, Walker brings both academic expertise and decades of practical experience in development services and community planning. His professional background includes extensive work with homeowner associations and developers throughout the Pikes Peak region, giving him a well-rounded perspective on the opportunities and challenges of sustainable growth.

A collaborative leader, Walker is committed to balancing economic vitality with livability, resilience, and environmental stewardship. Under his direction, Colorado Springs continues to shape its future with a focus on smart development, strong community partnerships, and a vision for a thriving, inclusive city.

Dr. Manya Whitaker

President
Colorado College

Dr. Manya Whitaker is the 15th President of Colorado College, officially appointed in June 2025 following a successful term as Interim President. During her interim tenure, she led the college through several key milestones, including achieving Carnegie's Research Colleges and Universities designation and exceeding major fundraising goals.

An educational psychologist by training, Dr. Whitaker has served Colorado College in numerous leadership roles over her 13-year tenure, including Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, Director of the Crown Faculty Center, Chair of the Education Department, and the David and Lucile Packard Professor of Education. Her leadership has consistently centered on academic excellence, equity, and institutional transformation.

Dr. Whitaker holds a Ph.D. in developmental psychology with a focus on urban education from Vanderbilt University and a B.A. in educational psychology from Dartmouth College. She is the author of four books and over 20 scholarly publications addressing public education, equity, and leadership. She is also the founder of Blueprint Educational Strategies, a consulting firm that supports equity-focused educational initiatives.

A nationally recognized voice in higher education, Dr. Whitaker writes regularly for *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on faculty development and academic leadership.

Holly Williams

Vice Chair and District 1 Commissioner
El Paso County Board of County Commissioners

Vice Chair Holly Williams was elected El Paso County Commissioner for District 1 in 2018 and began her second term on January 10, 2023. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and is a graduate of the Leadership Program of the Rockies.

Prior to serving as Commissioner, Williams was appointed by Governor Bill Owens to two terms as El Paso County Public Trustee. In that role, she was elected President of the Colorado Public Trustee's Association and successfully worked with the state legislature to advance reforms to foreclosure law.

A lifelong advocate of public service, Williams has been active in numerous community and political organizations, from Scouting and youth programs to serving as an officer in the Sunrise Republican Women's Club and holding leadership roles in the El Paso County Republican Party.

Williams moved to Colorado in 1992, where she and her husband, Wayne, raised their four children. In her free time, she enjoys playing the piano, often accompanying choirs and congregations, along with board games, traveling across Colorado, and serving in her church community as a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Wayne W. Williams

Attorney
Law Offices of Wayne Williams

Wayne W. Williams is a respected attorney and former public official with more than 20 years of leadership in Colorado government. Williams served as the 38th Secretary of State of Colorado from 2015 to 2019, overseeing major advancements in election security, business services, and digital innovation. He also launched the business portal mybiz.Colorado.gov and maintained some of the lowest filing fees in the nation.

Williams also served as El Paso County Clerk and Recorder from 2011-15 and as an El Paso County Commissioner from 2003-11. From 2019 to 2023, he was elected to the as an At-Large member to the Colorado Springs City Council and served as Chair of Colorado Springs Utilities from 2021-23, guiding initiatives in water management, infrastructure, and regional development.

Williams holds a B.A. in political science from Brigham Young University and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. He and his wife, Holly, are the parents of four children.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Brandon Wilson

Government Affairs Advisor
El Paso County

Wilson serves as an advisor on the El Paso County Government Affairs team, where he supports the Executive Director in advancing the County's priorities at both the state and federal level. He brings experience in project management from his work with a local nonprofit, where he assisted in planning and executing enterprise-level initiatives.

Wison holds a master's degree in public administration from California Baptist University and a bachelor's degree in history from George Fox University. A self-described "hunter in training," he enjoys spending time outdoors, hiking, trail running, and exploring Colorado with his wife, daughter, and two dogs.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Michele Wolfe

Large Group Sales Executive
Kaiser Permanente

Michele Wolfe serves as a Sales Executive in Large Group Sales for Kaiser Permanente in Colorado Springs, where she brings a wealth of experience in healthcare, insurance, and client relations. With a career built on expertise in Medicare, case management, managed care, and strategic planning, Wolfe is known for her ability to create customized solutions that support employers, employees, and families in accessing high-quality, affordable healthcare.

Her commitment to customer service and her consultative approach have helped her build trusted relationships across industries and within the community. Wolfe earned her Bachelor of Science in gerontology from the University of Northern Colorado, equipping her with a strong foundation in understanding the needs of diverse populations. Throughout her career, she has drawn on this background to align health services with the unique needs of clients and to advocate for comprehensive wellness and prevention strategies.

Passionate about service and impact, Wolfe continues to dedicate her professional expertise to advancing Kaiser Permanente's mission of improving the health of the communities it serves while helping organizations navigate the complex healthcare landscape with confidence.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Doug Woody

Vice President Project Development
Bryan Construction

Doug Woody is Vice President of Bryan Construction, bringing more than 30 years of experience in the construction industry. A Colorado native, he earned his degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University Pueblo and joined Bryan Construction in 2006. Over his tenure, Woody has held key leadership roles including Project Manager, Executive Manager of the Commercial Group, and now Vice President of Project Development.

Passionate about shaping the future of Colorado Springs, Woody is a graduate of Leadership Pikes Peak (2017) and has served on numerous local boards and committees, including the Colorado Springs Small Business Alliance, El Paso County Contractors, the Pikes Peak Business and Education Alliance, and the American Institute of Architects Mentorship Program.

Through his leadership at Bryan Construction, Woody has supported the community by helping deliver major projects for key clients across the region, leaving a lasting impact on the built environment of Colorado.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Jason Wulf

Manager of Special Projects
Adolfson & Peterson Construction

Jason Wulf serves as Manager of Special Projects for Adolfson & Peterson Construction, where he leads a team of construction professionals delivering projects that range from quick renovations to new builds valued up to $6 million. In just two years, he successfully grew his business unit's revenue by $15 million.

A leader committed to innovation and collaboration, Wulf was selected early in his career to join the Colorado Association of General Contractors (AGC) Future Leaders Forum and recently completed the AGC Executive Leadership Academy. He has also been deeply involved with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Colorado, serving on the state board of directors as well as in leadership roles for the Southern Committee, including Chair and Education Chair.

Wulf holds a Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering from Texas Tech University and is a LEED Accredited Professional (BD+C). Guided by honesty, integrity, and a problem-solving mindset, he is dedicated to building strong relationships and delivering lasting value to clients and communities.

Tamara Wulf

Senior Deliverability Consultant
Adobe

Tamara Wulf brings more than 15 years of expertise in email marketing, deliverability, segmentation, personalization, CRM, and loyalty campaigns including six years in her current role as a senior deliverability consultant for Adobe.

Known for fostering strong client and vendor relationships, she is recognized across the industry as a trusted partner in building effective digital communications strategies.

Before joining Adobe in 2019, Wulf held leadership roles at Ansira and Meredith Xcelerated Marketing, where she managed large-scale email campaigns and directed deployment operations. Her career began in data and program analysis, giving her a ground-up understanding of the technical and strategic sides of marketing operations.

Wulf earned a Bachelor of Science in audiology and speech-language pathology from Texas Tech University.

Colorado Springs CHAMBER & EDC™

ATTENDEE BIOS

Bill Wysong

District 3 Commissioner
El Paso County Board of County Commissioners

Commissioner Bill Wysong was elected to the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners in November 2024 and began serving District 3 in January 2025. His district spans much of western El Paso County, including westside and downtown Colorado Springs, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Monument, Palmer Lake, and surrounding unincorporated areas.

A U.S. Navy veteran and career business leader, Wysong earned his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Oregon and MBA from the University of Phoenix. Wysong has worked as a product manager, water solutions executive, home inspector, and small business owner. After losing his home in the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, he became a passionate advocate for wildfire evacuation planning, land use, and responsible growth. He founded Westside Watch, a Wildland-Urban Interface coalition, and previously served as president of the Mountain Shadows Community Association.

As commissioner, Wysong focuses on public safety, sustainable development, and preserving the quality of life in El Paso County. He also serves on numerous regional boards and committees, including the Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Authority, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, and the Fountain Creek Watershed District.