



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.



Cory Applegate

*Commissioner
El Paso County*

Commissioner Cory Applegate serves District 4 on the Board of County Commissioners. His district encompasses southern and eastern El Paso County, including portions of the City of Colorado Springs, the entire City of Fountain, and unincorporated areas south of Highway 94 such as Security/Widefield, Hanover, Rush, Ellicott, and Yoder. This district is also home to three strategically significant military installations: US Army Fort Carson, Peterson Space Force Base, and Schriever Space Force Base.

Cory moved to Fountain, Colorado in 2005. Elected in November 2024, Cory is the youngest known elected Commissioner in El Paso County history. As a journeyman electrician with ten years' experience in code and commercial construction and maintenance, Cory has a deep understanding of the impacts of regulation and policy on development. His priorities are public safety and infrastructure.

Prior to his election to the Board of County Commissioners, Cory served as a member of the Fountain City Council and was a member of the Fountain Planning Commission. He enjoys outdoor sports in his spare time, including hunting, fishing, archery, and recreational shooting. He is a member of Restoration Church in Colorado Springs.



Michael “Patrick” Barrett

*Vice President of Strategic Growth
OMNI Federal*

Patrick Barrett is Omni Federal’s Vice President of Strategic Growth and is responsible for strategy development, opportunity identification, and stakeholder engagement. He joined Omni Federal in 2024. In addition, he teaches Business Development for Shipley Associates. He is passionate about using commercially rooted technology and best practices to solve hard problems for the government. Patrick served as Infinity Systems Engineering’s Vice President of Partnerships and Innovation from January 2023 to July 2024 and was responsible for strategy development, opportunity identification, capture management, proposals, and customer outreach.

He spent the previous two years as the CEO of the Catalyst Campus for Technology and Innovation in Colorado Springs, where he led the notable non-profit to substantial top-line revenue growth, successfully executed a national expansion, and delivered an economic impact of over \$540M in the communities served.

In addition to his time with Catalyst Campus, Patrick spent over 23 years with Lockheed Martin in positions ranging from operations management, engineering management and business development. Patrick’s zeal for volunteering and community service is a great compliment to Omni Federal’s culture of giving back and making a difference.

A graduate of the University of Washington, Patrick has a BS in Industrial Engineering, and an MS in Management Information Technology and an MBA from Colorado Technical University.



Alex Baum

Analyst
Arbor Realty Trust

Alex Baum is a Senior Analyst at Arbor Realty Trust, where he works across debt and equity capital markets as well as real estate underwriting. He is a graduate of Lehigh University, where he studied finance with a concentration in real estate, and is based in New York City.



Garrett Baum

*Managing Partner
Urban Frontier*

Garrett Baum is Managing Partner and Founder of Urban Frontier, developers of master planned mixed use communities with an emphasis on business parks. Urban Frontier has developed more than 5,000 acres, including thousands of residential lots. More than 15,000,000 square feet of commercial office, industrial, retail, healthcare and hospitality have been developed in Urban Frontier projects.



Jordon Baum

Asset Management, Acquisitions, Development
Urban Frontier

Jordon Baum serves as Senior Asset Manager and Acquisitions Associate for Urban Frontier, with over 6.5 million square feet of commercial office assets under management.



Rachel Beck

*Executive Director
Colorado Chamber Foundation*

Rachel leads public policy and economic development initiatives in Colorado, bringing together diverse stakeholders to build consensus on community issues for 25 years.

Rachel's work has included building local, state, and federal business advocacy programs for membership organizations; steering infrastructure and governance campaigns to success at the ballot box; and managing complex community-building projects.

She currently serves as the executive director of the Colorado Chamber Foundation, where she is responsible for executing a 10-year strategic plan for improving Colorado's economy and business climate, and overseeing the organization's civic and leadership programs.

Rachel was named one of Colorado Politics' dozen nonpartisan statewide leaders to watch. She holds a master's degree in political management from the George Washington University and an MBA from the University of Colorado.



Renee Behr

Real Estate Broker

Behr & Behr of the Platinum Group Realtors

Renee Behr is a co-founder of the Behr & Behr Family Real Estate Team, a top-performing, referral-based team serving Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region. Alongside her husband Ed and their family, Renee brings decades of experience, market expertise, and a deeply personal approach to helping clients navigate one of life's most meaningful decisions—home.

Known for her integrity, thoughtful communication, and attention to detail, Renee believes real estate is about far more than transactions. It's about relationships, trust, and guiding people through seasons of change with care and confidence. Her background in leadership, community involvement, and advocacy allows her to serve clients with both professionalism and heart.

Renee is passionate about community, family, and creating spaces where people feel supported and at home. Whether working with first-time buyers, seasoned sellers, investors, or families navigating transitions, she is committed to delivering excellence, clarity, and peace of mind every step of the way.



Robert Beletic

*Aerospace and Defense Industry Manager
State of Colorado*

Robert “Surf” Beletic serves as the Aerospace and Defense Industry Champion on the Governor of Colorado’s economic development team, an Adjunct Professor for the U.S. Air Force Academy, and a kitesurfing instructor. For fun and charity, he founded and directs the annual USAF Heritage four-day bicycle ride, raising money for wounded Airmen and Guardians.



Carl Beyer

*MEP Estimator
DPR Construction*

Carl Beyer is an MEP Estimator with DPR Construction and serves as DPR's Advanced Technology Core Market Lead for the Mountain States region. Based in Colorado, Carl supports preconstruction and project development for technically complex facilities, with a particular focus on advanced manufacturing, aerospace and defense, data centers, and other mission-critical environments.

Carl's experience in the aerospace and advanced technology sectors includes facilities featuring high-bay manufacturing spaces, SCIF environments, accredited secure spaces, central utility plants, laboratories, cleanrooms, and other highly specialized technical infrastructure. Throughout his career, he has supported the planning, design, estimating, and construction of complex projects requiring stringent operational, security, reliability, and constructability considerations.

A licensed Professional Engineer in Colorado, Carl brings more than a decade of experience spanning engineering, design-build, construction, and preconstruction. This diverse background enables Carl to bridge technical design, construction strategy, cost, and constructability while collaborating with owners, designers, and trade partners to deliver complex projects.



Brad Bird

Owner/Manager

Millennium Commercial Real Estate, LLC

Brad T. Bird has personally negotiated and closed over 7,000,000 square feet of transactions valued at nearly \$1 billion in the past 15 years. With an extensive list of clients that include Fortune 500 companies as well as prominent regional and local businesses, Brad has a trusted reputation and history of performance that positions him as one of the premier brokers and advisors in the market.



Scott Bryan

CEO

Bryan Construction

Scott is currently the CEO of Bryan Construction. Bryan Construction is a leading Colorado-based commercial, federal, and multi-family construction company. The company constructs multi-million-dollar projects for the private, public, and federal sectors.

Scott also owns and operates Prima Development Inc., a commercial development company, and is co-partner in the Ponderosa Valley Ranch, a 2,400-acre ranch in the Spanish Peaks area in Southern Colorado, where they run a cow-calf and hay operation.

Scott served two terms as Chairman of the Board of the Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Before this, he was the chair of the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee. He is involved in the Quality Community Group and the Regional Coalition for Strategic Federal Action (mPAC), which he founded and is an executive board member.

He is also active in the Pikes Peak Range Riders, Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo (past president), Pikes Peak or Bust Foundation, The Colorado Thirty Group, East Colorado Springs Rotary, Associated General Contractors, and the Society of American Military Engineers. Other interests include horseback riding, team roping, skiing, fly fishing, hunting, cycling, scuba diving, sailing, and flying.



Nathaneal Bryant

*Director of Business Development
Persistent Systems, LLC*

Nate Bryant is a Director of Business Development at Persistent Systems, LLC on the US Army and SOCOM team focused on US Army infrastructure, the Army Portfolio Acquisition Executive & Capability Program Executive Offices.

With a master's of strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College, a master's in acquisition and contract management from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Bachelor of Science in biology from Appalachian State University, Nate brings over 32 years of decorated service with the U.S. Army, both as a Retired Colonel and civil servant, specializing in defense acquisition, program, and contract management. In his most recent role at the U.S. Army Contracting Command - Redstone Arsenal, Nate served as a Senior Strategic Advisor, providing expert guidance on major defense acquisition programs and complex contracting matters.

Nate is passionate about putting cutting edge technology and capabilities into the hands of Warfighters, fostering collaboration across unique teams, and leveraging his deep expertise to help organizations achieve their pinnacle of success.



Dean Bucher

*General Manager, Space Enterprise and Warfighting Division
The Aerospace Corporation*

Dean Bucher is the general manager of the Space Enterprise and Warfighting Division at The Aerospace Corporation. In this role, he leads Aerospace's support to the United States Space Force (USSF) Combat Forces Command, Space Training and Readiness Command, Space Warfighting Analysis Center, U.S. Space Command, and the USSF Component Field Commands.

In his current role, Bucher and his division serve as technical advisors for force enhancement and mission requirements, providing space and technical leadership for science and technology planning, requirements analysis, architecture trade studies, test and evaluation planning and execution, and mission operations to include the integration of space capabilities into wargames and exercises.

Previously, Bucher served as principal director of the Operational Test and Training Infrastructure Directorate at Aerospace, where he led the corporation's support to the USSF Program Executive Officer responsible for integrating and synchronizing the acquisition, development, and sustainment of integrated test and training capabilities for delivery to USSF warfighters.

He also previously served as the principal director of the Digital Engineering Integration Office, where he led Aerospace's digital engineering (DE) transformation and was responsible for providing strategic direction to all corporately funded DE initiatives.

Over his career, Bucher has provided technical leadership across a range of customer organizations, including the USSF, Air Force, the Intelligence Community, and NASA.



Brian Burns

President

Bryan Construction

Brian Burns serves as President at Bryan Construction, a 100% employee-owned company. Bryan Construction operates out of its offices in Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Huntsville, Alabama, and an international office in Istanbul. The company constructs a variety of diversified projects for the private, public, and federal sectors throughout the western United States, Caribbean, Middle East, eastern Europe, and Africa.

Brian brings more than 30 years of experience in the construction industry. In his roles at Bryan Construction, he has managed everything from operations and pre-construction to finance, legal, risk, and strategic planning. Under Brian's leadership, Bryan Construction has grown to be one of the largest employee-owned companies in Colorado.

Brian currently serves as Vice Chair of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC's Executive Committee and is a member of the Titan's Economic Development Council. Brian is the past chair and serves with Metro Board of the YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region, along with being the past Chair of Associated General Contractors for Southern Colorado. Lastly, he served on the Board of Directors for Diversus Health from 2022-2025.

Brian graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Colorado State University, with whom Bryan Construction often partners to provide internships and career opportunities for the newest members of the AEC industry.



Justin Burns

Broker
CBRE

Justin Burns is a Broker with CBRE, providing advisory services, leasing and sales of commercial real estate throughout Southern Colorado. He also serves as a Producer with Leavitt Group of Colorado, following the successful merger of his independent agency, Strategic Insurance, with the Leavitt Group in May 2026. With more than two decades of experience spanning commercial real estate, insurance, strategic planning, community development, and telecommunications WAN and technology solution sales, Justin brings a broad, consultative perspective to helping organizations identify opportunities, manage risk, and achieve long-term success.

Throughout his career, Justin has focused on connecting people, businesses, and communities to opportunities that drive growth and meaningful impact. His unique combination of commercial real estate expertise, insurance advisory experience and telecommunications consulting background enables him to help clients navigate complex business decisions with a strategic and solutions-oriented approach.

Justin is also actively involved in civic and nonprofit leadership across the Pikes Peak region, contributing to economic development, housing initiatives, and community-building efforts. His passion for placemaking, collaboration, and regional advancement continues to shape his work as a trusted advisor, connector, and advocate for sustainable growth throughout Southern Colorado.

Justin is excited to serve as the 2026-27 Chair of the Government Affairs Council for the CSCEDC.



Ernest Campos

*Senior Account Executive, Space Programs
American Systems Corporation*

Ernie Campos is the Senior Account Executive for Space Programs at American Systems Corporation, a Chantilly, Virginia-based, employee-owned provider of information technology, engineering, and mission support services to federal defense and intelligence customers. In this role, he supports the company's growing Colorado Springs presence, connecting American Systems' cybersecurity and IT engineering capabilities with the region's space and national security programs.

Ernie brings more than 30 years of experience in cybersecurity and complex computing solutions to the role. He previously served as a Corporate Senior Manager, Global Chief Information Security Officer, and Cybersecurity Scientist at L3Harris Technologies, where he was Program CISO for the U.S. Space Force MOSSAIC program. He also co-founded and served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Incline Cyber Solutions, LLC, and was a Public-Sector Practice Principal at Hewlett-Packard. Over his career he has supported federal organizations including the White House, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, the National Counterterrorism Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of State.

Prior to entering industry, Ernie served 11 years in the U.S. Air Force, including as a Senior Information Systems Technology Lead with the White House Communications Agency. He holds a Master of Science in Information Systems Technology with an emphasis in Cybersecurity from The George Washington University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from National-Louis University, along with certifications including CISSP, PMP, C|CISO, and ITIL.



Craig Carle

*Vice President of Membership, Marketing and Events
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC*

Craig Carle is proud to serve with the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, where he focuses on building meaningful relationships with businesses, community leaders, and partners throughout the region. His work centers on connecting people, creating opportunities for engagement, and helping businesses feel supported and connected to the broader Colorado Springs community.

His background includes leadership, sales, relationship development, and team building. Throughout his career, Craig has been passionate about bringing people together, developing strong teams, and creating momentum around shared goals.

Craig believes the best results come from strong relationships and a genuine investment in people. He is grateful for the opportunity to use that experience to support members, celebrate the businesses that make our community special, and contribute to the continued growth of Colorado Springs.



Greg Cerbana

*Vice President, Public Relations and Government Affairs
Weidner Apartment Homes*

Greg Cerbana has been in the residential property management industry for over three decades and oversees the Public Relations Department as well as heads up the state and federal Government Affairs efforts for Weidner Apartment Homes.

Greg leads Weidner's efforts to advance and support housing policy at both the national as well as the local levels that result in the production and acquisition of multi-family housing. Greg is a member of the Board of Directors of both the National Apartment Association (NAA) as well as its Education Institute (NAAEI), and is a sought-after speaker for housing policy discussions. He is a founding board member and past president of the Washington Multi-Family Housing association and was honored by that organization in 2023 with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

As the company has grown, Greg was asked to oversee corporate giving and Dean Weidner's philanthropic investments. He is currently administering a \$20M pledge to address the challenges of homelessness in Anchorage, Alaska. As a result of this work, Greg is the current Vice Chair of the Anchorage Homeless Leadership Council, and is a former board member of the Anchorage Affordable Housing Land Trust.

He is a graduate of Seattle University, an avid motorcycle rider, a Paul Harris fellow for his local Rotary club, 34-year husband to Sloane, father of four and an avid fan of the Colorado Springs Switchbacks FC.



Ginger Chinn

*Manager, State & Local Government Relations and Legislative Affairs
Northrop Grumman*

Ginger Chinn is a connector, problem-solver, and advocate for businesses and communities. She's currently doing Government Relations at Northrop Grumman, where she helps bridge the gap between the aerospace and defense industry and state and local governments. She's passionate about creating opportunities that support businesses, economic growth, and workforce development.

Before joining Northrop Grumman, Ginger was the Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs at the Salt Lake Chamber, where she worked on big-picture policies to help Utah's economy thrive. She also spent time at the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), leading efforts to support both urban and rural businesses.

With a master's degree from Colorado State University in organizational leadership, Ginger has always been drawn to the intersection of business and policy. She is all about bringing people together to find solutions, whether it's advocating for businesses, strengthening Utah's workforce, or making sure good policies get the attention they deserve.



Lesley Conn

*Director of Strategic Insights
Space Foundation*

Lesley Conn is director of Strategic Insights at Space Foundation. She oversees content for white papers and other analysis focusing on the global space economy, investment, space infrastructure and national security.

She and her research team produce an annual analysis of the global space economy, which has been a foundational analysis for the space industry since 2006.

Prior to joining Space Foundation in 2019, Conn was an editor and writer at Gulfstream Aerospace.

She continues to maintain an active real estate license with Pikes Peak Association of Realtors.



Travas Deal

CEO

Colorado Springs Utilities

Travas Deal's distinguished professional and military career spans over three decades, during which he has served in various roles and industries. His career is defined by public service and a commitment to community and country.

Following a national search, Deal was selected as CEO on Feb. 23, 2023. He served as Chief Operations Officer before his role as CEO.

As CEO of Colorado Springs Utilities – one of the few four-service, municipally owned utilities in the nation – he is responsible for more than 2,000 employees and the safe and reliable operation of electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater services. Deal is also responsible for those services provided to five key military installations in the service territory.

Some of the notable accomplishments under Deal's leadership include: approval of the organization's five-year financial plan (2025-2029) to support significant system improvements and maintenance to meet regulations, customer needs and service reliability; the safe demolition of the coal-fired Martin Drake Power Plant in downtown Colorado Springs; commissioned additional natural gas and renewable electric generation; and more.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and worked at Toyota Motor Manufacturing and Duke Energy before joining Colorado Springs Utilities in 2017.

Deal holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Oakland City University.



Stacey DeFore

*Government Relations
Lockheed Martin*

Stacey DeFore serves in the role of Principal Stakeholder Engagement & Government Relations with Lockheed Martin Space, aligning customer and stakeholder engagement with strategic priorities across national security, civil and commercial space. Her work brings together government, industry, academia and communities to strengthen the partnerships, workforce and infrastructure needed to support NASA, NOAA, DoW and DoE missions.

With experience spanning industry, higher education and government, Stacey has focused extensively on building public-private partnerships and connecting state and regional capabilities to national priorities.



Dave Deist

*Senior Vice President, Space and Air Enterprises
Sigmatech, Inc.*

Dave Deist is a Senior Vice President, Space and Air Enterprise Division at Sigmatech.

Dave oversees the operations and expansion of the Sigmatech Space and Air Enterprise Division (SAED). This division provides advisory and assistance services (A&AS) and systems engineering and technical assistance (SETA) to key U.S. Space Force entities, including Space Force Headquarters, Space Systems Command (SSC), Space Training and Readiness Command (STARCOM), and Space Operations Command (SPoC). His leadership focuses on delivering low-risk solutions within the aerospace and defense sectors, leveraging extensive experience in space operations and aviation.

Prior to his current role, Dave managed programs at the National Security Space Institute, contributing to governmental operations within the federal industry. Dave also owns and operates a Jimmy John's franchise, demonstrating entrepreneurial capabilities and business management skills in the restaurant sector. Dave holds a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School and a master's from the U.S. Army War College, alongside an associate's degree from Charis Bible College.



Stan “Scott” Diamanti

*Senior Program Manager
Leidos*

Scott Diamanti is a Senior Program manager with Leidos, overseeing operations, maintenance and sustainment (OM&S), correlation and fusion, modeling modernization through sustainment and missile warning associated capabilities. He currently oversees the Missile Warning/Missile Track Enhancement (MW/MT), Software Analysis and Modularization (SAM), and Thule Radar Support Programs for Leidos. Scott has served in Program Management, Capture Management and Business Development roles over the last 7 years with Leidos.

Scott started his career in 1983 after joining the United States Marine Corps as a logistics technician for 3 years. Scott transitioned from the USMC to the Air force enlisted ranks and worked as an Electronic Warfare Technician on B-52G aircraft for over 8 years. After finishing his degree, he was commissioned through Officer Training School and became a communications and cyber officer culminating in a career of over 35 years of service. He has extensive experience working with Republic of South Korea, Saudi Arabian and Canadian Government and Military leaders.

Scott has been married to his Air Force Technical School sweetheart for over 39 years and has four children and seven grandchildren.



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, Jim 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, Jim 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.



Thomas Dickson

*President
Auria*

As President, Tom leads Auria's vision, growth, and expansion through product market penetration, innovative new products, program wins, and M&A activities.

Previously, Tom spent 12 years as President of Boecore (now Auria) and has held numerous other leadership positions, helping the company grow more than 700% during his tenure. Earlier in his career, he architected and built large-scale software systems for both the Department of Defense and the commercial sector, including operational space domain awareness systems, large-scale missile defense and army simulations, and enterprise telecom management systems.

Tom earned his Physics degree from the University of Texas at El Paso.



Trevor Dierdorff

*Founder, CEO
Amnet*

Trevor Dierdorff is a lifelong learner, entrepreneur, and community leader dedicated to building strong organizations and an even stronger Colorado Springs. As Founder and CEO of Amnet, an award-winning IT and cybersecurity firm he launched at age 26, Trevor has spent more than 27 years cultivating a people-first culture grounded in integrity, trust, and continuous learning. Under his leadership, Amnet has earned numerous accolades, including 13 Best IT Support Company awards from the Colorado Springs Business Journal and multiple BBB Excellence in Customer Service honors.

Beyond business, Trevor is deeply committed to service and leadership development. As President of the Rotary Club of Colorado Springs (2025-2026), he has championed impactful community collaborations, including the renovation of the historic Acacia Park Bandshell and initiatives that expand technology access for families in need. He has also spent more than a decade mentoring young people, supporting underserved and incarcerated youth, and strengthening civic organizations that help Colorado Springs thrive. Trevor is the Founder and President of Peak Executive Forum, where he has spent more than ten years cultivating peer learning among mid-market business leaders. He also serves as Dean of the NSA Colorado Speakers Academy and Chairman of Southern Colorado Youth for Christ, supporting mentorship and reintegration for high-risk youth.

Trevor has two daughters, two granddaughters, and one grandson, and has been happily married to Tarah since 2003. They reside in picturesque Colorado Springs with their spirited dog, Ajax.



Dave Donelson

*City Councilman
City of Colorado Springs*

Dave Donelson brings the leadership of an Army Officer, the problem-solving approach of a Green Beret, and the business experience of a Clinic Director to Colorado Springs City Council.

Dave and his wife Holly moved to Colorado Springs 30 years ago and raised their two children there. Dave served his country for 21 years in the US Army - first in Military Intelligence as a Russian Linguist, then in the Green Berets as a Special Forces Medical Sergeant, and finally as a Commissioned Officer and Physician Assistant. He is an Iraq War veteran with three one-year deployments to Iraq. He also served one year in the Republic of Korea and six months at the US Embassy in Kazakhstan (among other deployments). He retired from the Army in 2010 after reaching the rank of Major.

After retiring from the Army, Dave continued to serve the citizens of Colorado Springs as a Physician Assistant at Peterson AFB Flight Medicine, then a small Urgent Care, and finally as the Center Director for a Men's Health Clinic.

Dave has a BA in Political Science from the University of New Mexico, and a BS in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska School of Medicine. He has also been a Paramedic and a Wilderness Guard. He is a member of the Special Forces Association, Pikes Peak Road Runners, and Knights of Columbus (among other organizations). He and his wife Holly are members of Corpus Christi Catholic Church.



Lukasz Dubaj

*Business Development Executive
Mortenson*

Lukasz Dubaj is a Business Development Executive in Mortenson's Denver office, bringing more than 15 years of experience spanning field operations, project delivery, and strategic business development. He leads Mortenson's Advanced Industries market sector in Colorado, with a focus on aerospace and defense, advanced manufacturing, and mission-critical facilities. Known for translating client objectives into executable strategies, Lukasz specializes in building strong relationships, identifying emerging opportunities, and connecting clients with tailored solutions that drive successful outcomes. Most recently, he has helped position and secure major opportunities for Mortenson, including a mission-critical facility in Colorado Springs and the Redtail Ridge development in Louisville.

Lukasz is actively engaged in industry and community leadership, serving on the boards of the Aurora Economic Development Council and ACE Mentoring of Colorado. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.



Dustin Engelhardt

*Account Executive, Huntsville
American Systems Corporation*

Dustin Engelhardt is an Account Executive at American Systems Corporation, based in Huntsville, Alabama, where he supports the company's business development work with U.S. Army aviation and vertical lift customers.

Prior to joining American Systems, Dustin spent two years at Palantir Technologies as an Army Aviation Account Executive. Earlier in his career, he was senior manager of business development for Air Launched Effects at Collins Aerospace, where he helped lead early flight testing of the company's RapidEdge mission system in support of the Army's Air Launched Effects program. His background also includes work supporting U.S. Army aviation modernization efforts, including the Aviation Platforms Requirements Determination Directorate and the Army's Future Vertical Lift program office.

Engelhardt holds a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



Chris Farris

*Operations Lead
Infinity Labs*

Chris Farris is an accomplished leader in the defense and government contracting community with more than 20 years of experience spanning project management, business development, and technical operations. He has managed major defense programs such as CIMS II, CIMS III, C2BMC, RTC, and GMD, leading cross-functional teams in delivering solutions that advance mission objectives. His work has supported organizations including the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC), the Aviation and Missile Center (AvMC), the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Throughout his career, Chris has consistently applied earned value management practices, technical expertise, and mission-focused leadership to deliver results on complex, high-visibility efforts. His professional foundation was forged in the U.S. Army, where he served as an Infantryman with the 75th Ranger Regiment. The discipline, integrity, and commitment he developed as an Army veteran continue to guide his career and leadership today. As the Operations Lead for the South at Infinity Labs, Chris focuses on strengthening regional growth, developing customer relationships, and enabling teams to deliver innovative solutions that advance the missions of our defense partners.



Jeff Finn

*Senior Vice President
Norwood Development Group*

Jeff Finn leads vertical real estate development activities for Norwood Development Group across the Pikes Peak Region, with a focus on urban infill, mixed-use, hospitality, multifamily and commercial development. His work spans the full development lifecycle, from feasibility, entitlements and capital formation through design, construction, leasing and long-term asset strategy. Jeff has helped advance some of the region's most significant development initiatives and projects by bringing together private investment, public partners, civic institutions and operators to move complex projects from vision to reality.

Jeff's work is rooted in the long-term growth and economic vitality of the Pikes Peak Region. Beyond individual projects, he works at the intersection of real estate, economic development and community building, helping create places that attract investment, businesses, residents and visitors while strengthening the identity and competitiveness of our region.



Mike Francolino

*Chief Customer & Enterprise Services Officer
Colorado Springs Utilities*

Mike Francolino serves as Chief Customer & Enterprise Services Officer for Colorado Springs Utilities, where he leads Economic Development, Customer Services, Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Supply Chain functions. With more than 30 years of global leadership experience spanning telecommunications, water utilities, and the Testing & Certification industry, Mike brings a unique blend of private-sector expertise and public-service leadership.

Throughout his career, Mike has been recognized for building high-performing teams, strengthening organizational capabilities, and developing strategic partnerships that deliver lasting value. His extensive background in global supply chain management and complex operations has enabled him to lead transformational initiatives that enhance operational resilience, improve customer experiences, and support long-term organizational success.

In his current role, he is committed to advancing technology, strengthening cybersecurity, enhancing essential utility services, and supporting economic development efforts that contribute to the vitality and prosperity of the Pikes Peak region.

Mike holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and an MBA from Seton Hall University. He lives in Colorado Springs with his wife and two children and is proud to support the community he serves both professionally and personally.



Jenifer Furda

Director of Community Engagement, Local Governmental and Military Liaison

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Jenifer is the Director of Community Engagement, Local Governmental and Military Liaison for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. She has a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. Jenifer has held previous leadership positions at the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Springs Business Journal, National Cybersecurity Center and Kaiser Permanente Colorado. She has served on numerous boards and committees and currently serves on the Downtown Partnership, Pikes Peak or Bust Foundation and Convention and Visitors Bureau Boards.

Jenifer's awards and achievements include: Colorado Springs Business Journal's "Forty Achievers Under 40" ('00), Leadership Pikes Peak Class ('07), Colorado Performance of Excellence Examiner ('09), Colorado Springs Business Journal's "Women of Influence" ('09), Colorado Springs Leadership Institute ('11), Western Association of Chamber Executives Staff Person of the Year ('12), Leadership Ft Carson ('13), Media Station Manager of the Year ('15), Rising Stars Mentor of the Year ('16), Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction ('16), Spirit of the Springs ('23), Cheyenne Mountain HS Athletic Parent of the Year ('23), and UCCS Gateway Program Seminar Teacher of the Year ('24).



Carrie Geitner

*Commissioner
El Paso County*

Commissioner Carrie Geitner was sworn in as the District 2 Commissioner on January 12, 2021. District 2 extends from east side Colorado Springs neighborhoods through Cimarron Hills, Falcon, Peyton, Calhan and Ramah.

Commissioner Geitner believes our collective responsibility is to build our community to fulfill the needs of one another. With a background in communications and outreach, Geitner hopes to build stronger relationships with the community and build trust in local government.

She is the first college graduate in her family, receiving her degree from the University of Central Florida. Shortly after college Geitner met and married her husband, Army Officer and former State Representative Tim Geitner. Together they have two sons.

She spent several years in fundraising and community outreach for non-profit organizations including hospice and a school for the blind. She also worked to establish non-profit status and served as president of a newly formed foundation created to support military families and honor fallen soldiers through a memorial wall and park.

In 2020, Commissioner Geitner founded a charter school in District 2 and serves as the board president. She also owned and operated a small business.



Nathan Gorsch

*Executive Director for Innovation
Colorado Springs School District 11*

Nathan has spent the last couple of decades in education in Colorado Springs. He has been a teacher, coach, middle school assistant principal, high school assistant principal, and high school principal and is now Executive Director for Innovation for Colorado Springs School District 11. He has also worked in Widefield, Fountain-Fort Carson and Academy School District 20.

Nathan recently helped launch a new innovation school, Colorado Springs School of Technology, in partnership with industry, higher education and D11, with plans for a medical high school to open in the fall of 2027.

Previously, Nathan started Village High School and grew the school from 25 students to more than 530 students with a substantial waitlist. His work, particularly around school culture and student agency, has been highlighted by Educational Leadership Magazine, Learning Inspired, the Clayton Christensen Institute at Harvard, and research from Stanford University, Ohio University and University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is a nationally recognized leader, speaker and consultant and has worked with schools and districts all over the country and Canada.



Jim Harris

*Senior Vice President
U.S. Bank*

Jim manages commercial banking for U.S. Bank Colorado Springs and New Mexico, responsible for the bank's commercial clients that generate revenues between \$50 million and \$1 billion annually. He has been a banker for 41 years and has served in previous roles as Community Bank President and Commercial Banking Manager for Mountain States. U.S. Bank recently acquired BTIG Investment Bank and Jim partners closely with BTIG's Aerospace & Defense Investment Banking division to bring equity solutions to his clients.

Jim serves on the boards of Elevation Senior Services (fka Bethesda Senior Living), Care Synergy (the management services organization for several non-profit hospices and home health care entities across Colorado); and Vice Chair of Rocky Mountain Health Care Services (PACE). He is the immediate past Chair of the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute selection committee where he now serves on the board. Jim is past treasurer of Southern Colorado Chapter of Associated General Contractors Colorado. He also is a member of the Colorado Space Coalition and is on the steering committee for the UCCS Economic Forum.

Jim is Gigi's spouse and Austin, Sarah and Mimi's dad. In his free time, Jim enjoys biking, hiking and playing pickleball.



Seth Harvey

CEO

Bluestaq

Dr. Seth Harvey, based in Colorado Springs, is the CEO and co-founder of Bluestaq, a rapidly scaling enterprise software company specializing in secure data management.

With a Ph.D. in Engineering from the University of Wyoming and dual B.S. degrees in Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering from Montana School of Mines, he is an expert in aerospace, defense, software and cybersecurity. Under his leadership, Bluestaq has been recognized on the Inc. 5000 list as one of the nation's fastest-growing companies each of the last four years.

Dr. Harvey also serves as Managing Partner at One Bow River investment fund and is active in community leadership, including roles with the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC and the Colorado Workforce Development Council. A frequent speaker, he advocates for data-driven innovation and regional growth to position Colorado Springs as a national recognized leader in National Security focused tech innovation.



Andrew Hepler

*Business Development Manager
Hensel Phelps*

Andrew Hepler is a Business Development Manager with Hensel Phelps, an employee-owned general contractor and construction manager headquartered in Greeley, Colorado. Founded in 1937, Hensel Phelps delivers projects across markets including aviation, government, commercial, and critical facilities nationwide.

Hepler holds the LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) credential, reflecting a working knowledge of sustainable design and construction practices that he brings to client and industry partner relationships.

He earned a degree in Construction Management, within the Architectural and Building Sciences/Technology program, from Georgia Southern University.



Dan Jaworowski

COO/President

Infinity Systems Engineering

Mr. Daniel (Dan) Jaworowski is Infinity's President and is responsible for the company's short- and long-term vision, including managing the executive team, controlling budgets, establishing policies and strategies, and fulfilling Infinity's mission.

Dan is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Geography and a Master of Science in Management Information Systems. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from Pennsylvania State University. Prior to Infinity, Dan worked as an executive at L3Harris Technologies, Inc. During his thirteen-year tenure at L3Harris, Dan most recently served as General Manager for the Experimental Payloads business area in Palm Bay, FL, after serving in the same role for the Space Systems and Ranges business area in Colorado Springs.

Dan has extensive experience in aerospace and defense as a major portfolio manager and business leader. In the executive role, Dan has a proven record of successful program execution, including major ground-system sustainment and space-system development, while delivering outstanding business results. Dan currently serves on the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) National Board of Directors and as Vice Chair of the NDIA Space Division. Dan also serves on the NDIA Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) Board of Directors.



Chris Jenkins

*Chief Executive Officer
Norwood Development Group*

Chris Jenkins is the CEO and co-owner of Norwood Development Group, a family business, for more than 50 years. The company owns, develops and manages more than 2.5M square feet of retail space, 1M square feet of class-A office space, 2,000 multi-family units, and more than 20,000 acres of master-planned communities.

Chris also serves as President of the Norwood Foundation, which seeks to tackle the area's most complex challenges and improve quality of life factors via a hands-on approach to impact investing.



Nolan Jenkins

*Asset Management Associate
Norwood Development Group*

Nolan Jenkins is an Asset Management Associate in the Vertical Development and Construction Division at Norwood Development Group. A Colorado Springs native, he earned his B.S. in Construction Management from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After graduating, he worked as a Project Engineer for Saunders Construction in Denver, where he helped deliver an expansion of AdventHealth's Heart and Vascular Institute.

Athletics have also played an important role in Nolan's life. He grew up competing in multiple sports and represented the USA Cycling National Team as a junior in both road cycling and mountain biking. Today, he competes in HYROX fitness competitions.



Jeff Jensen

Managing Director

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

Jeff Jensen is a Managing Director of Wealth Management and the founder of the Jensen Group Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley. For over 25 years, Jeff has dedicated his career to providing highly customized advice and investment solutions to a broad array of clients that includes highly successful families, foundations, nonprofits, private companies and reinsurance portfolios for auto dealerships.

Since becoming a Financial Advisor in 1994, Jeff has remained committed to professional development and advanced learning. An alumnus of the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, he has earned the following industry designations: Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA®) from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and Chartered Retirement Plans Specialist (CRPS®). Morgan Stanley has named him a Family Wealth Director, a credential achieved by fewer than four percent of the firm's Financial Advisors as of January 2022, and a Corporate Retirement Director, upon completing the firm's rigorous certification programs.

Jeff resides in Colorado Springs with his wife and two children. Among his many hobbies, he is passionate about photography and travels to uncharted areas to gain an understanding of indigenous peoples. Through his visual storytelling, he challenges ethnocentric views and inspires learning. Jeff also enjoys running, hiking, and skiing. He and his family love to travel and hope to visit every country in the world.



Jerome Keizer

*Founder/Principal
Watchman Project Management*

Jerome Keizer is the Founder and Principal of Watchman PM, a Colorado Springs-based owner's representative and construction project management firm specializing in commercial and classified government facility construction. He founded Watchman PM on the principle that every client deserves a team that will fight for what is right – on every project, without compromise.

Jerome brings nearly two decades of project management experience across commercial, energy, and defense sectors. Prior to founding Watchman PM, he held project management roles with CBRE serving major Fortune 500 accounts, and earlier positions spanning project controls, scheduling, and facility assessment.

Through the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, Jerome has been actively engaged in national-level advocacy for classified facility accreditation reform, meeting with senior Department of War officials and members of congressional offices to advance standards that are both more efficient and more rigorous. He is based in Colorado Springs and leads Watchman PM's growing presence in government and commercial construction markets across the region and nationally.



Beau Kelly

*Business Development
Nunn Construction*

Beau Kelly leads business development for Nunn Construction, where he focuses on community relationships, market strategy, and new business opportunities. Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Nunn partners with clients across the commercial, education, healthcare, municipal, and nonprofit sectors. The company's commercial work includes secure spaces, as well as advanced manufacturing facilities.

Beau brings a broad perspective on the Colorado Springs community through his previous work with El Pomar Foundation, UCCS, and Stockmens Bank. He serves on the boards of the Pikes Peak State College Foundation, the Fire Foundation of Colorado Springs, and STEP Springs. He also participated in the 2024 Mayor's Civic Leadership Fellowship.

A Colorado Springs native, Beau earned his undergraduate degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University and an MBA from UCCS. Outside of work, he enjoys reading, playing sports, and building a backyard ice rink with his identical twin boys.



Tarah King

*SVP, Senior Relationship Banker
First Western Trust*

Tarah King is a Senior Vice President and Senior Relationship Banker at First Western Trust, bringing more than 19 years of banking experience and a deep commitment to serving her community. Throughout her career, she has partnered with both individual and commercial clients, helping them navigate complex financial needs through personalized banking, lending, and wealth planning solutions. Known for building trusted relationships and delivering a high-touch client experience, Tarah has also developed and led high-performing teams focused on long-term client success.

A proud native of Manitou Springs, Tarah holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Colorado in Boulder, with a focus on pre-med. She is passionate about creating a positive impact in her community, serving on multiple boards including Fostering Hope, Newborn Hope, Pikes Peak Hospice Foundation, and the Rotary Club of the Broadmoor District. She brings strong leadership, financial expertise, and a deep commitment to community.

She has been recognized as a Colorado Springs Rising Star by the Business Journal, is a graduate of the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute, and a Mayor's Civic Leader Fellow.



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.



Robert La Branche

*Director, State and Local Government Relations
Lockheed Martin Space*

Robert La Branche is a government relations and strategic affairs professional with nearly two decades of experience at the intersection of government, aerospace and defense, military affairs, and economic development. He currently serves as Director of State and Local Government Relations for Alabama at Lockheed Martin, where he works with state and local leaders to advance the company's priorities and strengthen relationships across Alabama.

Prior to joining Lockheed Martin in December 2025, La Branche served as Vice President of External Affairs at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville. Through his strategic consulting firm, ReaL Strategies, La Branche advised government, aerospace, and defense organizations on communications, legislative strategy, stakeholder engagement, appropriations, and government relations. He also served as Executive Director of the Alabama Military Stability Foundation.

Earlier in his career, La Branche served on Capitol Hill as a legislative staff member for U.S. Senators and Members of Congress from Alabama, Texas, and Florida, specializing in defense, NASA, appropriations, national security, and military affairs. He also supported NASA's Space Launch System program and worked extensively with leaders across the space and defense communities. La Branche holds a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, completed Air Command and Staff College through the Air War College, and earned a bachelor's degree in Global Leadership from Huntingdon College.



Philip "Duke" Labasi Jr.

*Executive Vice President & General Manager
Auria*

Duke serves as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of Auria's Strategic & Defense Solutions Business Unit. In this role, Duke leads program execution and drives achievement of new business growth supporting the Armed Services and Department of War Services. Duke brings a wealth of enterprise business and executive leadership experience from his military and civilian careers.

Duke's military career began in 1993 in the US Army where he ascended to the rank of Colonel. His career featured multiple leadership, senior staff, and strategic assignments, including posts in Germany, Kuwait, Korea and Iraq. His tenure culminated at the Missile Defense Agency, where he served as the Program Director for Missile Defense System Developmental and Operational Test.

Since his military retirement in 2018, Duke has continued to take on significant roles within industry such as serving as the Regional Director at Boecore, Capture Senior Manager at Lockheed Martin Space, and Vice President for Capture at Auria.



Christie Lee

*State and Local Affairs Director
United Launch Alliance*

Christie Lee is the State and Local Affairs Director for United Launch Alliance (ULA). Headquartered in Centennial, Colorado, with operations in California, Alabama, and Florida, ULA is the nation's most experienced, reliable, and accurate rocket launch service provider.

Christie has more than 20 years of experience in state and local government and prior to joining ULA, she worked for the Legislative Council at the Colorado General Assembly and at Lockheed Martin Space. She is involved in many local chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and boards throughout multiple states.



Shawna Lippert

*Economic Development Officer
City of Colorado Springs*

Shawna Lippert is the Economic Development Officer for the City of Colorado Springs. Shawna provides support for economic development projects relating to development and redevelopment, business attraction, business retention and expansion, and special priority projects. Shawna also provides oversight and support to the City's Rapid Response Program and small business development initiatives.

Shawna's professional experience includes over 20 years of program and project management experience in for-profits, non-profits, higher education, municipal government, and small business sectors. Shawna was the interim executive director of the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC) serving the Pikes Peak region, co-founder and program director of the Office of Professional & Executive Development at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), and program director of the EPIIC Venture Attractor through the El Pomar Institute of Innovation & Commercialization at UCCS. She was also an adjunct instructor of undergraduate business and innovation courses at UCCS for over seven years.

Shawna has a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Management from New Mexico Highlands University, and a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Innovation Management from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.



Art Loureiro

*Director/General Manager
L3Harris Technologies*

Art Loureiro is the Director/General Manager of L3Harris Technologies Space Defense Solutions in Colorado Springs, CO.

In this role, his business areas are focused on ground-based Space Domain Awareness sensors (optical and radar), Space Operations Command and Control, and Missile Warning/Tracking sensors and software systems.

Art is a retired Army Colonel (Infantry/Strategist), with his last assignments being with Army Space and Missile Defense Command, NORAD & USNORTHCOM, and 101st Airborne Division.

In addition, Art is currently serving as the Chairman for the Colorado Defense and Aerospace Council (CAD-EC) supporting the Colorado Springs Economic Development Council.



Erick Macher

*Director of Administration and Human Resources
Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC*

Erick Macher is Director of Administration and Human Resources for the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, where he supports the organization's administrative and human-resources functions and helps strengthen the internal systems, policies, and staff support needed to advance the region's business and economic-development mission. He brings more than three decades of leadership experience spanning the U.S. Army, education, and nonprofit sectors.

Before joining the Chamber & EDC, Macher served as Human Resources Manager at The Vanguard School in Colorado Springs. In that role, he managed human-resources operations and supported the school's faculty and staff. His civilian career builds on extensive experience developing people, implementing organizational standards, managing complex operations, and sustaining high-performing teams.

Macher retired from the U.S. Army in 2022 as a command sergeant major after more than 30 years of service as a field artilleryman and senior enlisted leader. His final assignment was as the 28th Commandant of the Fires Center of Excellence Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he led the professional military education of Fires noncommissioned officers through the Basic, Advanced, and Senior Leader Courses. He previously served with the Directorate of Training Development and Doctrine at Fort Sill and as command sergeant major of the 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division, in South Korea. His Army career included operational and institutional assignments in Iraq, Bosnia, Korea, Germany, and across the United States.



Jared May

Vice President
CBRE

Jared May provides market-leading leasing services to corporate and local office, flex, industrial, and medical users in Colorado Springs. Jared has extensive experience representing clients with new facility openings, relocations, consolidations, lease restructures and renewals, site selection, build-to-suit construction projects, and investment sales throughout Southern Colorado.

With more than 15 years of real estate experience, Jared serves as an advisor, advocate and partner in navigating the often-challenging issues associated with occupancy requirements. Through creative problem solving, transaction structuring and sophisticated analytical capabilities, he provides clients customized commercial real estate options that address their specific challenges and meet business objectives in an increasingly complex business environment.

Prior to his career in commercial real estate, Jared served as an Engineer Officer in the United States Army (2003-2008), deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005-2006. He proudly continues his service in the Army Reserves.



James McMurray

*Deputy Director, Community Development & Infrastructure
Matrix Design Group*

James McMurray, AICP, has more than two decades of experience guiding complex planning and development initiatives. As Deputy Director of Community Development & Infrastructure at Matrix Design Group, James leads multidisciplinary teams of planners, engineers, landscape architects, and other professionals in delivering planning and other projects throughout the Pikes Peak Region. His range of expertise spans land development, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and partnership initiatives.

Throughout his career, James has led and supported planning efforts for federal, state, regional, and local clients across the United States and internationally, both public and private. He has managed numerous master plans, compatible-use studies, housing studies, and facility plans for the U.S. Air Force and Space Force, the City of Colorado Springs, the U.S. Olympic Committee, and other clients. James currently serves as a co-chair of the Southern Colorado Committee of the Urban Land Institute and on the board of We Fortify.



Chris Meek

Director of Operations

Adolfson & Peterson Construction

As Director of Operations, Chris leads the execution of large, complex construction projects while providing strategic leadership to high-performing project teams. He serves as a primary client executive, drives business development, contributes to long-range corporate strategy, and champions key company initiatives. Chris is equally passionate about developing people, mentoring future leaders, and strengthening AP's culture through coaching, training, and professional growth.

Chris has earned local, regional, and national recognition for delivering award-winning projects that exemplify innovation, quality, and client success. Most recently, Chris's leadership and operational excellence contributed to Adolfson & Peterson being named ENR Colorado's 2026 Contractor of the Year.



Yemi Mobolade

Mayor

City of Colorado Springs

Blessing “Yemi” Mobolade is the 42nd Mayor of Colorado Springs and the city’s first elected Black, immigrant, and independent mayor. A pastor, entrepreneur, nonprofit founder, and civic leader, Mayor Yemi has focused his administration on five community-shaped priorities: public safety, infrastructure, housing and homelessness, economic vitality, and community activation.

Since taking office in 2023, he has helped strengthen public safety by supporting the hiring of nearly 300 police officers, improving emergency response times, and expanding tools such as the Real-Time Crime Center. His administration also secured voter approval for the 10-year renewal of the 2C road program, a major investment in street paving and infrastructure, and advanced efforts to support affordable housing, homelessness response, small businesses, neighborhood connection, mental health, and citywide cleanup.

Before becoming mayor, Yemi co-founded several local community and business initiatives, including The Wild Goose Meeting House, Good Neighbors Meeting House, and COSILoveYou. Born in Nigeria, he immigrated to the United States at 17 and now lives in Colorado Springs with his wife, Abbey, and their three children.



Brian Mulnix

*Client & Project Development Director
GH Phipps Construction Companies*

Brian Mulnix is Client and Project Development Director at GH Phipps, with over 20 years securing high-value construction contracts across secured construction, education, and commercial real estate. He has a proven record of winning strategic partnerships and aligning client needs with GH Phipps' capabilities, backed by senior leadership experience, a Business Management degree.

Brian is a fourth generation native of Colorado Springs and is active in the industry and community. He's known for pairing strong deal-closing instincts with integrity and collaboration.



Lauren Nelson

*Commissioner
El Paso County*

Small Business Listening Tour Panel | Commissioner Lauren Nelson Bio

Commissioner Lauren Nelson, a Colorado Springs native, represents District 5 on the El Paso County Board of Commissioners. Appointed in June and elected in November 2025, she brings a proven record of principled leadership.

Commissioner Nelson prioritizes limited government and low regulation, supporting a strong free market economy so that businesses can thrive. She is equally dedicated to protecting private property rights and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely and responsibly.

Commissioner Nelson earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science from Colorado State University, with a concentration in Food Science and Food Safety. Before entering public service, she worked for six years as a Food Scientist in product development with major food corporations. During this time, she managed large-scale product launches, led cross-functional teams, and brought innovative products to market – experience that shapes her practical, results-driven approach to problem-solving and governance.

A graduate of District 11 schools, her commitment to public service deepened through her work on the Colorado Springs School District 11 Board of Education, where she championed academic growth, fiscal responsibility, and parent engagement. Now, as a Commissioner Lauren is committed to advancing transparency, accountability, and excellence in local government.



Laura Neumann

*Vice President of Advocacy and Public Policy
Weidner Apartment Homes*

Laura's career has successfully traversed city-building, public service and tourism for the past four decades. A Colorado Springs/Manitou Springs resident for 22 years, Laura currently strategically leads Weidner Apartment Homes' investments in Colorado Springs through economic development opportunities; advocacy and public policy challenges; and philanthropic partnerships. She also serves on the board of directors for Switchbacks FC.

Prior to joining Weidner as a full-time executive, Laura owned her own consulting firm for ten years where she provided executive level strategic oversight for several tourism-related and resort projects.

Laura also served as Chief of Staff for the City of Colorado Springs from 2011 to 2014. Serving under the City's first strong mayor, where she oversaw a \$400M budget with 2000 employees. Early in her career, Laura worked for Benchmark Hospitality International where she successfully opened and transitioned dozens of domestic and international resort properties overseeing 1000+ employees in eight states and Canada.

During her twenty years in the region, Laura has served on multiple business and philanthropic boards.



Sal Nodjomian

CEO

Matrix Design Group

Sal Nodjomian, P.E., F. SAME, is the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Matrix Design Group, where he is responsible for the overall direction of the firm. He has extensive experience in community planning, public engagement, facilitation, strategic studies, and capital improvement programs. Sal is regularly called upon to speak as an expert on a wide variety of technical and leadership topics. Prior to joining Matrix, Sal served for nearly 24 years in the United States Air Force, finishing his career as the Installation Commander for Eglin AFB.

Sal earned his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Delaware. He went on to earn five master's degrees, with extensive studies in Public Administration, Engineering, Organizational Management, and National Security Strategy. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of Florida.

Sal is involved in many non-profit activities and has leadership positions in numerous organizations. He is a Society of American Military Engineers Distinguished Fellow and served as the National President. He is the President-Elect for the SAME Foundation, and a board member for Association of Defense Communities and the Downtown Denver Partnership.

Sal has been awarded numerous major military decorations, to include two Legion of Merit Awards and two Bronze Star Medals and received the University of Delaware's Presidential Citation for Outstanding Achievement.



Brad Nutting

*Project Manager
DPR Construction*

Brad Nutting is a Project Manager with DPR Construction, specializing in the planning and execution of facilities-related construction projects within active and occupied environments. He has extensive experience leading complex renovations, infrastructure upgrades, and technically demanding projects that require careful coordination to minimize disruptions to ongoing operations while maintaining safety, quality, and regulatory compliance.

Throughout his career, Brad has successfully managed projects in healthcare, commercial, and mission-critical facilities where continuous operations are essential. His expertise includes stakeholder coordination, containment planning, phased construction, risk management, and overseeing multidisciplinary teams through all phases of project delivery. Known for his collaborative approach and attention to detail, Brad focuses on delivering projects that meet operational requirements while achieving schedule, budget, and quality objectives.



Mark O'Donnell

Principal

Sierra Commercial Real Estate

Mark O'Donnell is a Principal at Sierra Commercial Real Estate and a Colorado Springs native with more than 20 years of experience in commercial real estate. He specializes in the leasing and sale of Class A office, medical office, and flex office properties throughout the Colorado Springs market, helping owners, investors, tenants, and businesses achieve their real estate objectives through strategic market knowledge and hands-on representation.

Over the course of his career, Mark has developed extensive expertise in office and medical real estate, representing clients in transactions ranging from local business expansions to complex institutional assignments. He has successfully negotiated numerous Department of Defense (DoD) and General Services Administration (GSA) leases and is recognized for his deep understanding of the Colorado Springs office market, tenant requirements, and investment opportunities.

Known as a trusted local advisor and market expert, Mark combines decades of experience, strong industry relationships, and a client-focused approach to deliver results for property owners, occupiers, and investors across the Pikes Peak region.



Brenden O'Neil

*Director of Defense and Aerospace
MillerKnoll*

As the Strategic Liaison to the Department of War, Brenden leverages this ethos to foster relationships that are both dynamic and sustainable.

Brenden has a long professional history supporting intelligently designed defense facility infrastructure. He is known for striking balance between optimizing warfighter engagement with mission readiness objectives. Supported by MillerKnoll's family of brands, he consistently maintains a position at the vanguard of workplace design with data driven mission informed strategies.



Lindsay Pack Moll

CEO

InnovaFlex Foundry

Lindsay Pack Moll is the Chief Executive Officer at InnovaFlex Foundry. Lindsay brings a unique perspective to delivering creative technological solutions, having worked in a variety of roles across the public, private, and government sectors.

Before joining InnovaFlex as the CEO, she spent time running global businesses with customers and manufacturing around the world for companies such as Philips and Becton Dickinson. With her engineering background, Lindsay has been deeply engaged in developing cutting edge technology, but she is also passionate about the total product lifecycle and ensuring that manufacturing capabilities and processes are part of that design.

She used this industry experience and knowledge to guide her recommendations as she spearheaded the total product lifecycle reorganization at the Food and Drug Administration, where she was both a lead scientist and manufacturing engineering reviewer.

Lindsay wants to invest in her community and country, so she serves on the board for both the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation and chairs the Titans of Economic Development Council.

Lindsay is the mother of six children and in her free time enjoys their adventures outdoors.



Ryan Parsell

*Executive Director of Government Affairs
El Paso County*

Ryan Parsell is the Executive Director of Government Affairs for El Paso County, Colorado, a role he has held since 2022. He has served in El Paso County government for 12 years in various roles, including as Chief Deputy Clerk and Recorder and Chief Public Information Officer. In his current role, he directs legislative advocacy, constituent services, and intergovernmental relations for Colorado's most populous county.

He also served in state government as Deputy State Treasurer under Treasurer Walker Stapleton, where he issued or refinanced \$1 billion worth of state Certificates of Participation, reformed unclaimed property, and advanced state legislation.



Jeff “JP” Perkins

*Account Executive and Program Manager
All Native Group*

Jeff Perkins (JP) is a Colorado Springs-based Account Executive (AE) and Program Manager (PM) for All Native Group (ANG) which is Headquartered in Fairfax, VA. ANG is an affiliated company of Ho-Chunk, Inc. under the Winnebago Tribe, Nebraska. JP is the ANG site lead for ANG operations in Colorado Springs and oversees numerous US Space Force and NORAD-NORTHCOM contracts. ANG is a network of small businesses supporting the critical missions of various U.S. Government customers.

JP is responsible for identifying, capturing, and growing new and existing customer accounts with a focus on customer engagement and revenue growth. He maintains a dynamic operational and business development pipeline with emphasis on expanding the company's presence within the U.S Department of War (DoW) and Other Government Agencies (OGAs).

JP is a qualified Airline Transport Pilot in Helicopter & Multi-Engine Airplanes, a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), a former US Space Operations Officer, Joint Specialty Officer/Joint Qualified Officer (JSO/JQO) as well as Special Operations aviation qualified. His previous active-duty experience includes numerous combat deployments and service within US Army Aviation and Special Operations Aviation, Space Operations, USSPACECOM, NORAD-NORTHCOM, and US Army Space and Missile Defense Command.



Roland Rainey

City Councilman

City of Colorado Springs

City Councilman Roland Rainey, Jr., is a senior executive in the defense industry, entrepreneur, professional football scout and broadcaster, and a retired U.S. Air Force/Space Force Lieutenant Colonel. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University in Human Development (2003), a Master of Science degree from Troy University in International Relations with emphasis in Global Studies (2008), a Master of Arts degree from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in Counseling & Leadership Development (2017), and a Business Certificate from Harvard Business School in Entrepreneurship Essentials (2019).

Councilman Rainey also serves as a Commissioner, Fourth Judicial District Nominating Commission where he vets, interview and nominate judges to the Governor. He previously served as an Adjunct Professor, Colorado State University-Pueblo Continuing Education and was Vice-Chair of the Colorado Springs World Affairs Council. He also volunteered his time to the local community as the Vice Chair of the El Paso County Citizen's Outreach Group.

His passion for the sport of football and business led to the creation of his very own Semi-Professional Football Organization, the Colorado Springs Cyclones (2009-2018). He furthered this passion by receiving a Sports Management certificate in Professional Football Scouting and General Manager practices, where he was trained in NFL scouting techniques, statistical analysis, and the NFL Collective Bargaining Agreement. Roland also started and hosted a sports talk show, The EXTRA Point, on ESPN Denver 1600. He has worked for the San Francisco 49ers, Philadelphia Eagles, and Denver Broncos.



Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer

President & CEO

Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC

Johnna Reeder Kleymeyer is the President & CEO of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC, Southern Colorado's largest chamber of commerce and economic development organization. Since joining the Chamber & EDC in 2022, she has spearheaded initiatives in aerospace, defense, and legislative advocacy, resulting in 39 new economic development projects that created 6,354 new jobs and \$2.27 billion in capital investment in the Pikes Peak region. She also led the launch of the Titans of Economic Development Council, an initiative supported by more than 80 companies and individuals who raised \$5.3 million to accelerate economic growth.

Prior to her role at the Chamber & EDC, Reeder Kleymeyer has a distinguished background in leadership, 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.

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.

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.



Joe Rice

*Director, Government Relations
Lockheed Martin*

Joe Rice is Director of State and Local Government Relations for Lockheed Martin Space. Joe works primarily at the state local level in areas where Lockheed Martin Space has business interests to facilitate relations with federal, state, and local government officials, as well as business, education, and community organizations.

Joe retired as a Colonel from the Army Reserve. His military service includes five combat tours of duty in Iraq and one peacekeeping tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He is a former member of the Colorado State House of Representatives, and a former Mayor of the City of Glendale, Colorado. Past private sector experience includes a variety of leadership and management positions in customer service for MCI Telecommunications, JD Edwards, and Wells Fargo Bank.



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, Ingrid 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, Ingrid 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.

Ingrid 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.



Todd Ruff

President & CEO

GH Phipps Construction Companies

Todd Ruff, President and CEO of GH Phipps Construction Companies, has focused his entire career on shaping Colorado's built environment. As a Colorado native, he takes pride in building relationships with communities across the state, not only to deliver buildings that serve the community, but to enrich the lives of Colorado citizens and neighbors.

Todd brings nearly 30 years of experience in the construction industry, beginning his career with GH Phipps in 1999 as a project estimator. He served in increasingly responsible roles from estimator to director of preconstruction to vice president prior to being named president and CEO. Todd frequently volunteers with community organizations and serves on a number of non-profit boards, including Associated General Contractors of Colorado and both the Metro Denver and Aurora EDC, furthering both his personal commitment to Colorado and the company's nearly 75-year legacy of service to local communities.



Mitchell Rutter

CEO

Residences at Front Row

Mitchell Rutter is the Chief Executive Officer and founder of Essex Capital Partners, the developer of The Residences at Front Row. Founded in 1991, Essex Capital is a New York-based real estate investment and development company. Over more than three decades, Essex has built a substantial track record acquiring, repositioning, developing, and managing office, residential, industrial, and retail properties throughout the New York metropolitan area and other major growth markets.

Essex specializes in identifying opportunities in emerging urban markets and within attractive neighborhoods and submarkets of larger metropolitan areas. The firm's experience includes large-scale urban redevelopment and complex mixed-use projects. Essex is currently developing Front Row together with partners Cantor Fitzgerald and Silverstein Properties, an approximately \$220 million first-phase, 11-acre mixed-use project in downtown Huntsville, Alabama, comprising 545 residential units, 50,000 sq. ft./ of retail space, and 40,000 sq. ft. of Class A office space.

Mr. Rutter is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of New York University and a graduate of New York University School of Law. He began his career as a real estate attorney at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. He currently serves on the Board of the NYU Schack Institute of Real Estate, the Board of the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at NYU School of Law, and the Executive Committee of the Hudson Yards Hell's Kitchen Business Improvement District. He has previously served on the boards of Atlantic Bank and the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and the New York City Business Relocation Assistance Corporation.



Tim Seibert

*Senior Vice President
Norwood Development Group*

As Senior Vice President at Norwood Development Group, Tim oversees all activities related to the company's master-planned community portfolio, which includes neighborhoods like Wolf Ranch, Mesa Ridge, and over 18,000 acres in the Banning Lewis Ranch area. Before joining Norwood, Tim successfully owned and operated a land planning and landscape architectural consulting firm based in Colorado Springs.

Tim has always been an active community leader, contributing to the betterment of Colorado Springs. He is currently serves on the Downtown Development Authority, has served as the Board Chair of the Colorado Springs Chamber & EDC (2024), is a past president of the Colorado Springs Housing and Building Association (2016), and has participated in numerous community task force efforts and committees focused on land use, transportation, and economic development. In 2019, Tim was recognized as a Colorado Governor's Fellow.

Tim holds a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Ball State University and a master's in urban and regional planning from the University of Colorado at Denver. Tim and his wife Kathryn live in downtown Colorado Springs and enjoy all the activities that make our city and state a great place to call home.



Creed Spillane

*Founder, Managing Broker, Realtor
Quantum Residential Group, LLC*

Creed is Founder and Managing Broker of Quantum Residential Group, a one-stop real estate brokerage solution for builders, investors, sellers, and buyers. Across his 22 years in the industry, transactions have included custom residential communities, horse owner communities, retirement neighborhoods, and commercial properties in medical, retail, and hospitality.

Creed's community outreach has spanned serving in his church's humanitarian programs, civic boards and committees, and as the current Board President for Bakhita Mountain Home, a local nonprofit providing housing and resources to adult female survivors of human trafficking.

Creed and his wife are raising their five children in Colorado Springs.



Mark Stafford

CEO

Delta Solutions & Strategies

Mark Stafford is the President and CEO of Delta Solutions & Strategies and has over 20 years of experience in the aerospace industry, serving on Active Duty in the Air Force, the Air Force Reserves and in commercial industry. Mark received his B.A. in History and Minor in Economics from Tulane University and his MBA with an emphasis in Information Systems from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Mark began his career in the Air Force as a space operator and transitioned to the Air Force Reserves in 1998. After Active Duty, he worked at the Aerospace Corporation supporting multiple Department of Defense and commercial space programs as a Technical Advisor and Source Selection Advisor. Mark spent over ten years at Booz Allen Hamilton as a technical consultant and manager in various leadership positions, responsible for the business development, marketing, and management of teams that supported the Department of Defense, NASA and other National clients.

Mark retired from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration (SAF/SQ) in his Air Force Reserve capacity in 2023. Previously he was the Reserve Advisor to the Chief of Current Operations, Headquarters Air Force Space Command, and the Commander of the 7th Space Operations Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base. Mark served two tours in the Middle East and has held positions in Acquisition, RDT&E, Joint Staff, Space Control, and Space Operations.



Kathleen Stout

*Market President, EVP
Central Bank*

Kathleen serves as Market President at Central Bank, bringing over three decades of experience in residential mortgage, construction lending and banking services across Colorado and North Carolina.

Her career began as a loan officer in Colorado Springs in the mid-1990s, and since then she's built and led mortgage divisions from the ground up – recruiting and training teams, implementing loan origination systems, and consistently exceeding production and revenue goals. Her prior leadership roles include Executive Vice President and President of the Residential Mortgage Division at Solera National Bank, Market President at Heartland Bank/Midland States Bank, and founding leadership of Central Bank in Colorado, started as a de novo. As part of growing Central Bank in Colorado, she hired commercial lenders and banking professionals to grow the entire bank beyond mortgage lending.

Kathleen holds a master's degree in organizational and strategic communication, which complements a career built on relationship management, team leadership, and cross-functional collaboration between banking divisions. Based in Colorado Springs, she continues to draw on decades of hands-on mortgage banking experience to guide strategy and growth as Market President at Central Bank.



Jason Strickland

Chief Communications Officer & Senior Advisor to the Mayor for Military Affairs

City of Colorado Springs

Jason T. Strickland is the Chief Communications Officer (CCO) and Senior Advisor to the Mayor for Military Affairs for the City of Colorado Springs.

As the CCO, he leads a team of full-spectrum communications professionals to engage the public, share vital information and tell the story of the City of Colorado Springs and its government. He is the City's principal advisor and strategist for communications, overseeing media relations, public engagement, internal communications, digital media, public messaging, digital content, and brand management. The CCO works closely with City leadership, elected officials, community partners, and the media to communicate the City's priorities, programs, and vision with clarity, credibility, and reach.

In his military affairs role, he serves as the City's primary liaison to military installations, defense partners, veteran serving organizations, and regional stakeholders. He provides strategic guidance to the Mayor on military, defense, and veteran related issues; coordinates cross agency initiatives; and strengthens relationships across the military ecosystem to support service members, veterans, spouses, and families.



Chad Vorthmann

Government Relations

Lockheed Martin

Chad Vorthmann is the Government Relations Representative for Lockheed Martin Space. Prior to joining Lockheed Martin in 2023, he worked 20 years for the Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado's largest and most politically influential agricultural organization. He served as the Executive Vice President as well as in various communications and organization roles to oversee the association's efforts in public policy, membership services and communications.

Chad currently serves as the co-chair of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce Aerospace and Defense Alliance, chair of the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce, vice chair of the Douglas County EDC, and is on the boards of the Colorado Space Business Roundtable, Action Colorado, JeffCo EDC Policy Council and the Colorado Competitive Council. He was selected as a 2011 McCloy Fellow through the American Council on Germany and has served on the boards for Coloradans for Responsible Energy Development, the Rural Economic Action Alliance and the Colorado FFA Foundation. He was recognized nationally as one of the 40 leaders in agriculture under 40 years of age and was among the inaugural Who's Who in Colorado Agriculture published by the Denver Business Journal.

Chad is from Southwest Iowa and graduated from the University of Nebraska with a journalism degree. He is married to Garin Vorthmann, a partner/lobbyist for Colorado Legislative Strategies (CLS), a well-respected and influential public policy firm specializing advocacy, lobbying, and crafting long term political strategy. They have two daughters, ages 13 and 17.



Kevin Walker

*City Planning Director
City of Colorado Springs*

Kevin Walker has spent 47 years shaping housing planning, entitlement, and development throughout the Pikes Peak region. With a degree in Urban and Regional Planning and roots as a Colorado Springs City Planner, Kevin has contributed to the area's growth for decades, developing hundreds of acres of residential land ranging from production neighborhoods to estate homes and multifamily communities. He has also formed and managed more than 50 metropolitan districts responsible for issuing over \$200 million in municipal financing.

After many years in the private sector, Kevin returned to public service as the Director of the City Planning Department for Colorado Springs. He now leads a team of nearly 40 professionals who oversee the application of development codes, conduct plan reviews and inspections, and guide both public and private development activities. Under his leadership, the department processes more than 500 development-related applications each year, completes over 10,000 inspections and plan reviews, and meets with citizens more than 1,300 times annually.

Beyond regulatory responsibilities, Kevin's team provides neighborhood planning services and delivers comprehensive and specialized projects that equip policymakers with essential data and insights. His unique combination of hands-on industry experience and public sector expertise gives him a deep understanding of how planning, policy, and development intersect, supporting responsible growth and positive fiscal impact throughout the community.



Bret Waters

*El Paso County Administrator
El Paso County*

Bret Waters is currently the El Paso County Administrator and has served in this position since July of 2021. He currently oversees a workforce of 1,500 employees and manages an annual budget of over \$500 million. In this capacity, he directs the daily operations of all administrative and operational departments, including Human Services, Public Works, Parks, and Planning. Throughout his tenure, Waters has led several critical initiatives, such as engineering fiscally sustainable county budgets and transforming the strategic plan.

Prior to this role, he spent sixteen years with the City of Colorado Springs as the Emergency Management Director and Deputy Chief of Staff, where he led Emergency Management operations for several disasters, including major regional wildfires.

Waters began his career as a social worker in Tulare County, California, where he was born and raised. He holds a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and a master's degree from Fresno Pacific University.



Holly Williams

*Commissioner
El Paso County*

Commissioner Holly Williams has served the citizens of El Paso County since 2019 on the Board of County Commissioners, focusing on issues affecting transportation in El Paso County and providing effective and efficient services for El Paso County citizens.

Holly serves as the Chairman to the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and was chosen by her peers to serve as the current representative to the State Transportation Advisory Committee for the Colorado Department of Transportation. In this role, Holly successfully advocated for the funding of the Powers and Research intersection, the completion of the I-25 Gap project within existing federal funds (saving more than \$7 million in EPC funds), and funding improvements around our military bases.

As a Director of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority, Holly has increased accountability and encouraged accelerating projects, including the Highway 105 expansion. As a County Commissioner, she increased ongoing funding to the transportation department and supports innovative procedures for the ongoing maintenance of more than 2,600 miles of El Paso County roads.

Holly holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.



Wayne Williams

Chief of Staff

City of Colorado Springs

Wayne Williams was appointed Chief of Staff for the City of Colorado Springs by Mayor Yemi Mobolade in April 2026. His involvement in city government began 32 years earlier, in 1994, with his appointment by Mayor Bob Isaac to the Colorado Springs Housing Authority.

From 2019 to 2023, Wayne served on the Colorado Springs City Council, serving as Vice-Chair and then Chair of Colorado Springs Utilities. After his service on City Council, he led the City's Initiative Review Commission and served on the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Mayor Yemi Mobolade.

In addition to his service with the City, Wayne served in county and state elective office for 16 years. In 2002, Wayne was first elected to the El Paso County Commission, where he helped create the Pikes Peak RTA. He later was elected El Paso County Clerk & Recorder (2010) and Colorado's 38th Secretary of State (2014). His work in these positions earned regional and national recognition, including the Colorado Springs Chamber's Regional Leader of the Year (2013), the Colorado Nonprofit Association's Nonprofit Impact Award (2018), the Colorado League of Women Voters' Leader of Democracy (2019), Defender of Democracy (2022), and the Truman Foundation's Stevens Award for attorneys in public service (2025).

Wayne received his B.A. in Political Science from BYU (1986) and his J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School (1989) and founded the Law Offices of Wayne Williams in 1998. Wayne and Holly Williams have lived in the Briargate area of Colorado Springs for 34 years and will celebrate their 40th anniversary in December. They have four adult children and one granddaughter.



Whitney Williamson

*Business Development Manager
Bryan Construction*

Whitney Williamson is a Business Development Manager specializing in Defense, Aerospace, and Advanced Technology at Bryan Construction, where she leads strategic growth and client development across the nation, with heavy emphasis in Colorado and Huntsville, Alabama. Her work focuses on highly technical and mission-critical environments, including secure and classified facilities, aerospace and defense infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and specialized research and technology spaces. Drawing on both technical construction expertise and a strong understanding of client and mission requirements, she works closely with owners, design teams, and industry partners to identify opportunities, shape project strategies, and build long-term relationships within the defense and advanced-technology communities.

Her background includes 16 years of experience spanning architecture and multiple facets of the construction industry working in a myriad of roles. This includes serving as Vice President of Operations for a construction conglomerate in Texas, project management and estimating for construction startups, and ongoing architectural consulting on commercial and residential projects in the United States and internationally.

She received her Bachelor of Architecture from Texas Tech University, and her architectural training continues to inform the way she approaches construction, business development, and complex problem-solving, bridging design intent, technical execution, and the broader objectives driving a project.



Doug Woody

Vice President

Bryan Construction

Doug Woody is Vice President at Bryan Construction, a Colorado Springs-based general contractor with more than 45 years of experience delivering complex commercial, federal, and mission-critical facilities. Over his 20-plus year career with Bryan Construction – spanning roles as Project Manager, Executive Manager, Vice President of Operations, and now Vice President of Project Development – Doug has led business development, proposal strategy, and marketing across the company's federal, aerospace, and defense sectors. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Civil Engineering Technology and Construction Management from Colorado State University-Pueblo.

Doug's work sits at the intersection of Colorado Springs and Huntsville's shared identity as national security space hubs. Bryan Construction is the only general contractor to have built a headquarters facility for U.S. Space Command, delivered in Colorado Springs, and Doug has been a vocal industry voice on secure facility construction, publishing on SCIF development and evolving ICD-705 security standards. As Bryan Construction expands into the Huntsville market – including pursuit of the new USSPACECOM headquarters program at Redstone Arsenal – Doug brings firsthand insight into how the two communities' defense and aerospace ecosystems are increasingly interconnected, along with a track record of building the trusted relationships that mission-critical federal construction requires.



Brian Wortinger

*Financial Advisor
Edward Jones*

Brian is a financial advisor at Edward Jones, helping business owners and their families become financially independent of their businesses. His practice specializes in helping owners build the systems, processes, and structure required to unlock the maximum value of their company and exit using a variety of methods from ESOP, to family transfer, to sale to a strategic buyer. Brian also helps business owners figure out their purpose following their liquidity event and ensure they have the resources to live out that purpose.

Before joining Edward Jones, Brian served as a colonel in the U.S. Army, including as commander of U.S. Army Garrison Fort Carson from 2018 to 2020, where he oversaw the operations of the installation and its partnerships with the Pikes Peak region. His Army career also included company command with the 4th Infantry Division, teaching leadership at West Point, and an Army War College Fellowship at the University of Louisville. He holds a Bachelor of Science in engineering management and civil engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point and an MBA from the University of Virginia.



Jake Wuest

Market Executive
PNC Bank

Jake Wuest serves as the Market Executive for PNC Bank in Colorado Springs. He and his team help oversee strategy and growth throughout El Paso County.

Before joining PNC Bank, Jake worked for FirstBank for 19 years, leading teams in Denver, Southern California, and Colorado Springs.