

bizwomen

DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL

**MENTORING
MONDAY**

Monday, April 3, 2017

A speed coaching and networking event
powered by bizwomen.

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1 | **Linda Appel Lipsius** | Co-Founder & CEO, Teatulia Organic Teas

Linda Appel Lipsius is a serial entrepreneur. She is Co-Founder & CEO of Teatulia Organic Teas, the mama 'hood and Teatulia Tea Bar – all located in one building in the LoHi neighborhood of Denver. She is also Executive Producer of her husband's feature film production company, Uptown 6. Previously, Linda was a Vice President in her family's business, Orange Glo International.

A Denver native, Linda graduated from Arapahoe High School before earning her BA in Political Science from Columbia University and MBA in Finance and Organizational Management from NYU's Stern School of Business. She is married and has 2 small children and is a proud resident of LoDo. An avid distance runner, soccer player and yogi, Linda sits on the Boards of Denver Kids and Rocky Mountain PBS.



2 | **Holly Arnold Kinney** | Proprietress, The Fort restaurant

Holly Arnold Kinney was raised in an adobe replica of Bent's Old Fort, a 19th century Colorado fur trade fort. Holly's family Fort was part historic museum and fine dining restaurant called The Fort,(www.thefort.com) built in 1963 serving "New Foods of the Old West". In 1997, The Fort restaurant was chosen by President Bill Clinton to host the official Summit of Eight dinner to the leaders of the industrial world. The Fort is located in the scenic foothills outside of Denver, Colorado. As a young girl, Ms. Kinney learned the restaurant and advertising industry through holding many positions in the family businesses. Frequent trips with her parents to London, Vienna, Switzerland and Mexico helped Kinney develop culinary knowledge and a worldly perspective at an early age.

She founded international advertising public relations agency called Arnold Media Services, that was in operation from 1981 until 2003. She had clients in the food, restaurant and tourism industries. In 1999 she became her father's business partner in The Fort and after his passing, became sole owner of The Fort. When she joined him, in 1999, she also founded the Colorado non-profit organization called Tesoro Cultural Center (www.tesoroculturalcenter.org) whose mission is to educate the public about the many cultures that traded at Bent's Fort, and the opening of the American West. Her work in Tourism and with the Indian and Hispanic communities attracted the attention of the Secretary of Commerce, John Bryson in 2011, when he appointed Ms. Kinney to serve on the US Travel and Tourism Advisory Board. She was sworn in on January, 2011 by President Obama and Secretary Bryson. In 2016, the Denver Business Journal (DBJ) Awarded Ms. Kinney as a Mile High Leader as one of the Outstanding Business Women of the Year. She was also featured in the DBJ's Thoughtful leader series.



3 | **Kim Bimester** | President, KB Solutions

With 25+ years of executive leadership in healthcare, Kim offers a time-tested record of innovation, inspirational leadership and exceptional growth.

As President and General Manager of Cigna Mountain States, Kim revitalized a struggling culture post acquisition and initiated strategies that outperformed trend, total medical cost, utilization and quality improvement objectives. She also pioneered new partnerships with high-performing healthcare delivery systems and physician groups and instituted new distribution approaches, successfully revitalizing the growth, risk selection, and financial performance on the Colorado public exchange while driving record-setting growth in all individual and employer distribution segments.

Kim is frequently sought out to speak at industry and leadership events and is known for her captivating, inspirational style, her passion, and on-point messaging. Today, Kim is President of her own consulting firm, KB Solutions LLC, a strategic consulting firm that helps healthcare companies thrive through an industry undergoing dynamic change.

Recent awards include Forbes Women Leaders - one of seven western region leaders recognized in June 2016; Colorado's 25 Most Powerful Women in Business, CO Women's Chamber, 2016; Outstanding Women in Business, Healthcare, Denver Business Journal, 2015 and Women of Distinction, Girl Scouts of America, 2015

Kim has served on American Heart Association board from 2014-Present; Precious Child Advisory Board 2015-Present; CO Association of Health Plans 2012-2016; Denver

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Chamber of Commerce 2014-2016; Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation 2014-2016. In addition she is American Cancer Society CEOs Against Cancer Co-Chair 2015-Present; Go Red for Women 2012-Present, Chair 2016; CO Forum 2016 - Present; CO Concern 2015-Present; CO Women's Chamber 2014-Present; Cigna's Diversity Council Co-Chair 2012-June 2016.



4 | Naomi Binkley | Founder & Managing Partner, Fireside Production

Naomi Binkley is a storyteller at heart. She is Founder and Managing Partner of Fireside Production, a Denver-based video production company that creates a modern storytelling experience for its Clients. Naomi was an unlikely entrepreneur. She spent more than a decade as a television news journalist before founding Fireside in 2006 with her husband in the basement of their home. Fireside has grown into a thriving company that serves the video needs of an array of government, corporate and non-profit Clients around the country.

Naomi was the Denver Business Journal's 2016 Outstanding Women in Business winner in the Communications, Media and Public Relations category. Fireside was named the U.S. Department of Energy's 2015 Protégé of the Year as a small, woman-owned business. Naomi was awarded The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Rocky Mountain Chapter 2014 Woman of the Year. She continues to support the LLS mission as co-chair of the Man & Woman of the Year Campaign Leadership Team. Naomi was recognized for her success and civic engagement as a DBJ 2013 40 Under 40 Honoree.



5 | Kristen Blessman | President CEO, Colorado Women's Chamber

Kristen brings over 15 years of experience creating successful marketing, public relations, and sales strategy campaigns for nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Kristen vacated her position as Chief Marketing Officer at Goodwill Industries Denver in December 2016. During her tenure there, she oversaw both business development and marketing efforts, ensuring the retail store model grew to fund employment programs for those most in need in metro Denver and northern Colorado. Kristen also helped develop several award-winning campaigns; earning the 2009 PRSA Gold Pick Award as well as bronze and platinum awards through the American Marketing Association in 2013 and 2014.

She joined the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce and Women's Leadership Foundations as President & CEO in 2017. Her breadth of knowledge includes: traditional and social media relations, marketing ROI, branding, image building, website content development and search engine optimization, advertising, promotions, film and video production as well as sales strategy and business development.



6 | Sheryl L. Bollinger | President, CEO and General Counsel, AMG Trust Bank

Sheryl L. Bollinger is President, CEO and General Counsel, as well as a board member, of AMG National Trust Bank, a privately held bank offering comprehensive financial services in Colorado and nationwide. Prior to joining AMG National Trust Bank in 1996, she specialized in securities, contract and corporate law in Denver with Holland & Hart, one of the largest law firms in the Mountain West. Before practicing law, Ms. Bollinger was a Certified Public Accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co. in Portland, Oregon, and was treasurer and corporate secretary of Medford Corporation, an Oregon-based international, publicly traded forest products company. Ms. Bollinger received her JD from Stanford Law School and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Montana. She is a member of the American, Colorado and Arapahoe County Bar Associations. She has served on the Junior Achievement Rocky Mountain Board of Directors since 2015. She served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross from 2008-2014 and was co-chair of its Tiffany Circle from 2008-2012.



7 | **Kelly Brough** | President & CEO, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Kelly is the President and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber represents over 3,000 businesses with 300,000 employees working for those businesses in Colorado.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Kelly served as chief of staff for the City of Denver and Mayor John Hickenlooper, overseeing a general fund of \$857 million. Kelly also served as deputy chief of staff and director of the Denver office of accountability and reform for the City. In this role, Kelly's key responsibilities were to implement the new 3-1-1 customer service system and create an organizational culture that embraces performance management and continuous improvement.

Kelly was the first female director of human resources for the City of Denver. She successfully moved the human resource department from an authoritarian culture to one based on service delivery and focused on outcomes. Kelly also directed an internationally recognized leadership program at the University of Colorado at Denver—the Rocky Mountain Program. She served as a consultant to many local governments facilitating decisions, managing large public processes and comprehensive planning efforts, mediating disputes and providing strategies to build stronger public / private partnerships.

Kelly currently serves on the board of directors of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, the Denver Zoological Foundation; the Denver Scholarship Foundation and VisitDenver; the board of trustees for Colorado Mesa University; the Graduate School - Bioscience Advisory Board for University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus and the Corporate Board of Delta Dental. She is also a member of the Women's Forum and The Chamber 100 with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



8 | **Debbie Brown** | CEO, Principal, Colorado Campaign & Colorado Women's Alliance

Debbie Brown, a strategic communications and political consultant, directs her expertise to political problem-solving, coalition building and the development of launch strategies. Debbie has directed the strategy, messaging, and marketing for businesses, nonprofit organizations and issue/advocacy efforts. Clients include: Coloradans for Responsible Energy Development, Colorado Women's Alliance, and Catapult Colorado. Debbie's work has been featured on Special Report with Bret Baier on Fox News, BBC News World Have Your Say, SkyNews, The Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, Washington Post, and the New York Times.

Debbie earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Marketing from Northern Arizona University. She is a graduate of the Leadership Program of the Rockies, RNC Campaign Management College and the Leadership Institute Campaign Manager School. Debbie serves on the Board of Directors for the National Women's Coalition for Job Creators Network, The Colorado Women's Hall of Fame and Trenchy, Inc. She is an inaugural member of the American Enterprise Institute National Leadership Board. Debbie recently taught Marketing 202 as Affiliate Faculty for Colorado Christian University's School of Business and Leadership.

Debbie has been recognized as part of "Who's Who in Energy" and a finalist for "Outstanding Women in Business" by the Denver Business Journal.



9 | **Luella Chavez D'Angelo** | Vice Chancellor of Enterprise Development, University of Colorado Denver

As vice chancellor for enterprise development since February 1, 2016, Luella leads the extraordinary CU South Denver enterprise, working to maximize its full potential and impact as a unique and innovative education delivery model and valued asset of the CU system. This includes the management of its people, partnerships, promotions and academic programs all four CU campuses, the Liniger Building facility and The Wildlife Experience community services: a museum, K-12 education, community programs, and event hosting and space rental.

In addition, she serves as a resource to build collaborations with the Denver, Anschutz, Boulder and Colorado Springs campus academic staff and offerings in enhancing the university's approach and strategy with corporate and foundation partners.

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Luella has significant experience in formulating, communicating and executing strategic initiatives and helping them grow in participation, impact and revenue. She served most recently as chief communications officer for Western Union, where she was responsible for worldwide media relations, global corporate and financial media communications, executive positioning and corporate social responsibility strategy. She led the public relations team, employee communications and corporate events, while also overseeing the Western Union Foundation.

Prior to becoming CCO, D'Angelo served as Western Union's senior vice president, Social Ventures, where she developed and executed strategies to address corporate social responsibility, sustainability and philanthropic strategies. She also served as inaugural director of the First Data Western Union Foundation and president of the Western Union Foundation for 11 years.

In 2014, Luella was recognized by the Denver Business Journal, receiving a lifetime achievement award as an Outstanding Woman in Business. She was also named as one of the Top Ten leaders by Hispanic Executive Magazine and was recognized by the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce as one of the 25 Most Powerful Women in 2013 and for Lifetime Achievement in 2010.

To learn more about the University of Denver and Luella's experience, visit www.ucdenver.edu.



10 | Lynn Coit | President, Elsy Studios

Over the last 24 years, Lynn Coit has successfully launched two architecture and interior design firms in Denver. Now, as president and founder of Elsy Studios, she and her teams have produced award-winning work for clients such as CH2M, Newmont Mining Corporation, SolidFire, Workplace Resource and XTO Energy by focusing on design that captures the aesthetic function and the flow needed to help organizations succeed.

Lynn's influence on Colorado communities doesn't stop at the built environment. She believes that a woman of influence should be characterized not just by her financial success, but by the legacy she leaves for future generations. So in addition to shaping the aesthetic of our growing city, Lynn puts her time and talent to work for her community.

Having seen firsthand the importance of early intervention and support in a child's life, Lynn has devoted her time, resources, fundraising, and design expertise to Colorado organizations including: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado (board member), Peer Assistance (past board member), Denver Children's Home (past president and board member), Boys and Girls Clubs, and Saint Peter and Paul School.

Lynn also recently accepted the position of President Elect of the American Society of Interior Designers Colorado Chapter (ASID). This is a group of professionals with a tremendous impact on how the built environment looks in Colorado. As our state continues to experience record-breaking growth, it's important to Lynn to be a driving force in promoting and encouraging design that will enhance and enrich our community for generations to come.



11 | Lori Davis | Office Managing Partner, Grant Thornton

Lori serves as the Denver Office Managing Partner for Grant Thornton LLP. She is a Partner in the Tax Services Practice and currently serves on the firm's Partnership Board. Previously, Lori served as the managing partner of the Wichita office.

Lori has 27 years of experience in public accounting. In addition to tax compliance, her experience includes developing tax planning strategies for both corporate, partnership and individual clients. Lori has also worked extensively in the area of captive insurance. Lori serves numerous industries including hospitality, manufacturing, construction, financial services, real estate and property and casualty insurance.

Lori is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Her community involvement includes serving on the Board of Directors for the Downtown Denver Partnership and Rocky Mountain Junior Achievement. She is also on the Metro Denver Economic Development Corp Executive Committee.

Lori was a 2012 honoree for the Wichita Business Journal's Women in Business awards.

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She was recognized by Working Mother Magazine as a 2010 Working Mother of the Year. She also received the 2010 "Women to Watch - Experienced Leader Award" from the KSCPA. She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.



12 | **Jessie Dixon** | COO, Havenly

Jessie Dixon is a seasoned retail professional with over 10 years of experience working in the rapidly evolving ecommerce space. Prior to joining the founding team at Havenly as Chief Operating Officer, Jessie held roles at Amazon.com, Walmart.com and eBags.com working in a variety of capacities ranging from product management to corporate strategy and merchandising. During her 6 year tenure at Walmart, Jessie oversaw the launch of the Walmart.com marketplace program and directed several merchandise categories including pharmacy and gift cards.

Jessie received her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BS in Business Administration.



13 | **Robin Doerr** | EVP Sales & Marketing, InnovAge

Robin Doerr is a dynamic, award-winning, experienced executive with more than 25 years in public relations, marketing and sales. For almost three years she has served as executive vice president of sales and marketing at InnovAge, a company focused on providing health care to seniors. She oversees branding, marketing, advertising, media relations, crisis communications, digital communications, and sales, and serves as a key advisor to the CEO.

Robin has worked with for-profit and non-profit organizations in various leadership capacities, including strategic planning, branding, development, marketing, communications, public relations, retail management, product management, sales, operations, new business development, and government affairs. Having worked in a variety of industries, Robin brings a unique perspective to the confluence of sales and communications.

Doerr earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin.



14 | **Maritza Dominguez Braswell** | Founding Partner, Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC

Maritza's practice focuses on commercial litigation with a concentration in financial services, capital markets, structured finance, and private investor litigation as well as the prosecution and defense of tort-based claims. She has distinguished herself in the handling of experts and has provided oversight for a broad range of experts, including experts in academia, experts in the securitization industry, statisticians, engineers, and medical professionals.

At her core, Maritza is a problem solver. She appreciates the multifaceted nature of complex litigation and has the ability to quickly identify key legal issues, recognize important business considerations, and account for the human emotions at the center of all litigation. Maritza's ability to issue-spot, combined with her facility for strategic and creative thinking, make her a valuable asset on any team.

Maritza earned her law degree from Rutgers University School of Law, with honors and a full scholarship. While in law school, she co-chaired the Women's Law Forum and was active in the Human Rights Forum. Maritza holds an undergraduate degree in public policy and human communications from the University of Denver. At DU, she won numerous awards and served as vice-president of the student government.

Prior to law school, Maritza was a legal advocate with Family Tree Women in Crisis, a non-profit that provides advocacy and support to victims of domestic violence in the Greater Denver area. At Family Tree, she provided Spanish translation and interpretation in the court system, an experience that inspired her to attend law school.

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15 | **Stephanie Donner** | General Counsel, Galvanize

Stephanie F. Donner is the Chief Legal and People Officer, and Corporate Secretary for Galvanize Inc., a Colorado-based dynamic learning environment with over 300 employees. Students at Galvanize learn software engineering, data science, and entrepreneurship, alongside startup and established companies that work in the Galvanize space. As Chief People and Legal Officer, Stephanie is an Officer of the Company and oversees all legal, human resources, compliance and government relations matters.

Prior to joining Galvanize, Stephanie served as Chief Legal Counsel for Colorado Governor John W. Hickenlooper, advising the Governor on legislative and policy issues, over 90 judicial appointments (including 3 Supreme Court Justices), and emergency management issues. Stephanie also served Governor Hickenlooper as Deputy Chief of Staff and Executive Director and General Counsel for the Colorado Recovery and Resiliency Office. In those roles, Stephanie led the coordinated response to recover from the largest natural disaster in Colorado history and pursued and advocated for millions of dollars to assist Coloradans recovering from fires and floods. Prior to joining the Governor, Stephanie was an associate at Morrison & Foerster in the Securities, Litigation, Enforcement, White Collar practice group and also routinely defended clients in breach of contract and employment disputes. Stephanie clerked at the Federal District Court for the District of Colorado and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Houston Law Center, Order of the Coif and Order of the Barons. While in law school, she served as Notes and Comments Editor for the Houston Law Review.

Stephanie currently serves as a board member for Girls, Inc. of Metro Denver, Board of Trustees for the Colorado Symphony Orchestra, The Denver Metropolitan Major League Baseball Stadium District, The Governmental Entrepreneurs Accelerators Program.

Stephanie has been recognized as a recipient of: The Denver Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award; Girls Scout's of Colorado Women of Distinction Award; Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Colorado; and Colorado Business Magazine's Top 25 Young Professionals.



16 | **Stacey Dowling** | Senior Mortgage Loan Officer, The Dowling Group with CMG Financial

Stacey is a Senior Loan Consultant in the Denver Metro Area known for her unique process, which strives to *close every loan in 21 days-or less*. Stacey has been facilitating home loans in the Colorado market for over 20 years. Her commitment to providing excellent customer service, combined with superior problem solving skills, makes the home loan experience as painless as possible.

Stacey has over 10 years' experience in the home mortgage industry. Prior to forming the Dowling Group, Stacey worked as a loan officer for Summit Funding, Nova Homes and Union National Mortgage.



17 | **Roz Elliot** | VP Public Affairs & Investor Relations, DCP Midstream

Roz has served as DCP Midstream's Vice President of Public Affairs and Investor relations for over 10 years. She has more than 20 years' experience in the energy industry and more than 25 years in corporate communications.

Roz created Operation Next, a Veteran signature program for DCP program that helps veterans return to the civilian workforce through counseling and job training efforts. DCP has also had a long-standing partnership with the American Heart Association. DCP is largest fundraiser for American Heart Walks in the U.S, raising about \$1.2 million nationally. Many staff members, including Roz, sit on AHA boards and committees. She also serves on the boards of the GLBT Center and The Denver Foundation.

Roz received her Master's degree in Journalism from Western University located in Ontario, Canada.

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18 | **Chandy Ghosh** | Executive Partner, ThoughtWorks

Chandy is a well-respected CIO & Technology leader specializing in Transformation. She is currently an Executive Partner at ThoughtWorks, a software-engineering company that seeks to revolutionize the IT industry by delivering disruptive technology to address client's toughest challenges. ThoughtWorks won the 2016 award for Best Place to Work for Women in Technology, over Facebook & Google.

Prior to this, Chandy was the Executive Vice President of Technology at Intrado, Longmont, Colorado, running the nation-wide 9-1-1 solutions in the U.S. Chandy has served in several leadership positions including: VP, Customer Digital Strategy, CenturyLink; Global Head, PMO/Product Delivery at GWS/Johnson Controls; CIO, CQG & Principal Consultant at KPMG-BearingPoint.

Chandy's education includes Harvard Executive Development Program sponsored by U S WEST; Master of Process, Michael Hammer Program, Cambridge MA; Strategic Leadership, Center for Creative Leadership, Colorado Springs. She has CJIS certification & degrees in MBA, Information Systems & MS, Physics, Chemistry and Math.

Chandy is on the Board of SIM Colorado as well as Colorado Women's Hall of Fame. Chandy is frequently invited to speak at industry events & is passionate being a Mentor supporting Diversity / Women in Technology:

Chandy remains committed to "luminating" the path for future industry leaders. She is especially passionate about mentoring women and minorities and serving as a role model for the next generation of technology women leaders.



19 | **Beth Gruitch** | Owner, Rioja

When people say the restaurant business is in your blood, Beth Gruitch is a believer. Her great grandparents, three generations before her, owned and ran a diner, setting the standards that have led to Beth's record of critical acclaim. After high school, the Colorado native learned the business from the ground-up, bussing and waiting tables, washing dishes, bartending and managing a restaurant office. The long hours and backbreaking work temporarily dissuaded her from pursuing a restaurant career, so she moved on to explore other options. She tried retail sales and taught pre-school, until she was finally drawn back to the restaurant business.

Beth decided to supplement her hands-on experience with academic training. She earned a four-year business degree in Restaurant Hospitality from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and graduated with several offers on the table. Beth officially joined the ranks of Levy Restaurants in Chicago, managing some of the group's high-end concepts like Bistro 110 and Voila.

Beth found herself back in Colorado and accepted the general manager position at Panzano in February 1999, where she met Jennifer Jasinski. During their tenure at Panzano, the duo led the restaurant to the top of Denver's culinary mountain - consistently named one of the top 5 Denver restaurants for food and service. In 2003, Beth and Jennifer decided to leave their posts to begin their first venture into restaurant ownership. The following year they opened Rioja, a restaurant in Denver's Larimer Square with a contemporary design and Mediterranean menu influenced by local and seasonal Rocky Mountain ingredients. In April 2006, the team made the decision to purchase Bistro Vendôme, a classic French bistro located across the street from Rioja. In addition, Beth completed her level-one sommelier certification in 2007, continuing to keep her at the top of her game overseeing the wine lists for both restaurants.



20 | **Stacey Hekkert** | President and Managing Partner, Anton Collins Mitchell LLP

Stacey leads Anton Collins Mitchell LLP ("ACM") as President and Managing Partner. She has 25 years of audit and assurance services experience and serves as an advisor to her clients. In addition to managing the overall operations of ACM and ensuring the firm exceeds the standards required of professional service firms, she is also instrumental in directing the growth of ACM which has recently broken in to the Top 200 accounting firms in the United States. She places a high value on corporate responsibility and serves on a variety of advisory and nonprofit board of directors.

Stacey's primary client focus is in the distribution, real estate, insurance, and high-

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tech industries. Her experience in the middle market arena includes public and private companies, initial public offerings, private placements, buy/sell side due diligence and advisory services for private companies, fraud investigations, debt and equity offerings and cost recovery investigations on construction projects. Stacey champions ACM's PE (private equity group) and also participates in the RE/CON group (real estate and construction) as well as the firm's employee benefit plan practice.

Stacey is a member of the Executive Committee of the Private Company Practice Section of the AICPA and focuses much of her time advising private company clients. She has been recognized as a Leader of Note by the Colorado Society of CPAs and an Outstanding Women in Business Finalist by the Denver Business Journal. Stacey has also served as a national CPE (Continuing Professional Education) instructor and has been published in the Practical Accountant and Colorado Real Estate Journal.

Stacey is passionate about supporting working mothers and creating an environment where diversity in leadership is the norm, not the exception. She was the youngest woman ever to make partner at BDO, a national accounting firm, in 2001 and is committed to bringing innovation, caring, challenge and compassion to the business community so everyone in an organization can thrive. In her downtime, she enjoys skiing and being a really bad surfer.



21 | Pam Jeffords | Partner, Mercer

Pam Jeffords is a partner at Mercer and a global expert on diversity and inclusion in the workplace. She advises global employers on how they can break through the inertia and drive progress with their gender diversity initiatives. She has been featured in numerous publications, including the National Association of Corporate Directors, Fortune magazine and was a contributor to Mercer's research When Women Thrive, Businesses Thrive.

Pam is a member of the Global Leadership Council for Colorado State University's College of Business, a member of the NACD, a Limited Partner in The JumpFund, and has served as Chair of Women United for the Mile High United Way where she received the prestigious Frances Wisebart Jacobs award for philanthropy.

Pam holds an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and a Master's in Business Administration from Georgia State University. Pam lives in Denver, Colorado with her husband and four children.



22 | Tasha Jones | Director of Marketing, Forest City Stapleton, Inc.

Tasha is Director of Marketing for Forest City Stapleton, Inc., where she oversees the marketing efforts for the redevelopment of the former Stapleton International Airport. Tasha's responsibilities include: strategic direction for corporate marketing efforts, promoting new neighborhood launches, agency management, commercial marketing brand development, and community outreach programs.

One of Tasha's most notable marketing successes involved the 2011 HGTV Green Home promotion she managed to highlight the debut of Central Park West, Stapleton's newest and most sustainable urban neighborhood. Tasha led the creative team that developed the "Global Coolness" home tour marketing program and the related tours that attracted thousands of visitors and potential homebuyers to Stapleton. True to her commitment to serve the Metropolitan Denver community, Tasha arranged for more than \$54,000 in gross proceeds from the tours' ticket sales to be donated to Urban Peak, a local nonprofit organization that provides a variety of services including shelter and meals, education, employment, housing, and medical care to help homeless youth.

Tasha is also involved in a variety of community organizations and projects that include the Challenge Foundation Mentor Program, Leadership Denver Class of 2012, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Foundation Board of Directors, the Catapult Leadership Board, as well as the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado Associate Board. One of her most recent honors is being selected as a 2015 Girl Scouts Women of Distinction inductee.

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23 | **Andrea Kalivas Fulton** | Deputy Director, Chief Marketing Officer, Denver Art Museum

Andrea is responsible for the Denver Art Museum's earned revenue strategies, including marketing and communications, as well as government affairs and strategic partnerships. She oversees the institution's technology initiatives and is currently spearheading a master planning and renovation effort for the Museum's 1971 Gio Ponti-designed North Building.

Andrea joined the museum in 2001 as a public relations specialist focusing on traveling exhibitions and art-related programs. From 2001 to 2006, she led the communication effort for the museum's Daniel Libeskind-designed expansion project including local, national and international media relations, marketing and community programs. Following the opening of the Hamilton Building, Andrea led marketing and communications for the new campus, building the museum's brand identity and visitor participation to new highs. Andrea became deputy director and chief marketing officer in 2012, taking on additional functions including membership, events, retail and guest services.

Prior to joining the DAM, Andrea worked at Ogilvy Public Relations in Denver with a focus on corporate branding and awareness initiatives for clients including the Metro Denver Network and Korn/Ferry International. She began her public relations career at JohnstonWells Public Relations where she worked for consumer and technology clients including Qwest, NikeTown, Destination Hotels & Resorts and Navigant International.

Andrea was an inaugural member of the Downtown Denver Partnership's Emerging Leaders program and a graduate of 2015 class of Leadership Denver. Following her participation in Leadership Denver, Andrea developed an in-house leadership development program at the DAM—the first of its kind in the museum. She has been a delegate on three Leadership Exchange (LEX) trips to Pittsburgh, Nashville and Chicago.

She serves on the Leadership Advisory Committee for the Colorado Nonprofit Association and as a member of the steering committee for the Golden Triangle neighborhood plan. She has participated in numerous civic efforts including the Clyfford Still Museum and Civic Center Transit Stakeholder committee.

To learn more about the Denver Art Museum and Andrea's experience, visit denverartmuseum.org.



24 | **Robin Kniech** | At Large Council Member, Denver City Council

First elected to Denver City Council in 2011, and re-elected in 2015, Robin is one of two At-Large Councilmembers. Raised in a working-class family, she has a deep respect for the value of hard work and has dedicated her life to making Denver a better place for families and those struggling to make ends meet. The Councilwoman has a record of bold accomplishments on expanding access to affordable housing, including the establishment of a dedicated affordable housing fund that will create or preserve at least 6,000 new homes over the next 10 years.

Other accomplishments include expanding local food access, increasing energy efficiency awareness for commercial buildings, and updating Denver's regulations governing the marijuana industry. The Councilwoman is active in regional transportation and mobility efforts, has led and supported efforts to expand transparency and civic participation in government, and leads a Council work group on Housing and Homelessness.

Councilwoman Kniech was recognized by the Women's Chamber of Commerce as one of the 25 Most Powerful Women of 2016, by the Gay and Lesbian Chamber as 2014 Professional Woman of the Year, and was 2012 Lawmaker of the Year for the Denver's Women's Commission/Women's Chamber. She is the first out member of the LGBT community to serve on the City Council, and she is the mom of a young son.

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25 | **Katie Kruger** | CEO, DMCAR

Katie Kruger is the CEO of the Denver Metro Commercial Association of Realtors. DMCAR represents 2,000 commercial real estate professionals across Colorado.

Prior to joining the Association, Kruger was an account executive at a national agency, leading developers, builders and city officials, across the country, to create smart master planned communities. She also spent time directing marketing and sales efforts at McStain Neighborhoods, launching one of the country's most sought green home builder brands of all time.

In the years leading up to Kruger taking the helm at DMCAR, she managed public policy and communications for both the residential and commercial sectors, representing the voice of real estate for the Metro area. During this time, she grew membership by 12% through clear member communications and well-defined customer service programs, managed staff during two CEO transitions and helped guide the July 2012 creation and passing of the Broker Lien Law – one of the most supportive pieces of legislation passed in the name of commercial real estate in Colorado.

Upon accepting the CEO role for DMCAR, Kruger took the company on a 4 year tear, bringing a streak of growth that included a near 50% revenue increase and 40% uptick in membership. This gained DMCAR the national spotlight, bolstered Kruger's teed up efforts for community support and, ultimately led the organization to become the largest commercial real estate group in the US.

Kruger was recently honored as a 2016 PowerBook finalist by the Denver Business Journal, and received the ACE Award from the National Association of Realtors for innovative management processes and extraordinary member service in 2012 and 2014. In 2015, she was appointed to the Colorado Association of Realtors leadership team to provide representation for CEOs in DC. Additionally, she often supports and participates on behalf of the Board of Directors at Vital for Colorado and sits on the executive team at the Colorado Real Estate Alliance.



26 | **Heather Lafferty** | CEO & Exec Director, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver

Heather Lafferty is the Executive Director and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver. She has worked in various roles with Habitat for Humanity locally and nationally since 1999.

During Heather's tenure at Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, the organization quadrupled the number of families served annually. Today, the organization is building and repairing more than 120 homes annually through its homeownership program with the support of more than 15,000 volunteers. Additionally, Habitat expanded its retail operations from two to five stores and its annual income by 146%. The organization's assets grew from \$15 million to \$35 million since 2007 and is on pace to grow by 12-15% a year for the next 3 years.

Key strategic initiatives under Heather's executive leadership include the launch of a \$30 million comprehensive funding campaign to serve 500 families in 5 years, program expansion to include community development and neighborhood revitalization in Globeville, Elyria and Swansea, and launched the organization's first Inclusivity Initiative. Habitat Metro Denver recently released a 3-year strategic plan that boldly expands the organization's impact in the community including creating and preserving affordable housing, advocacy, research and community mobilization.

Heather also serves the community as a board member of the Colorado Nonprofit Association, the board secretary of the Neighborhood Development Collaborative, a member of the Mile High Connects Advisory Council, and a member of the National Western Community Advisory Committee. In 2013, she was awarded the prestigious Livingston Fellowship by the Bonfils Stanton Foundation. Beyond her local leadership, she is the Vice Chair of Habitat for Humanity International's U.S. Council (national board) and serves as the Chairwoman of the Council's Advocacy Committee.

Prior to Habitat, Heather worked with The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy and Share Our Strength in Washington DC. Her work with nonprofit organizations began with an unexpected college internship, while working on her undergraduate degree in journalism and business at The George Washington University. She continued her education at University of Colorado with a Masters in Business Administration.

Mentors



27 | **Traci Lounsbury** | Principal & Owner, Elements

Traci is a born leader with more than two decades of experience at the helm of three successful commercial interiors businesses. At just 25, she structured an earn-in agreement to buy her first business, JCL Commercial Interior Products, which she grew into one of the largest manufacturers' representative firms in the nation. She went on to co-found ELEMENTS in 2008 in a merger she orchestrated between her second firm, SPACES, and a competitive dealership.

Under Traci's leadership, ELEMENTS has become a recognized leader in commercial interiors, completing major projects for DaVita, First Western Trust Bank, Western Union, Johns Manville, IMA Insurance, Woodward, and Charles Schwab. The company has become one of the largest woman-owned businesses in Colorado with revenues topping \$70 million annually.

Since its inception, ELEMENTS has built a thriving business in four product divisions (architectural products, furniture, flooring, and technology) that work together seamlessly with a complete service division to deliver client workspaces from concept through occupancy. By offering smart, flexible furnishings that adapt to changes in a workplace over time, ELEMENTS has developed a reputation for maximizing client investments while minimizing long-term cost of ownership.

As President and co-founder of ELEMENTS, Traci's goal has always been to help people thrive. In support of that effort, Traci recently spearheaded the creation of a first-of-its-kind 32,000 square foot showroom in the heart of LoDo. The ELEMENTS Discovery Center is the largest, most comprehensive showroom of its kind in the United States.

In 2015, ELEMENTS also formally partnered with the Fort Collins-based dealership Workspace Innovations to form a new company called Workspace Innovations: An ELEMENTS Partner. The company, which is on track to do \$10 million in business in 2016, offers expanded service capabilities, access to premier product lines, and deeper local support to clients in Northern Colorado and Wyoming.

Traci has an MBA in Finance from the University of Colorado and a bachelor's degree in Marketing from Colorado State University. She is a 2015 recipient of the EY Entrepreneur of the Year award for the Mountain Desert Region as well as the national Entprising Woman of the Year award. She is also a board member of the Downtown Denver Partnership and is one of the driving forces behind the women entrepreneurs programming at The Commons.



28 | **Virginia McAllister** | Principal Owner/CEO, Iron Horse Architects

IHA's philosophy is simple "There is a natural solution and we will find it" This concept imbues our practice on all levels from our paperless production and project management to Responsible Design (Sustainability).

As Principal Owner and CEO, Virginia is primarily responsible for client satisfaction, outreach and project development. With 25 years of diverse experience in development, construction and architecture Virginia brings a holistic approach to each project. Virginia has over 25 years of experience in the architecture industry. She earned her Master's in Art Education, Learning Disabilities from Rhode Island School of Design and another Masters from Syracuse University School of Architecture.



29 | **Christy Moreno** | News Director, 9News

Christy was named News Director at KUSA, TEGNA's NBC affiliate in Denver, Colorado in January 2015. Before that, she was the News Director at the TEGNA NBC affiliate in Knoxville, Tennessee and the Assistant News Director at the TEGNA CBS affiliate at KENS-TV in San Antonio, Texas.

Prior to joining TEGNA, she served as Executive Producer for KRIV-TV in Houston, Texas, and Producer at KPRC-TV, also in Houston. Her first broadcast position was at KAUZ in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Christy is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. She is the former Region 8 Director for RTDNA and current state coordinator. One of her proudest moments of her professional career was leading her station to win the National Murrow for Overall Excellence in 2014. She has also won a regional Emmy for wildfire coverage in San Antonio.

Mentors

Christy and her husband, Juan have two girls, Isabel and Beverly. They spend weekends exploring Colorado and shuttling kids to gymnastics and swimming lessons.

To learn more about KUSA 9News and Christy's experience, visit 9news.com.



30 | **Liz Myslik** | CEO, Fresca Brands

Fresca Foods is a trusted partner to large consumer packaged goods companies and dynamic entrepreneurs alike. We create, manufacture market and sell category leading natural and organic food products. We partner with innovative companies to transform traditional food categories. We have been launching and scaling new food products for over 20 years. Our shared purpose is to make food that brings joy to people, promotes good health, and is made with integrity for people and planet. Liz is responsible for marketing, sales, brand management, and corporate development for Fresca.

Liz has been helping to build great brands for nearly 20 years as a marketer, CEO, and investor. Named by Forbes Magazine as a Kingmaker in Consumer and Retail industries, by Fortune Magazine as one of the Most Influential Women in Food and Drink, and by New Hope Natural Media as one of 9 Wonder Women In the Natural Food Industry, Liz has become a go-to person in the natural products industry by helping numerous companies innovate and grow, including General Mills, Gaiam, Johnson & Johnson, Georgia Pacific, Whole Foods, Fresca Foods, Eco-Products, Rudi's Organic Bakery, Jergens Skincare, Halo Purely for Pets, Sandbox Industries, and more.

Liz also serves as a board member of the Women's Health Foundation and as an adviser for CircleUp.



31 | **Karen Policastro** | Snr Regional VP, Robert Half

Karen Policastro is the Sr. Regional Vice President for Robert Half, the world's first and largest specialized staffing firm. In her role, Karen oversees the professional staffing services operations for the Accountemps, OfficeTeam, Robert Half Management Resources, Robert Half Healthcare Practice and Salaried Professional Services divisions throughout Colorado. With over 16 years in the staffing industry exclusively with Robert Half, Karen and her teams are dedicated to placing professionals in rewarding jobs while helping local businesses grow and be successful. In addition, Karen is a spokesperson for Robert Half and is a frequently quoted subject matter expert on employment and workplace trends affecting the labor market. Karen graduated from University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.



32 | **Heather Potters** | Vice Chairman/Chief Business Development Officer, PharmaJet

Heather Callender-Potters is Co-Founder, Vice-Chairman and Chief Business Development Officer of PharmaJet, a needle-free injection technology focused on immunizations. Heather has 25 years of Private Equity fund management and international investment experience across multiple jurisdictions. She's managed individual investments and financial investor consortiums, in early stage and growth companies, ranging from \$1 million to an excess of \$100 million. She has also held board positions with several companies across a variety of industries ranging from auto-parts, to systems integration, publishing and light-manufacturing, to medical technologies. She is member of the board of the Center for Human Rights Leadership, and Impact Charitable, which are entities associated with making an impact in local and global issues through support of student internships and philanthropic investment. She is also interested in brain health, and sits on the board of and is an investor in Cerescan, a unique brain imaging and diagnosis technology company; and is an investor in Curemark, a company which has a unique treatment for autism that is being fast-tracked by the FDA in a phase III trial. Heather has a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Management from Claremont McKenna College and an MBA from Wharton, the University of Pennsylvania.



33 | Susan Powers | President, Urban Ventures

Susan Powers is the President of Urban Ventures LLC, a 17 year old real estate development company in Denver. Urban Ventures' mission is to redevelop urban properties into communities that make a positive contribution to the neighborhood fabric and create sustaining value. In each development, there is a strong emphasis on community building in the context of social, environmental and economic viability. This is reflected in developments that have included historic renovation, affordable housing, TOD, Brownfields redevelopment, student housing, modular housing and mixed use projects in non-traditional neighborhoods. Completed projects in and around downtown Denver include mixed use residential loft projects in central downtown, RiNo and the Highland neighborhood.

Urban Ventures, in partnership with Perry Rose, acquired a 17.5 acre former convent property in northwest Denver which is being redeveloped into a model mixed income neighborhood called Aria Denver. In addition to the private residential and commercial development that is occurring on the Aria Denver campus, a partnership with Regis University, located adjacent to Aria Denver has been formed- Cultivate Health-which is a comprehensive program focused on improving the health of the residents of a four census tract area around both campuses. This will be done with improvements to infrastructure, expanded access to healthy food and the development of a health center near the Aria Denver campus.

Urban Ventures and White Construction are partnering to develop STEAM on the Platte—a mixed use development with creative office, restaurant and residential space connected directly to the Platte River. The 3.5 acre site includes the adaptive reuse of two significant brick structures as well as new construction of three other buildings.

Prior to forming this company, Susan was the Executive Director of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) for 11 years.

She serves on the Board of Directors of several community Boards including Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Denver Community Health Services and Downtown Denver, Inc. She is also active in a variety of community efforts to promote the development and preservation of affordable housing in Denver including MAAH (Mothers Advocate for Affordable Housing) which she formed with Dana Crawford in 2015.



34 | Ceyl Prinster | President & CEO, Colorado Enterprise Fund

Ceyl Prinster is President and CEO of Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF), an award-winning nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that was founded in 1976. Under her leadership, CEF has provided over \$58 million in financing to nearly 2,000 Colorado small businesses and entrepreneurs. She is a national leader in microlending, community development finance and healthy foods financing. Prior to joining CEF over 25 years ago, Ceyl was a commercial loan analyst, loan officer and training officer at United Bank of Denver, which is now Wells Fargo. She holds the professional designation of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). Ceyl was recently elected as a Trustee for the Denver Foundation. Her other service roles include the Boulder Economic Council, the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council, the Economic Opportunities Committee of the Denver Foundation, the Governor's Small Business Council and St. Anthony's Health Foundation. She attended the University of Notre Dame where she was a member of the first class of women, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. She served as President of the Notre Dame Alumni Association Board and a Trustee for the University. Her awards for business and community involvement include Outstanding Woman in Business from the Denver Business Journal, the Financial Services Advocate of the Year from the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Tom Dooley Award from the University of Notre Dame. She is a frequent speaker locally and nationally about the impact of small businesses on communities, their role in economic development and their need for access to capital. Ceyl is a Colorado native, born and raised in Grand Junction, Colorado, and has lived in Denver most of her adult life.

Mentors



35 | **Roberta Robinette** | President, AT&T Colorado

Roberta holds more than 20 years of government affairs and telecommunications industry experience in developing and executing government strategies for large corporations, small businesses, and non-profit organizations.

Roberta leads AT&T's legislative and community affairs in Colorado and supports new technology deployment and infrastructure investment. With 4000 employees in Colorado, she represents AT&T's interests by collaborating with community leaders, policy makers, and local and regional business professionals to connect people with technology everywhere they live and work.

As a Colorado state lobbyist for RKR Consulting from 2001 to 2014, Roberta spearheaded client legislative campaigns across health care, tax, business, telecommunications, fire safety, higher education, K-12 public education, criminal justice and environmental domains. She was instrumental in creating and maintaining a statewide interoperability radio system. She successfully drove the passage of major public pension reform, which is now modeled across the country.

In 2014, she helped promote broadband deployment throughout the state by leading a coalition of competing telecommunication firms and consumer groups to develop a unified message for telecommunications reform. This effort created some of the first modernization laws created for the state in over 20 years.

Prior to starting her own business, Roberta served as Director of Government Affairs for AT&T Colorado and Wyoming from 1998 to 2001, where she represented the company's legislative and business interests at the state, federal and local government levels.

A champion for business interest and sound policy for the state, Roberta currently serves on the following boards: Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry; Colorado Broadband Deployment Board; Colorado Succeeds Board of Trustees; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado; Colorado Technology Association; Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce- Public Policy Committee Chair; Legislative Policy Committee and Tech Talent Council.



36 | **Maja Rosenquist** | VP/General Manager, Mortenson Construction

Maja is a Vice President with Mortenson Construction, one of Colorado's largest commercial general contractors with annual revenues averaging \$500 million per year. At Mortenson, Maja is responsible for all Colorado project procurement, operations and project execution. Some of Mortenson's current and recent projects include: The DIA Hotel and Transit Center, Colorado State University On-Campus Stadium, Panasonic's Denver Headquarters, United's Flight Training Center Consolidation, Woodward Colorado Headquarters Corporate Campus, Halcyon Hotel, Stapleton Redevelopment and the Denver Water Operations Complex Redevelopment, among others.

Maja is involved with many organizations in the community, including those supporting the advancement of healthcare delivery and other civic improvements. She has served as Co-Chair of the Metro Denver Economic Development Group Executive Committee from 2015 to the present. Maja also was named to the Mayor's Developer Advisory Group for the City and County of Denver as well as the Advisory Board for the University of Colorado School of Engineering. In addition, she sits on boards for the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, The Aurora Economic Development Council and the Denver Health Foundation.

Maja is a native of Washington State, but has lived in Colorado for more than 14 years. Before moving to Colorado, she provided oversight to two large healthcare construction projects in San Francisco, California. Since starting with Mortenson Construction in 1994, she has worked in Washington, Minnesota, Texas, California and Colorado.

Maja attended the University of Washington, where she earned her degree in Construction Management. Outside of her career, Maja's husband Mark and 3 children (Davin - 14, Kyla - 12, and Kjell - 10) keep her incredibly busy with sports, camping and other recreational activities.

Mentors



37 | Sarah Sandberg | Colorado Oil & Gas Association, COO

Sarah started with COGA in 2012 as their Community Reach Manager. In November of 2013 she was promoted to Director of Operations, and was named COO in June 2015. In her role as COO, Sarah advises the CEO and Executive Board on financial planning, budgeting, cash flow, liability accounts, and fundraising efforts, leads development of strategic goals and objectives through revision of annual business strategy, develops and fosters effective board management strategies, including board recruitment and retention efforts, represents the organization externally as subject matter expert on oil and gas development and local regulatory developments in Colorado and promotes a culture of uncompromising integrity, passion, and high caliber work product.

Sarah is an advisory board member of the University of Colorado Denver Global Energy Management Program, a governing board member of American Red Cross' Behind the Red and a board member of the Domestic Energy Producer's Alliance.

Sarah received her BA from the University of Colorado Boulder and is currently completing coursework within the highly ranked EMBA program at University of Denver Daniels College of Business.



38 | Jo-Anne Scharmann | CFO, Mile High United Way

Jo is Chief Financial Officer at Mile High United Way, a leading nonprofit organization in the metro Denver community. Mile High United Way partners with hundreds of local nonprofits, government agencies, policy-makers and businesses to provide programs and investments that ensure students are thriving in school, young people are graduating prepared for the workforce or college, and families have every opportunity for economic success. As a member of the senior leadership team, Jo is instrumental in helping shape Mile High United Way's strategic and operating plan. She leads the Finance, Human Resources, Technology, Facilities and Events teams.

Previously, Jo was Vice President, Finance and Transformation, at Western Union, a Fortune 500 global leader in payments and financial services. In this position she was responsible for investment valuation, expense management and workforce planning initiatives that supported the organization's growth strategy. She was a 2014 Ashoka Executive in Residence and served as Treasurer and Director of the Western Union Foundation.

Prior to joining Western Union, Jo was Chief Financial Officer at Family Tree, a nonprofit organization working to create lasting solutions to domestic violence, child abuse and homelessness in Denver. In this role, Jo led the Accounting, Finance, Human Resources, Technology and Facilities teams.

In earlier positions, Jo was Vice President, Finance at First Data Corporation, a Fortune 200 global corporation. And before First Data, Jo held finance and investment portfolio roles with First Interstate Bank and Mercantile Bancshares.

Jo holds an MBA Degree in Finance, from Loyola University and a B.S. Degree from James Madison University. She serves as an Executive Mentor to MBA candidates at the University of Denver and at Loyola University. She is a founding member of the Making A Difference (MAD) Community organization and volunteers for Family Tree, Open World Learning and Hunger Free Colorado.



39 | Dianne Simard | Sr. Vice President / Director / Media Relations, Bye Aerospace/Aero Electric Aircraft Corp.

Diane Simard is an angel investor in six emerging technology companies and is serving or has served on five corporate boards of directors. Last year, she was named one of the nation's inaugural "Top 100 Women in Business to Watch" by Bizwomen.com.

After completing treatment for Stage III breast cancer in 2015, Diane founded the Center for Oncology Psychology Excellence (COPE) at the University of Denver, the first specialty in the country to train graduate-level psychology students how to work with cancer patients.

She is currently Sr. VP and a board member for Bye Aerospace, an engineering company applying clean energy solutions to innovative aircraft designs. She also mentors eight business professionals.

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The first woman to chair the Aurora Chamber's Defense Council, Diane was selected by a former U.S. Secretary of Defense to attend the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference. Highlights included visits with U.S. troops in Azerbaijan and Bosnia, plus a visit to the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier, where she experienced a tailhook landing and catapult launch.

Diane was named the 2016 Outstanding Woman in Business in Technology and Telecom by the Denver Business Journal. She received the Bob Cardenas Award for her support of veterans and the military, Aurora Chamber Woman of the Year and Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in journalism from University of Nebraska-Kearney.

She is authoring a book, tentatively titled *Champagne with You*, about how her breast cancer experience ultimately brought joy and purpose back into her life.



40 | **Janice Sinden** | President / CEO, Denver Center for the Performing Arts

Janice Sinden joined the Denver Center for the Performing Arts as President & CEO in 2016, leading the nation's largest non-profit theatre organization.

Janice's diverse career has allowed her to support rich cultural experiences, access to education and community involvement. Before the DCPA, she served as Chief of Staff for Denver Mayor Michael Hancock for five years. During this time, she was a part of numerous projects that aimed to support the creative community in Denver, including IMAGINE 2020 and The Next Stage. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of Colorado Concern; co-founded Pinnacle Public Affairs co-founded EPIC (Executives Partnering to Invest in Children); and co-led the effort to establish the Colorado Foreclosure Hotline. Her love for community building and public service sparked after graduation from the University of Northern Colorado when she moved to Washington, DC to work for then US Senator Wayne Allard.

Janice has been recognized by 5280 magazine as one of Denver's 50 most influential people, by the Colorado Women's Foundation as one of the state's 25 most influential women, by the Girl Scouts of Colorado as a Woman of Distinction, and by the University of Northern Colorado Department of Political Science and International Affairs as Distinguished Alumna of the Year. She serves on the boards of the national Performing Arts Centers Consortium, Visit Denver, the University of Northern Colorado, the American Transplant Foundation, Denver Preschool Program, EPIC and Mental Health Colorado. Previously, Governors Owens and Ritter appointed her to the Colorado Creative Industries Council.



41 | **Liz Titus** | Counsel, Hogan Lovells

Liz Titus is a problem solver. Her clients in the energy and natural resource industries rely on her to provide frank advice and find solutions to their most difficult problems. Liz's practice focuses on the extractive industries, particularly oil and gas (upstream and midstream) and mining.

Liz combines her "fixer" mentality with keen industry know-how to help her clients achieve business success. She is a trained litigator and has trial court, appellate, and administrative hearing experience. She has represented clients in both state and federal court in commercial disputes and class actions. Her experience includes successfully settling a dispute on behalf of an E&P company with purchaser regarding whether producer was receiving proper payment under 90 agreements. Liz has represented various oil and gas producers in the negotiation of natural gas gathering, processing, and sales agreements. She has also challenged ballot measures targeting the oil and gas industry before Colorado Title Board and successfully obtained dismissal of class action brought by royalty holders challenging the flaring practice of oil and gas produced in North Dakota.

Liz has been named a Rising Star by Colorado Super Lawyers from 2013-2016 and published various papers and articles on the future of the Energy industry. She is a Board Member and Past President of the Colorado Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Bar Association and on the Board of Directors, Colorado Lawyer Trust Fund Account Foundation (COLTAF) and Co-Chair of Colorado Pledge to Diversity.

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42 | **Ellen Valde** | Rockies Market Managing Partner, PwC

Ellen Valde is the newly appointed Rockies Market Managing Partner for PwC, leading a team of 640 professionals throughout Colorado and Utah in delivering high quality, innovative business solutions to clients. As an assurance partner, Ellen provides guidance to clients in structuring business transactions and has significant experience with mergers and acquisitions.

Ellen has been with PwC for over 30 years, 20 of which as a partner. Ellen has led PwC's Midwest Region Private Company Services (PCS) Practice and served as the Market Assurance Leader in Minneapolis.

Ellen's true passion is people development. She has been recognized as the PwC mentor of the year, served on the firm's partner admission committee, and helped establish the firm's women's networking program.

Ellen is on the St. Thomas Board of Governors and the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Accounting Advisory Council. She recently served on the board of trustees and as audit committee chair for The Minneapolis Foundation and the board of directors and executive committee for Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest. Additionally, Ellen is a founding member of the Twin Cities UNI Business Alumni Association. She is active with United Way as a member of Women United and the Tocqueville Society.

Ellen received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa. She is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Management Accountant. Ellen has been honored as the UNI Alumni of the Year, Top Woman in Business, and Top Woman in Finance.

Ellen grew up on a family farm in South Dakota and was actively engaged in her family's seed corn business. She is married (husband Jeff for 28 years) and has two children (Karen 22 and Mark 18).



43 | **Ellen Winkler** | Founder/ Owner and Designer, Industry Denver, INDUSTRY Denver

Ellen Winkler is an innovative, multidisciplinary designer, with a knack for curating memorable activations and spaces. Also a mother of three: Georgia, Jagger, and Jett, Ellen is considered one of the founders of experiential design specializing in bringing client vision into reality.

Beginning her career as a civil engineer on large construction projects, her specialties evolved to event management, media production, branding, and messaging with a focus on youth and lifestyle marketing. These building blocks combined with Ellen's unique perspective have made her the premiere creator of new age millennial-focused spaces.

Her early work represented the likes of Red Bull, Oakley, Audi, Johnston & Murphy and many more. In recent years, she has consulted and executed for premier brands including Comcast, Uber and AMG Bank.

In addition to her work-for-hire projects, Ellen is well-known for her own projects, Battery621 and INDUSTRY Denver. Developing inspiring and collaborative office environments for companies and individuals has led the way nationally in the creation of the new-age workspace.

Born and raised in New York, Ellen is a graduate of Villanova University with a bachelor of science. As community leader, Ellen contributes to a variety of initiatives, including The National Sports Center for the Disabled, The Colorado Neurological Institute and The Listen Foundation.



44 | **Renell Wynn** | Vice Chancellor for Communications & Marketing, University of Denver

Renell was appointed the new Vice Chancellor of Communication and Marketing in August 2016.

Prior to that, she was vice president for communications and marketing at George Mason University, where she serves as principal advisor to the president on matters

related to communications strategies and marketing initiatives. She has developed and implemented a strategic communications plan to advance George Mason's brand identify. She brings to DU over a decade of higher education experience, including work in development communications at The College of William and Mary, as well as non-profit and public-sector public relations experience. She began her career as a journalist.

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