A speed coaching and networking event powered by bizwomen.
Mentors

1 | Linda Appel Lipsius | Co-Founder & CEO, Teatulia Organic Teas
Linda 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, 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 | Kim Bimestefer | Executive Director, State of Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy & Financing
Kim was appointed by Governor John Hickenlooper to serve as Executive Director for the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing on January 8, 2018. As Executive Director, Kim oversees the operations and strategic direction of the Department which administers the Colorado Medicaid (Health First Colorado) and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) programs. Kim has been a senior healthcare executive for more than 25 years. As the local Board Chair, President & General Manager for Cigna Mountain States, Kim was accountable for corporate strategy, customer satisfaction, medical costs and trends, employee relations, branding, membership growth and earnings. In this role, she revitalized a struggling culture post acquisition and pioneered new partnerships with high-performing healthcare delivery systems and physician groups, creating responsive offerings in the CO, UT, WY and NM markets. Kim serves on the Board of Connect for Health Colorado, the American Heart Association, is Chair of CEOs Against Cancer for the American Cancer Society, is on the Advisory Board for A Precious Child, and Chaired the 2017 CPRD Arts-in-Education gala fundraiser. She has received numerous industry awards for leadership in business and industry: Forbes Women Leaders Issue, one of seven western region leaders recognized for exemplary business leadership, June 2016; Colorado’s 25 Most Powerful Women in Business, Colorado Women’s Chamber, 2016; Outstanding Women in Business/Healthcare, Denver Business Journal, 2015; Women of Distinction, Girl Scouts of America, 2015. Kim earned her bachelor’s degree from Towson State University and her MBA from Loyola College of Maryland. She is also a graduate of the Wright Management Group and Darden School of Business, Executive Leadership Programs.

3 | Naomi Binkley | Founder/Managing Partner, Fireside Production
Naomi 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, leading the campaign to set a new fundraising record for the Rocky Mountain chapter. She also serves on the LLS Board of Directors. Naomi was recognized for her success and civic engagement as a DBJ 2013 40 Under 40 Honoree.

4 | Kristen Blessman | President/CEO, Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce
Kristen has over 20 years of leadership experience, including strategic marketing, business development and executive management; working with both non-profit, for-profit as well as small business ownership experience. As CEO of the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce (CWCC), Kristen is responsible for executing the organization's mission of advancing women in business. She was hired in 2017 to bring value to membership through innovation, brand awareness and long-term
vision. Through the creation of a new leadership program, mentoring program and unique peer group programming, Kristen has overhauled programming and curriculum at the CWCC and brought a new value proposition to CWCC members and the community. Additionally, she is recreating the CWCC brand through new educational and inspiring events, enhanced digital and traditional media as well as extensive community outreach programs to create awareness and advocacy for women in the workplace. To date, Kristen's efforts have created a unique space for the CWCC in the community as well as increased interest and membership in the organization. Prior to the CWCC, Kristen was the Chief Marketing Officer for Goodwill Industries of Denver. Having been drawn to the organization's triple-bottom line business approach of people, profit and planet, she was responsible for the rebranding of Goodwill's image in 2009 and started Goodwill's first customer loyalty program, Club Blue in 2012. Kristen was appointed as innovation and business development officer in 2013, launching several new social enterprise businesses as well as doubling the organization's fundraising revenues. Under her leadership, Goodwill opened more than 40 new retail locations and grew from $30 million in revenues to over $70 million. Kristen has served on multiple committees and boards of directors, including The American Marketing Association, The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Denver Press Club, The Women’s Leadership Foundation, and Arapahoe House. She also volunteers for Goodwill Industries of Denver’s youth career programs in several metro Denver high schools and has been a guest lecturer at Metro State, Argosy and Regis University.

5 | Debbie Brown | Founder/CEO, Amplify Strategies

Debbie, 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 Trenegy, 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.

6 | Jennifer Chang | Regional Manager, Federal Civilian Scientific, Cisco Systems

Jennifer is the Regional Manager for the Federal Civilian Scientific team at Cisco Systems, where she leads the digital transformation strategy and sales operations for $250M in nationwide federal civilian business for the following agencies: Department of Energy, Department of Interior, USDA, Department of Commerce, and NASA. She manages a team that stretches coast to coast—10 Sales Professionals—in addition to indirect leadership of an integrated team of 20 Systems Engineers, Product Sales Specialists, Business Development, and Channels. Jennifer joined the Cisco team in 2011 from Global Technology Resources, where she worked as a Federal Account Executive, managing the national accounts of a major Department of Defense systems integrator. Her prior work experience includes Project Management, Business Development, Six Sigma, and Global Supply Chain with Lockheed Martin, as well as Student Affairs in the higher education realm. In the community, Jennifer sits on the Board of Directors of the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, mentors high school seniors through the college application process, and works directly with high potential female STEM students, connecting them with a network of women STEM professionals to increase their opportunities and support for success in STEM fields. Jennifer also served on the Executive Committee of Minds Matter of Denver, as well as the Board of Directors for the Young Philanthropists Foundation. Over the years, Jennifer has often been recognized for her professional and personal accomplishments. Most recently, the Denver Business Journal named her the 2017 Outstanding
Woman in Business in Technology and Telecom. She holds a B.A. and M.A. from UC Berkeley, a Graduate Certificate in Engineering Management from Drexel University, and an M.B.A. from the University of Colorado at Denver.

7 | Tami Cunningham | Managing Director/Head of Institutional Client Relationship Management, Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Tami is the Head of Institutional Client Relationship Management within Retirement & Personal Wealth Solutions and is based in Denver. In this role, Tami has responsibility for managing the team of Relationship Managers who specialize in providing integrated employee benefit solutions to Fortune 500 companies, including proprietary 401(k) plan administration, Equity Plan Services, and Health Benefit Solutions. Tami joined BofAML in 1996 and has over 25 years of professional experience in the retirement services industry. Prior to joining Bank of America, Tami worked at Great-West Life (Empower) where she worked in the Defined Contribution and Non-Profit Divisions. Tami earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Colorado and holds FINRA Series 7, 24 and 66 licenses. She is a member of the Western Pension and Benefits Council – Denver Chapter. Tami resides in Parker with her husband Al and is active in the local community. She previously served on the board for Camp Fire USA (Central Rockies), served for four years as a Troop Leader for Girl Scouts of America, and was President of the Chaparral High School Girls Basketball Booster Club for 2 years. Today Tami volunteers for Junior Achievement and is an active member of the Parent Leadership Council at Creighton University where her daughter Alison attends college. Tami is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

8 | Lori Davis | Managing Partner/Denver Office, 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. She has worked for Grant Thornton since July 1994. Lori has 28 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.

9 | W. Celeste Davis Stragand | Mobility Strategist, Ford Smart Mobility LLC
Celeste joined Ford Smart Mobility in February of 2019. Previously she managed the Way to Go, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program, overseeing efforts to improve air quality by changing the way commuters get around. During her previous 15 years of experience in communications, business development and public relations, Celeste had her hands in several high-profile projects in the metro area, including Colorado Department of Transportation’s C-470 Express Lanes; Department of Veterans Affairs Replacement Medical Center in Aurora; Denver International Airport Hotel and Transit Center; Olde Town Arvada Transit Hub; and the Denver Zoo’s Toyota Elephant Passage. Celeste graduated from the Downtown Denver Partnership Leadership Program in 2013 was named one of Denver Business Journal's Top 40 under 40 in 2018. She holds two bachelors’ in Chemistry and English from Texas A&M University, and a master’s in writing and poetics from Naropa University. She has served on state-wide boards in the past and is presently an active participant in Women’s Transportation Seminar serving on the program’s committee; Rocky Mountain Association for Commuter Transportation serving as a Director-at-Large; Clout Denver serving on the steering committee; and Presenting Denver serving as Board President. Celeste enjoys cycling, travel and spending time with her husband, Erick.
10 | Dr. Maria Delgado Deleon | Faculty Director, University of Colorado Denver CityCenter

Maria is Faculty Director for CityCenter at CU Denver and a Lecturer in the College of Architecture and Planning. CityCenter is the university’s front door where partnerships are formed, talent and knowledge are shared, and innovative solutions to urban challenges are advanced. Maria’s teaching has expanded community engagement opportunities for architecture students. She spearheaded the architecture installation in Denver’s first-ever urban pop-up park, which the neighborhood and Mayor’s Office praised as a great success. She also co-initiated the undergraduate International Design-Build course in which students fundraised $16,000 for materials to design and build a school in rural Nicaragua. Lastly, through her Digital Media courses, she introduced 3D printing and parametric design into the undergraduate program, as well as high-impact public exhibits to display student work. Maria serves as advisor on undergraduate student clubs and orchestrates the educational component in the College’s architecture summer camps for high school students. Recognizing her community involvement, she was honored as a Denver Business Journal’s 2018 40 under 40 winner. Committed to the community, Maria established the Denver Architectural Foundation Hard-Hat Tours, which fundraised nearly $24,000 for the non-profit organization. In her free time, she likes to design products that offer creative solutions to daily problems. In 2017, she obtained a patent for a bike accessory device she designed.

11 | Lori DeVito | President, AET Environmental

Lori heads AET Environmental, which offers hazardous waste management, in-plant remediation, energy support services, compliance and training services. Headquartered in the Rocky Mountains with regional service centers in Salt Lake City, UT; Dallas, TX; and Las Vegas, NV, the Company clients include federal, state and municipal government, manufacturing and industry, research and analytical laboratories, engineering firms, hospitals, gaming industry, school districts, universities, commercial services, and utilities. Lori has been with the firm since it’s founding in 1999 and has received several recognitions including Denver Business Journal’s Outstanding Women in Business Energy category in 2018 and a 2017 USDA/APHS WOSB Award. She served on the 2014 Governor’s Council for Economic Development Clean Energy Sector Nevada as well as the board of directors for Green Alliance and Green Chips. Lori received her master’s degree from Columbia University and her PhD in Philosophy from City University of New York Graduate Center.

12 | Maritza Dominguez Braswell | State of Colorado Attorney General’s Office, Deputy Attorney General

Maritza is a trial lawyer, focusing her practice on complex commercial litigation across an array of industries, including the financial services, mortgage and mortgage-backed securities, construction and cannabis sectors. At her core, Maritza is a problem solver. She has litigated cases for Fortune 100 companies, professional sports franchises, cannabis investors, large-scale developers, public entities and others involved in high-stakes, high-profile litigation. Maritza was a founding member of Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC (RBF Law), which merged with Fox Rothschild in 2018. At RBF Law, Maritza managed the day-to-day operations and administration of the firm. While at RBF Law, Maritza was regularly recognized for her innovative approach to the business of law, an approach that challenged the traditional law firm business model and allowed RBF Law to run cost-effectively for the benefit of its clients. Over half of the attorneys at RBF Law were either women, ethnic minorities, and/or identified as LGBT. Maritza also hired the first DREAMer in Colorado to be admitted to the Colorado Bar. Maritza and her team’s commitment to social justice earned RBF Law a nomination from the Colorado Lawyers Committee for Law Firm of the Year in 2018. Maritza has been recognized as a national top Latino lawyer and named one of Colorado’s Top 25 Most Powerful Women by the Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce. She is an active member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce, and the Colorado Lawyer’s Committee. Maritza is also a proud board member of the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, which works to ensure justice for adults in immigration detention and immigrant children who have suffered neglect and violence.
13 | Kate Douglas Kestyn | Associate, BrightView Design Group
Kate is an Associate of BrightView Design Group, the landscape architecture and planning division of the nation’s largest integrated landscape services company. As a marketing and business development veteran of almost 25 years, she has helped numerous design firms meet their goals. Kate combines a passion for success with a straightforward, pragmatic approach to develop and implement tailored strategies and solutions. Additionally, she serves as an example for women through her firm leadership as well as her involvement in the American Society of Landscape Architect’s Women in Landscape Architecture Professional Practice Network and on the Board of GROW: Growth in Relationships + Opportunities for Women, BrightView’s first Employee Resource Group.

14 | Renee Ferrufino | Vice President of Development, The Women’s Foundation of Colorado
Renee serves as the Vice President of Development at The Women’s Foundation of Colorado. She oversees the Foundation’s philanthropic strategies focusing on major donors, corporate partners, planned giving, annual fund, and donor advised funds. Prior to her time with The Women’s Foundation, Renee worked in development at the Colorado Children’s Campaign. Renee feels she has been given the privilege of creating awareness about a mission she believes in while building relationships with people and connecting them to philanthropy that ignites their passion. Renee is a current member of Colorado Planned Giving Roundtable and Association of Fundraising Professionals, and a former participant of the Institute for Leaders in Development. Prior to her career in development, Renee worked in the corporate sector as an accountant, financial analyst and revenue strategist.

15 | Stephanie Foote | CEO, Girl Scouts of Colorado
Stephanie became the President and CEO of Girl Scouts of Colorado (GSCO) in 2012. From 2007 to 2012, she served as Girl Scouts of Colorado’s Chair of the Board of Directors during the challenging aftermath of a national realignment of Girl Scout councils. Stephanie’s government and business background and connections have contributed to the organization’s rise to a top-performing Girl Scout council in the nation. Under her leadership, Girl Scouts of Colorado has invested in technology, downsized office space to more efficiently use resources, elevated programming for older Girl Scouts, slowed the trend of declining membership and is in the best fiscal shape the organization has seen since the 2007 realignment. Stephanie is responsible for oversight of $28 million in assets, including several camps and lodges, leased office space across the state and a retail shop. In partnership with her executive leadership team, she manages an annual operating budget of more than $12 million and statewide staff of more than 100 full-time, part-time and seasonal employees who support 22,000 girls and 10,000 volunteers in 56 counties in Colorado. Stephanie models business leadership for Girl Scouts, helping to establish an Endowment Fund at Rose Community Foundation to maximize the return on this organization’s investments. In 2015, she established the Stephanie A. Foote Leadership Prize, which is awarded annually to a Girl Scout who has completed her Gold Award whose project is selected by an independent panel as an exceptional example of impact through leadership.

16 | Andrea Fulton | Deputy Director/Chief Marketing Officer, Denver Art Museum
Andrea Kalivas Fulton is deputy director and chief marketing officer for the Denver Art Museum (DAM). She is responsible for the 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 major renovation and expansion effort for the Museum’s 1971 Gio Ponti-designed North Building. From 2001 to 2006, Andrea led the communications 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. She became deputy director and chief marketing officer in 2012, taking on additional functions including membership, events, retail and...
Mentors

guest services. Prior to joining the DAM, Andrea worked at local and national public relations agencies with a focus on corporate branding and awareness initiatives, media relations and internal communications for clients in the technology, fitness and government industries. Andrea serves on the boards of the Colorado Tourism Office and the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation. She is a member of the Leadership Advisory Committee for the Colorado Nonprofit Association and the Advisory Board for Cleo Parker Robinson Dance.

17  |  Karen Gerwitz  | President/CEO, World Trade Center Denver
Karen brings 30 years’ experience in international business to World Trade Center Denver in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Her enthusiastic vision for how Denver can become a more globally conscious city is what is driving the organization to its new development in the RiNo neighborhood near downtown. With business development, strategic growth and marketing as her main functional expertise, Karen has served overseas in Ghana and Austria, and in Colorado in multiple sectors including: IT, Aerospace, Lumber, Science, Mining, and Government. Her protocol and international cultural expertise prepared her well to host the official visits of the Emperor and Empress of Japan, the G8 Summit, the Western Hemisphere Ministerial Summit, and hundreds of other delegations. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in International Business and her Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado.

18  |  Heidi Gill  | Founder/CEO, Urban Solution Group
Heidi founded Urban Solution Group in 2017 to help bridge the gap between oil and gas development and social compatibility. Focusing on comprehensive mitigation plans and products, Urban conducts thorough data analysis, social assessments, equipment evaluations and regulatory review to provide full-scale mitigation plans. Every plan is specific to each location to ensure socially compatible, compliant operations. In the past year and a half, Heidi designed and filed a patent on a new type of sound wall that provides increased structural integrity and operational efficiency along with conducting a capital raise and doubling Urban's manufacturing capabilities. Feedback from industry on the patent pending wall design has been extremely positive and made Urban a leader in oil and gas mitigation innovation.
Prior to founding Urban, Heidi worked for Anadarko Petroleum where she oversaw all mitigation related activities with her primary focus on drilling, completions and production facilities. Leading a multi-disciplinary team, she oversaw the planning and execution of nuisance-based mitigation techniques surrounding future locations and grievances associated with existing locations. Anadarko received several awards including: 2016 Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Award for Stakeholder Relations: Surface Impact Planning, Response Line, Employee Advocacy. Heidi graduated from University of Oregon with bachelor’s degree in public relations and communications. She was recently awarded COGA's 2018 Emerging Leader Award along with being recognized by the Denver Business Journal as one of Denver’s 2018 Top Women in Energy.

19  |  Laura Giocomo Rizzo  | VP Marketing & Communications, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Laura is the vice president of communications and marketing for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. In her role, she manages internal and external communications, marketing and public relations for the Chamber and several of its affiliates, representing 3,000 metro area businesses and their 300,000 employees. Laura has worked in communications and marketing for then-Mayor John Hickenlooper, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Centura Health and SE2, a Denver-based communications consulting firm specializing in public issues. During her time at SE2, she managed communications and brand development for health care, education and transportation clients including the Colorado Hospital Association, Denver Public Schools and The Colorado Trust. Laura is currently on the board of Mile High Early Learning, Denver's oldest and largest provider of subsidized quality early childhood care. She also is a member of the community advisory board of Presbyterian St. Luke's and a volunteer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In 2010, Laura was co-chair of Gov. John Hickenlooper’s campaign health care committee. Following his successful election, she served on the Health Care Policy and Financing transition team for his first administration. A Colorado native and graduate of the University of Denver, it's no surprise that Laura is an avid skier and hiker.
20 | Stacey Hekkert | President/Managing Partner, Anton Collins Mitchell

Stacey leads Anton Collins Mitchell (ACM) as President and Managing Partner. She has 25 years of audit and assurance services experience and serves as an advisor to her clients, who are primarily focused in the real estate, distribution, and professional services industries, and she has deep expertise working with private equity and investor led companies. 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 a 2018 Outstanding Women in Business Winner by the Denver Business Journal. Additionally, she places a high value on corporate responsibility and serves on a variety of advisory and nonprofit board of directors. Stacey has also served as a national CPE instructor and has been published in the Practical Accountant and Colorado Real Estate Journal.

21 | Karen Hertz | Founder/CEO, Holidaily Brewing Company

Karen is the founder of Holidaily Brewing Company. Karen earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at the University of Colorado at Boulder and a Master's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Entrepreneurial Studies at the University of Colorado at Denver. She has 12+ years of experience in the brewing industry including human resources, finance, project management, supply chain, distribution, sales and marketing. In her early 30's, Karen survived both melanoma and thyroid cancers, leading to a treatment regimen including a gluten-free diet. After adopting a gluten-free diet, Karen struggled to find a great tasting, 100% gluten-free beer. If the lack of quality gluten-free options was a challenge for her, certainly it was a challenge for others. Karen was driven to solve this problem and spent years researching gluten-free ingredients, taste-testing alternatives, and gaining an understanding of brewing processes to create a better solution. Thus, the idea for Holidaily Brewing Company was born. Since opening Holidaily in 2016, its success has garnered recognition from Bon Appetit Magazine, Denver A-list, Gluten-free Living Magazine, USA Today, and more. Most recently, the brewery was acknowledged by the Denver Business Journal as one of the Denver-area craft breweries that is growing despite a slowing of sales growth for much of the industry. Outside of her role as Chief Brewista, Karen enjoys living in Golden with her husband and twin daughters and taking advantage of all that Colorado has to offer.

22 | Denise Jendrusch | Development Director, The Kempe Foundation

Denise leads the development efforts at The Kempe Foundation for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect where she works with donors, corporate partners and ambassadors in fundraising, advocacy and engagement programs. Prior to joining Kempe in November 2017, Denise spent her career in media sales and management. In 1996 she joined the Denver Business Journal as the Advertising Director and for 21 years led the sales department. A native Texan, Denise moved to Denver in 1995 after 10 years with the Houston Post where she worked in various sales and management roles including National Sales Manager. Denise is a graduate of the University of Houston and has completed the Corporate Social Responsibility certification program from the University of Colorado – Leeds School of Business Center for Education on Social Responsibility.

23 | Tasha Jones | Director of Marketing, Brookfield Properties

Tasha is Director of Marketing for Brookfield Properties, 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 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. Tasha was selected as a 2015 Girl Scouts Women of Distinction inductee.

24 | Vanecia Kerr | Regional Executive Director, College Track

College Track is a nonprofit organization focused on ensuring students from low-income communities get to and through college. Prior to joining College Track in 2016, Vanecia was the Managing Director of City Year Denver where she was responsible for overseeing the marketing, communications and development. In that role she created the first ever City Year Women’s Initiative that initially attracted 400 attendees at their first Annual Breakfast. In just two years the event had grown to over 800 attendees. Additionally, Vanecia was instrumental in nearly doubling the overall revenue for City Year Denver in just three years. Vanecia spent over 20 years in the corporate sector. Her experience includes serving as the Regional Director of Community Affairs for TIAA-CREF. In this role she was responsible for developing and overseeing the strategy and implementation of the community outreach activities for over 20 offices. Her tenure at TIAA-CREF spanned nearly 18 years where she held several leadership positions including serving in senior relationship management roles. Vanecia and her team handled the most complex top tier clients with assets ranging from $200M to $800M. Vanecia received her BA in Political Science from Hampton University (VA) and a Master’s in Public Administration from Baruch College (CUNY). Vanecia was recognized as one of the Top 25 Most Powerful Women by the Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce (2018) and one of the Outstanding Women in Business by the Denver Business Journal (2018). She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries of Denver, and the Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado. Additionally, Vanecia was appointed by former Governor John Hickenlooper to serve on the Colorado Commission on Higher Education in 2014.

25 | Katie Kruger | CEO, DMCAR

Katie is the CEO of the Denver Metro Commercial Association of Realtors (DMCAR). DMCAR represents 2,000 commercial real estate professionals across Colorado. Prior to joining the Association, Katie 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 Katie 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% 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, Katie 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 her teed up efforts for community support, and ultimately led the organization to become the largest commercial real estate group in the US. Katie was honored as a 2016 PowerBook Award recipient 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. She currently serves as a Chair of the Denver Metro Chamber Public Affairs Council, sits on the executive team at the Colorado Real Estate Alliance and often supports and participates on behalf of the Board of Directors at Vital for Colorado.
26 | **Heather Lafferty** | Executive Director/CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver

Heather has served as the Executive Director and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver since 2008. She has worked in various roles with Habitat for Humanity locally and nationally since 1999. During Heather’s tenure at Habitat Metro Denver, the organization quadrupled the number of families served annually. Today, the organization is serving more than 200 families a year through its homeownership program with the support of more than 15,000 volunteers. Key strategic initiatives under Heather's executive leadership include the launch of a $30 million comprehensive funding campaign, program expansion to include community development and neighborhood revitalization in Denver neighborhoods, and the launch of 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 the creation and preservation of affordable housing, advocacy, research and community mobilization. Heather also serves the community as Vice Chair of the Mayor’s Housing Advisory Council, and a board member of the Colorado Nonprofit Association and the Neighborhood Development Collaborative. In 2013, she was awarded the prestigious Livingston Fellowship by the Bonfils Stanton Foundation. 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 degrees in journalism and business at The George Washington University. She continued her education at University of Colorado with a master's in business administration.

27 | **Julie Lerner** | Founder/CEO, PanXchange

Julie is the Founder and CEO of PanXchange, a trading platform and market structure solution for physical commodities that specializes in bringing liquidity and efficiencies to thin and/or nascent markets. She holds two patents on the system, was selected as a Futures Industry Association Innovator, was named an Outstanding Woman in Business by the Denver Business Journal in 2018, and one of the Most Admired CEOs, also by the DBJ in 2018. Julie began her career with Cargill International and later became the senior trader for Cargill's Latin American sugar markets, where she focused on the development of origination markets with successful financing programs and warehouse and distribution programs. She has also held several positions in trading and business development with companies such as XL Financial (weather derivatives) and Sempra Energy Trading (electricity).

28 | **Traci Lounsbury** | CEO/Owner, Workplace ELEMENTS

Traci is a born leader with more than two decades of experience at the helm of four 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. This led to the creation of a small dealership. 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 Charles Schwab, Digital Globe, First Western Trust Bank, Johns Manville, IMA Insurance, Google, Home Advisor, and Vertafore. The company has become one of the largest woman-owned businesses in Colorado with annual revenues projected at $93 million this year. 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 2017 recipient of the Denver Business Journal's Outstanding Women in Business award, a 2015 recipient of the EY Entrepreneur of the Year award for the Mountain Desert Region as well as the national Enterprising Woman of the Year award. She also serves as a board member of the Downtown Denver Partnership and is one of the driving forces behind the women entrepreneurs programming at The Commons under the title of Women on the Rise.
Janiece Mackey | Co-Founder/Executive Director, Young Aspiring Americans for Social & Political Activism (YAASPA)

Janiece grew up in Aurora, Colorado where she still resides. She is a wife to her high school sweetheart and mother of 4 children. Janiece has built her career of service and leadership from her narrative. She has been involved in politics since she was 17 years old and noticed that she was often the only youth of color. She knew youth of color either weren't interested in civic engagement or they didn’t have a conduit to civically engage in our communities. As a result, Janiece created an organization entitled Young Aspiring Americans for Social and Political Activism (YAASPA). YAASPA endeavors to build the self-efficacy of youth who desire to make change in our communities, pursue social science degrees, and social justice careers. The vision of YAASPA is to cultivate youth to be civically engaged in community and career. Due to her converging interests in education and policy, she also teaches Ethnic Studies and Political Science as an Adjunct Faculty. Janiece is also pursuing a PhD in Higher Education with a Public Policy and Curriculum and Instruction emphasis at the University of Denver. She desires to deepen, further develop, and expand “healing praxis” for more youth and professionals within the public service sector. She believes that those who commit to transformational justice and equity must validate and innovate academic and career experiences that will sustain, retain, and rejuvenate youth and professionals of color who commit to “transformational praxis.”

Pattie Money | Chief People Officer, SendGrid

Pattie has over 20 years of HR leadership experience, spending the last 15 years in the technology sector. She oversees SendGrid’s greatest assets, their human resources, and is responsible for building and implementing the People Operations strategies and programs that support SendGrid’s ambitious growth and evolving organization while preserving and enhancing our core culture. Prior to joining SendGrid, Pattie served as Chief People Officer at TubeMogul, a publicly traded global ad tech company in the Bay area and Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Mercury Payment Systems, a payment technology company. Pattie holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from University of Memphis and a Master of Science in Human Resource Development Degree from Villanova University.

Amanda Mountain | President/CEO, Rocky Mountain Public Media

Amanda grew up a military brat and has called Colorado home since 1992. She is a first-generation college graduate and holds a master’s degree from the University of Denver in Organizational Leadership. She is the first female CEO in Rocky Mountain Public Media history and is the youngest CEO of a major market public media station in the country. She has nearly 20 years of media experience, most notably with Freedom Communications, where she was named one of the top 20 Newspaper executives in the country by Presstime Magazine, and Viacom, where she helped pioneer cross-platform marketing strategies under the leadership of Mel Karmazin. She joined Rocky Mountain PBS in 2010 as general manager of the Southern Colorado station and stepped into the role of President and CEO in 2017 where she is now leading the mission to strengthen the civic fabric of Colorado through public media.

Katie Obarski | AVP/Marketing Manager, Vectra Bank

Katie joined Vectra Bank Colorado in July 2018 specializing in brand development; financial, professional, and B2B services; marketing communications; visual strategy, sales and advertising strategy as well as leadership and mentoring. Previously, Katie spent almost 15 years focusing on brand and marketing communications for one of the country’s largest public accounting firms—EKS&H—now part of Plante Moran. Katie has served as President of The Association of Accounting Marketing (AAM) Colorado Chapter, President of the Young Arrupe Philanthropists, and Chair of the Recruitment Committee for Metro Denver Partners. Additionally, she is involved with the Center for Bank Advocacy, a leadership program focusing on government affairs. Katie has mentored women ages 10 to 60+ and finds it to be one of the most fulfilling aspects of her career.
33 | Debra Pollock | CEO, The Center – Advancing LGBT Colorado
Debra is the CEO of The LGBT Community Center of Colorado. She is a Colorado native and grew up in the small town of Berthoud, Colorado and attended the University of Colorado in Boulder. In addition to Colorado, Debra has lived in San Francisco, CA and Naples Italy. She is passionate about LGBT equality after living through the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco when she realized that if we don’t stick up for ourselves no one else is going to. Debra has deep experience in nonprofit management and fundraising having worked in executive positions at the San Francisco Ballet, The Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Michigan Opera Theatre among others.

34 | Caroline Portis | Co-Founder/CFO/COO, QuickZip Sheet Company
You must have seen her on Shark Tank! Caroline is one of the founders of QuickZip is a patented solution to the dreaded fitted bed sheet. QuickZip is primarily sold through online channels, including Amazon, Bed Bath & Beyond.com and quickzip-sheet.com. Since co-founding QuickZip in June of 2014, monthly revenues have increased by over 200%. Caroline was responsible for the first round of funding, where the company raised over $500,000. Prior to QuickZip, Caroline was the CFO for The Boppy Company, VP of Finance for MediaNews Group Interactive, Controller for General Electric, Director of Operations for Level 3 Communications and Director of Accounting for Boston Chicken, Inc. Caroline started her career as a CPA in public accounting in Chicago and graduated from the University of Michigan. She is passionate about solving difficult problems and obsessed with phenomenal financial and operational reporting. She prefers high growth businesses because they allow her to use her exceptional skills in wearing many hats and using her charismatic personality to bridge the gap successfully between accounting/finance and sales, marketing, IT, HR, and operations.

35 | Ceyl Prinster | President/CEO, Colorado Enterprise Fund
Ceyl is President and CEO of Colorado Enterprise Fund (CEF), an award-winning nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Founded in 1976, CEF provides access to capital and capacity-building support for small businesses to build prosperous, diverse and equitable communities. CEF has made over $85 million in loans to 2,400 Colorado small businesses. CEF’s loans have impacted 12,000 jobs, and 82% of loans were made to minority, women or low-income entrepreneurs. CEF has received numerous awards, most recently the 2017 Impact Catalyst Award and the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. As the chief executive of CEF for 30 years, Ceyl is a pioneer of and national leader in community development finance. Prior to CEF, Ceyl was a commercial loan analyst, loan officer and training officer at United Bank of Denver (now Wells Fargo). She holds the professional designation of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). Her current service roles include Trustee of the Denver Foundation and Chair of its Impact Investing Committee, Board and Executive Committee Member of the national CDFI Coalition and Board Member of The Other Side Academy. She previously served as Trustee for the University of Notre Dame and President of its Alumni Association and was a founding Member of the Denver Sustainable Food Policy Council. Her awards include The David E. Bailey Small Business Advocate Award from the Denver Metro Chamber, Outstanding Woman in Business from the Denver Business Journal, the Financial Services Advocate of the Year from the SBA, and the Tom Dooley Award from the University of Notre Dame.

36 | Diane Reinhard | Vice President of Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer, Craig Hospital
Diane is vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer at Craig Hospital. Craig is a national, not-for-profit, top 10 rehabilitation and research hospital that specializes in spinal cord and/or traumatic brain injury. At Craig, Diane oversees the utilization of human, fiscal and material resources allocated to inpatient and outpatient nursing, food services, pharmacy, nursing education, patient/family education, infection control, Nurse Advice Line, respiratory and quality departments. Diane led the program to establish Target Zero, a campus-wide initiative to reduce (or eliminate) all hospital-acquired harm/infections. As a member of Craig’s leadership team, she helped Craig earn its designation as a Magnet facility for excellence in nursing three times, as well as receive the NDQO® award in 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 for the highest quality outcomes in nursing care in a rehabilitation facility.
Diane joined Craig as a nurse manager in 1990, after earning her bachelor’s degree in nursing (BSN) from the University of Denver in 1985. Diane earned a master’s in business in 1989 and a master’s degree in computer information systems from the University of Phoenix in 2001. Having a business and computer background proved to be valuable as she moved into leadership roles with more fiduciary responsibilities, and as Craig moved toward electronic medical records (EMR) and other technology integrations in health care. She also earned a doctorate in executive leadership from the American Sentinel University in 2013 and holds professional certifications in health care finance and is board-certified in rehabilitation nursing and executive nursing. Diane serves on the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation Board of Directors, University of Denver Bioscience Advisory Board, program planning committee for the Association of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals and executive team for the Women in Health care Denver Chapter. She has also served as an adjunct faculty member to Regis University for the past 10 years and teaches courses online in the Nursing master’s degree program.

37  |  Dr. Karen Riley  |  Dean, University of Denver Morgridge College of Education
Karen is the Dean of the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver. Her education includes a B.S. in Psychology; a M.A. in Early Childhood Special Education, and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Child and Family Studies. She completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at The Children's Hospital in Denver in the Fragile X Treatment and Research Center and subsequently worked at the Child Development Unit within The Children's Hospital. Karen is a Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning Sciences. Currently, Karen serves on the Clinical and Scientific Advisory Board for the National Fragile X Foundation. She has over 15 years of experience in teaching and administration of early childhood special education programs and an additional 10 years of experience working with children who have neurodevelopmental disorders and their families. Particular areas of interest and expertise include assessment and intervention of infants and preschoolers, curriculum development, school consultation, behavioral interventions and low incidence disabilities. She lectures extensively throughout the US as well as internationally, on behavioral and educational interventions for children with neurodevelopmental disorders primarily those with fragile X syndrome.

38  |  Janice Sinden  |  President/CEO, Denver Center for the Performing Arts
Janice joined the Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) as President & CEO in September 2016, leading the largest non-profit theatre organization in the nation. The diversity of Janice’s career path has allowed her to support rich cultural experiences, access to education, and community involvement through her interest in politics. Before the DCPA, she served as Chief of Staff for Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock for five years where she managed 60 appointees, 26 departments and the day-to-day complexities that come with running a major metropolitan city. Her previous experience includes serving as the Executive Director of Colorado Concern, Manager of Community Relations/Corporate Communications for Sharp HealthCare in San Diego and working in both Washington, DC and Colorado for U.S. Senator Wayne Allard. Janice has been recognized by 5280 magazine as one of the 50 most influential people in Denver, by the Colorado Women’s Foundation as one of the 25 most influential women in Colorado, 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 Alumnus of the Year. She currently serves on the boards of Citizens for Arts to Zoo, University of Northern Colorado, VISIT Denver, American Transplant Foundation, Denver Preschool Program, and Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC). She is also a member of the Performing Arts Centers Consortium, Independent Presenters Network, Theatre Communications Group, National Western Stock Show and Colorado Concern. Previously, she was appointed by Governors Owens and Ritter to serve on the Colorado Creative Industries Council which invests in Colorado’s artistic workforce so creative entrepreneurs and enterprises will flourish.
39 | Kim States | President/CEO, Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau

Kim started her BBB career with in Tucson as director of public relations in 2006 at the BBB serving Southern Arizona. In 2008 Kim was named CEO, during which time she worked closely with board and staff to achieve steady membership growth and community awareness across southern Arizona. Having grown up on a cattle ranch in Northern Colorado, Kim was eager to get back to her roots, so when she heard the Denver/Boulder BBB was looking for a CEO, she jumped at the opportunity. She now has the privilege of working with 50 amazing staff members and a dedicated board of directors to increase the BBB’s impact in the Denver metro area. In her time at Denver she has overseen a realignment of staff, a culture shift, improved board performance and steady growth in membership. Kim is currently serving a second three-year term on the Board of Directors for the Council of Better Business Bureaus. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Family Resource Center Association. Kim attained her B.A. from Colorado State University in 1993.

40 | Ellen Trachman | Founder, Trachman Law Center

Ellen founded Trachman Law Center in order to bring dedicated and compassionate legal representation to those wishing to build a family through adoption or assisted reproductive technology. She has dedicated her practice to the law of reproductive technologies. Ellen is also the co-founder and Director of Colorado Surrogacy, a Colorado-focused surrogacy matching and support agency. Originally from northern New Mexico, Ellen attended undergrad at the University of California, Berkeley, and law school at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a member of the American Bar Association Assisted Reproductive Technology Committee, the Colorado Women’s Bar Association, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and Resolve (a national infertility association). Ellen received the 2015 Entrepreneurial Woman of the Year award from the Denver Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, 2017 Volunteer of the Year for the GLBT Community Center of Colorado, and was named by Denver Business Journal as one of Denver’s 2018 40 Under 40.

41 | Meg VanderLaan | Chief Marketing Officer, Encore Electric

Throughout her career, Meg has directed marketing and communications programs for leading companies in the engineering, construction and manufacturing industries, helping transform brands and express stories in multiple cultures, languages and countries. Currently, Meg is the Chief Marketing Officer for Encore Electric, one of the Rocky Mountain West’s premier commercial electrical contracting firms. As a member of the executive leadership team, Meg sets the marketing strategy and provides innovative leadership for all aspects of marketing and communications for the company. Previously, she was an independent marketing and communications consulting services for Colorado companies following her Chief Communications Officer role with MWH Global. Earlier career experiences include leadership roles in marketing and public relations for Gates Corporation, a dot-com startup and companies in the healthcare industry. Meg serves as a member of the board of trustees for her alma mater, Gannon University, in Erie, Pennsylvania and also serves as a member of the board of directors for City Year Denver. She has been invited to speak to a number of organizations about mentoring, leadership, women in business and crisis communications. Her favorite was commencement speaker in 2015 for Gannon University, where she was awarded an honorary doctorate. Meg was named: Business Marketer of the year for BMA Colorado (Business Marketing Association) in 2016; 25 Most Powerful Women in Colorado by the Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce in 2016; Business Person of the Year by the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) in 2015; and, the 2014 Outstanding Woman in Business in Media, PR and Communications by the Denver Business Journal.

42 | Robin Wise | President/CEO, Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain

Robin serves as President & CEO of JA-Rocky Mountain. Since taking the helm in 1992, the organization has grown from reaching just 8,000 students in the 1990/1991, to reaching more than 126,000 this past school year. Robin was selected as one of the 2015 Top 25 Most Powerful Women by the Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce and has received many other local and national awards for her leadership and business savvy, such as Outstanding Woman in Business from the Denver Business
Journal. Robin is also involved in the broader community and serves as a board member for the Public Education and Business Coalition, Director Emeriti of the Colorado Open Foundation, an active member of the American Enterprise Institute Leadership Network, and is the former Vice Chair of the Colorado Lottery Commission, to name a few. Robin received her bachelor’s degree in journalism and political science from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. When she’s not working with educators, business leaders and the fun and passionate JA team to achieve JA’s mission, Robin likes to golf, entertain and spend time with her husband and two sons.