



**Elevate.
Connect.
Lead.**



boettcher
FOUNDATION®

YEAR IN REVIEW | 2023



Foundation President & CEO Katie Kramer (middle) with Marisa Wigglesworth (left), CEO of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum, and Boettcher Trustee Pam Shockley-Zalabak (right) at the opening of *Elevate. Connect. Lead.* at the Colorado Springs museum.

2023: ELEVATE. CONNECT. LEAD.

Dear Supporters and Friends,

2023 has been a transformative year for the Boettcher Foundation, embodying our commitment to elevate, connect, and support the leadership of Colorado’s doers and difference makers.

This year we breathed new life into our strategy, with our focus on Alumni engagement, fund development, and impact investing. Our inaugural *Elevate. Connect. Lead.* summer event in Colorado Springs exemplified our commitment to connection as we revealed our new Alumni engagement strategy.

We also continued to refresh our brand and communications work, launching a podcast titled *Colorado Leadership Stories*, unveiling a new website with a page called LEAD that shares stories about the promise of Colorado through the eyes of leaders and communities.

Looking ahead to 2024, our focus remains on addressing the critical issues in education, civic leadership, and rural vitality. As we anticipate the 15th anniversary of Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program, we’re deeply grateful for your steadfast support and commitment to our mission.



Katie S. Kramer

KATIE S. KRAMER
President & CEO



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2023 Boettcher Scholars

The **2023 Class of Boettcher Scholars**, chosen from a record-breaking pool of applicants, stands as a testament to our ongoing commitment to fostering the potential of Colorado’s young minds.

This cohort of **50 exceptional high school seniors** embodies academic excellence, service, leadership, and outstanding character. Each Scholar will receive an \$80,000 scholarship over four years, supplemented by additional aid from their respective Colorado institutions of higher education.

Beyond financial support, our comprehensive scholarship package includes tailored programming and assistance to ensure each Scholar reaches their full academic and leadership potential.

“**This cohort of Scholars possesses a commitment to leadership and service that has truly enriched their communities all across the state. We are excited to see how they contribute to their college communities and beyond.**”

VANESSA ROMAN
DIRECTOR OF SCHOLARSHIPS &
FOUNDATION PROGRAMS



Check out their story on our website.

Scholars Creating a New Path Forward

For Andrea Donlucas and Colton Huff, the Boettcher Scholarship was more than an envelope with a letter — it meant freedom from financial worries and a supportive community. As first-generation students, this opportunity paved the way for their undergraduate journeys.



YUMNA ALI
KIPP Northeast Denver Leadership Academy
Colorado College



EMMA AUBERT
Palisade High School
University of Colorado Boulder



JOSEPH BROCK
Air Academy High School
Colorado School of Mines



GARRETT CANNON
Delta High School
Colorado State University



DALTON CARROLL
Manzanola High School
University of Colorado Boulder



MICHELLE CHEN
Arvada High School
Colorado College



KAVIYA CHIDAMBARAM
Broomfield High School
Colorado College



AMI DIATTA
Boulder High School
University of Colorado Boulder



LIA DINO
Mullen
University of Colorado Boulder



HUNTER DONOVAN
Fleming High School
Regis University



AVI GROPE
Cherry Creek High School
University of Colorado Boulder



KEREM GURKAN
Fossil Ridge High School
University of Colorado Boulder

2023 Boettcher Scholars



YUSUF HANIF
Grandview High School
University of Colorado Boulder



JAZZ HENNES
Conifer High School
Colorado State University



CHARLOTTE HOFFMAN
Green Mountain High School
University of Colorado Boulder



LINDSAY JEANS
Evergreen High School
Colorado School of Mines



AVEN McCALL
Greeley Central High School
University of Denver



ALINA MIRANDA
Monarch High School
Colorado College



EMMA MORGAN
Coal Ridge High School
University of Colorado Boulder



NOAH OSUNA
Overland High School
University of Northern Colorado



JAIKRIT JOHAR
Cherokee Trail High School
University of Colorado Boulder



TESS JOHNSON
Kit Carson High School
University of Colorado Boulder



JHOANY JUAREZ
Burlington High School
Colorado State University



KATE JORDAN LITTLE
Thomas Jefferson High School
University of Colorado Boulder



LUKE PARKER
Heritage High School
University of Colorado Boulder



IRIS PIXLER
Legend High School
Colorado College



SUJAY POTLAPELLY
Rock Canyon High School
University of Colorado Boulder



SHRUTHI RAJESH
Rock Canyon High School
University of Colorado Boulder



KATIE LOCKWOOD
Meeker High School
Colorado College



CALEB LOEWENGART
Centaurus High School
University of Colorado Boulder



BRINDA MALIK
STEM School Highlands Ranch
University of Denver



MARISSA MARTINEZ
Monte Vista High School
Colorado State University



DYLAN ROSEMAN
Early College Academy
University of Northern Colorado



MARIAH ROSENSWEIG
Denver East High School
University of Colorado Boulder



MYLES RUBIN
Rock Canyon High School
University of Colorado Boulder



CORA SCHROCK
Arickaree High School
Colorado State University

2023 Boettcher Scholars



COOPER SEAMAN
Hi-Plains High School
University of Colorado
Colorado Springs



IRIS SERRANO
Overland High School
University of Colorado Boulder



SAM SPOTTS
Peak to Peak Charter School
University of Colorado Boulder



LOUIS STEMPPER
Dakota Ridge High School
University of Colorado Boulder



BRAKELLE WESTPHAL
Springfield High School
Metropolitan State University



JACK WILLEKE
Otis High School
University of Colorado Boulder



KYLEE WOLFE
Greeley West High School
University of Colorado Boulder



MAX ZENK
Platte Valley High School
Colorado State University



NANCY SUAREZ-DURAN
Olathe High School
Colorado Mesa University



ELLA SWANSON
Springfield High School
Colorado School of Mines



NORA TAYEFEH
Colorado Early Colleges
Fort Collins High School
Colorado State University



JOEY UYEMURA
Wray High School
University of Denver



LUIS MENDOZA VEGA
Valley High School
Colorado State University



ABBY VSETECKA
Widefield High School
University of Colorado Boulder

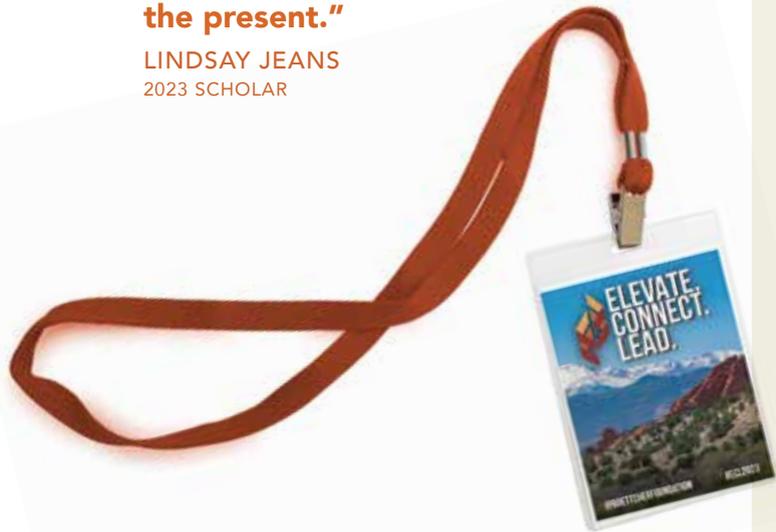


Current Scholars gather in Colorado Springs at our *Elevate. Connect. Lead.* event in August.

The Boettcher Foundation’s inaugural **Elevate. Connect. Lead.** event brought together nearly 400 Scholars and Alumni in a transformative gathering, emphasizing connections and community. Highlighting the 4 Ts — time, talent, ties, and treasure — it fostered diverse connections and personal growth. Post-event surveys showed attendees’ overwhelmingly positive feedback, citing new relationships and deeper engagement understanding. Alumni events of this type will now occur biennially, reflecting Boettcher’s dedication to empowering Scholars and Alumni on their leadership and service journeys.

“ I talked to a 1982 Mines Alum. She and I talked a lot about the empowerment of women in the workplace and the intense and amazing changes she’d seen over the years. It made me feel hopeful for the future and grateful for the present.”

LINDSAY JEANS
2023 SCHOLAR



2

NATIONAL
KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS



42

FACILITATORS,
SUBJECT MATTER
EXPERTS, AND
PANELISTS



3

VENUES



4

EXCURSIONS



Check out
this video from
the *Elevate.
Connect. Lead.*
event.

ALUMNI EVENTS ACROSS THE STATE IN 2023

In 2023, Boettcher’s Alumni engagement strategy evolved significantly, with the hiring of an alumni engagement manager and close collaboration with the **Boettcher Scholar Alumni Board**. Alumni were offered diverse opportunities to reconnect through initiatives like virtual sessions, a book club, and a Colorado Rockies game. The launch of our new mentorship program, Boettcher Connect, aims to deepen connections between current Scholars and Alums. Foundation staff also traveled locally to Greeley and out-of-state to Portland and San Francisco to reconnect with Alumni and encourage them to engage locally.



“

This was a stellar year for Alumni engagement! More Alumni participated in events and programming, reaching an all-time high in quality and intention. Excited to see what 2024 holds for our Alums!”

RUTHIE LESTIKOW
2000 SCHOLAR

15
ALUMNI
ENGAGEMENT
EVENTS

15
BOETTCHER
CONNECT
PARTICIPANTS

PAYING IT FORWARD

In August, we publicly announced the **Boettcher Scholars Fund**, a new 501c(3) public charity. This initiative allows Scholar Alumni to contribute financially to the Boettcher Foundation, fostering the growth of Scholar programming. Our goal is to provide continuous support to Scholars at all stages, from undergraduates to established Alums, with a focus on leadership and civic engagement.

40
DONORS

\$12k
RAISED DURING
GIVING WEEK

Watch Jason's story here.

boettcher
SCHOLARS FUND

Described as an “amazingly authentic” human, 1992 Scholar Jason Wheeler deeply cares about his community and the future of Boettcher, as evidenced by his commitment to pay his scholarship forward.

The Boettcher Foundation proudly presents its third cohort of **Doers & Difference Makers Fellows**, celebrating and connecting community champions from diverse backgrounds across Colorado. In February, the cohort gathered in Colorado Springs and explored upcoming relationships with professional coaches, discussed Professional Development Awards, and collaborated on various initiatives during the retreat.



▼ 2022 Fellows gather in Colorado Springs for the Fellowship Retreat in February, pictured left to right: Lupita Garcia, Esteban Salazar, Jennifer Holloway, Dave Goe, Gillian Laycock, Gregory Kolomitz, Letitica Bancroft, Gloria Perez, Chris Beasley, Shelby Clark.

2023 Fellows



CARRIE ANDREW
Norwood



SUSIE BEVAN
Grand Junction



RHONDA GRAHAM
Julesburg



ZACH HIGGINS
Parker



KIRSTIE MCPHERSON
Craig



AARON MILTENBERGER
Alamosa



DENCIA RAISH
Akron



BRYANA STARBUCK
Glenwood Springs



TERA WICK
Ridgway

3
COHORTS

25
FELLOWS

19
COUNTIES

FELLOWSHIP COMPONENTS

- 6 Monthly Sessions
- 3 Retreats
- Individualized Coaching
- Professional Development Grant

In 2023, the Boettcher Foundation provided approximately **\$1.75 million in grants** to organizations working to better the quality of life of all Coloradans. Since 1937, the Boettcher Foundation has provided more than **\$420 million in grant funding** throughout the state.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS GRANTS



Trinidad State College
Trinidad

Trinidad State College is remodeling its library for the first time since construction in 1967. Support will help to upgrade the building’s energy efficiencies, new technology, multipurpose rooms, and a “makerspace” for community groups and businesses.



Unify America
Statewide

Unify America’s College Bowl boosts civil discourse, reduces contempt, and creates a space for young people to discuss controversial issues. Unify America is expanding its university partners in Colorado, with a major growth year planned in 2024.



Community Hospital Adventure Academy
Grand Junction

Community Hospital in Grand Junction has constructed an on-site childcare facility open to the public. The 106-slot center, operated by a nonprofit provider, represents an incredible partnership between an employer and a community to meet childcare needs.



United Way of Yampa Valley Merger Support
Steamboat Springs and Craig

Increasingly united by regional challenges around the coal transition and workforce, the United Ways of Routt and Moffat Counties have decided to merge. Support will help with one-time costs including IT integration, program reorganization, branding, and accounting services.



Boys & Girls Club of the San Luis Valley Nonprofit HUB
Alamosa

Boys & Girls Club of the San Luis Valley is renovating a large downtown Alamosa building to house its administrative offices and become a hub for other community organizations. Boettcher’s support will help to serve youth and revitalize downtown Alamosa.



Crow-Luther Cultural Events Center
Eads

The Crow-Luther Cultural Events Center is an effort that began in 2006 to save a historic block of buildings in Eads. Capital support will bring a community partnership to help a library relocate from the courthouse basement to a vacant storefront next to the theater.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS GRANTS



Latino Cultural Arts Center
Denver

The Latino Cultural Arts Center is renovating a large, former West Denver warehouse into a cultural hub for Latino arts and community. Boettcher’s support will help the center to feature classrooms, galleries, a community kitchen, and provide space for partnerships with numerous organizations.



RTL Foundation
Denver

RTL Foundation is creating a BIPOC Nonprofit Development Center to serve as an incubator and coworking space for BIPOC-led and serving nonprofits in Denver. Boettcher’s support provides infrastructure for communities to collaborate.



The Bridge Social Services Hub
Arvada

The Bridge offers families a variety of social service resources (clothing, childcare, parenting, mental and physical health, resource navigation) at a single location in a revitalized Arvada shopping center. This project is a collaboration between Revive Church, numerous nonprofit and for-profit organizations, and the City of Arvada.

CATALYST GRANTS

The **Catalyst Grant Program** awarded 21 grants to organizations in 2023. These capacity building grants were created for nonprofits to request a one-time, strategic injection of funds to impact local or regional housing, childcare, workforce, or leadership pipeline challenges. The recipients of these grants are part of the Rural Leaders Collaborative, focusing on key issues emphasized during the network meetings throughout the year.

Here are some highlights of organizations funded in 2023:

- The Meeting Place – Carbondale (\$6,000)
- Costilla County Economic Development Council – Sangre de Cristo Cultural Heritage Center Youth Lead Initiative (\$7,500)
- Downtown Grand Junction Placemaking (\$7,500)
- Mancos Creative District “Made in Mancos” Campaign (\$7,500)

SCHOLAR GRANTS

Boettcher Scholars can apply for Educational Enrichment, International Education, and Collaboration Grants. These Scholar grants allow students to pursue educational enrichment opportunities beyond regular coursework that will broaden their educational experience.



33
STUDENTS COMPLETED EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT GRANTS

18
STUDENTS COMPLETED INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

► Maggie Holland, 2022 Scholar at CU Boulder, used her enrichment grant to volunteer at a rural vet clinic in Thailand over the summer.

11
STUDENTS COMPLETED COLLABORATION GRANTS

\$1.8 million was issued to support the Foundation's **Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards** in 2023. These awards support promising, early career investigators, allowing them to advance their research and compete for major grants.



Pushing Boundaries to Transform Treatment in Colorado Bioscience Magazine.



“

We are truly amazed by the remarkable researchers we support. Their dedication and ingenuity are driving groundbreaking discoveries with the potential to reshape biomedical science.”

KATIE KRAMER
PRESIDENT & CEO

2023 BOETTCHER INVESTIGATORS



HALIL AYDIN, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER



NEEL BUTALA, MD, MBA
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



NICK BOTTENUS, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER



CAROLINE M. DIAZ, MD, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



NURIS FIGUEROA-MORALES, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
BOULDER



MEGAN R. HILL, PhD
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



PATRICK HUME, MD, PhD
NATIONAL JEWISH HEALTH



MATTHEW WITKOWSKI, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

98
TOTAL INVESTIGATORS

87
STILL CONDUCTING
RESEARCH AT COLORADO
INSTITUTIONS

\$21.1M
IN FEDERAL GRANT
FUNDING

10
PATENTS

23
ARTICLES

11
BOETTCHER FACILITATED
COLLABORATION GRANTS
BETWEEN INVESTIGATORS
AND SCHOLARS

TONY FRANK, DVM, PhD, Chair
REBECCA LOVE KOURLIS, JD
MICHELLE M. LUCERO, Secretary
DAVID MILLER
GREGORY L. MOORE, Chair-Elect
RICO MUNN, JD
LINDSEY PAULSON, MD
RICK PEDERSON
PAMELA SHOCKLEY-ZALABAK, PhD
JASON WHEELER, Treasurer



“ Annual reports are more than a summary – they’re a chance to reflect back on what did, and didn’t, get accomplished. At Boettcher, that means impact. Our Scholars and Investigators continued to be a source of impact. But in terms of impactful change, watching our Boettcher Alumni continue a journey from gratefulness to engagement –

giving back to those who will follow in their footsteps, and watching the impact of Boettcher’s investment in human leadership capital

through our ‘doers and difference makers’ across Colorado demonstrate again that Boettcher doesn’t simply believe in the promise of Colorado and the potential of Coloradans, we’re part of making that a reality.”

TONY FRANK
 CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MARIA ALSUBHI
Selection & Programs Coordinator

TIFFANY ANDERSON
Vice President of Grants & Programs

LESLIE BALDWIN
Grants & Database Manager

CURTIS L. ESQUIBEL
Senior Director of Communications & Community Engagement

JOSUÉ ESTRADA MURILLO
Office Coordinator

HALEY FICK
Accounting & Operations Manager

NATALIE GILL
Communications Specialist

KATIE S. KRAMER
President & CEO

KAREN L. KRUSE
Chief Operating Officer & Vice President of Finance

GARRETT MAYBERRY
Grants Program Officer

FLOYD PIERCE
Alumni Engagement Manager

VANESSA ROMAN
Director of Scholarships & Foundation Programs

MEGAN VIVIER
Executive Assistant

JACKIE YELTON
Programs Coordinator



We believe in the promise of Colorado and the potential of Coloradans because courageous leadership benefits every community in our state. By investing in people, programs, and organizations, we provide a foundation for transformational impact and community building.



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