

Ripple Effect for Leadership Practitioners

Speaker Bios



Tiffany Anderson

Vice President of Grants & Programs at Boettcher Foundation

Tiffany Anderson oversees the Boettcher Foundation's portfolio of programs and grants including the Boettcher Scholarship, Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards, and other grants. She also serves as the Foundation's primary contact for scholarship relations.

Before joining the Foundation team, Tiffany developed and directed the Leeds Scholars Program at the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business. Prior to that, she served as the program director and senior program manager of the Presidents Leadership Class at CU Boulder for 10 years.

Tiffany is originally from a farm in Idalia — a small town on the eastern Colorado plains. For perspective, there were only 10 people in Tiffany's high school graduating class. From there, she attended the University of Colorado Boulder.

Tiffany is an advocate for K-12 education and has also been active in numerous educational task forces in our state. She and her husband, Jason, live in Broomfield with their three energetic children: Hunter, Adelynn, and Sophia. In her free time, Tiffany enjoys participating in service activities with her family, watching her son's band and her daughters' soccer games, or exploring some of Colorado's local breweries.



Meredith Badler

Deputy Director at Colorado Business Committee for the Arts

Meredith Badler (she/her/hers) is Deputy Director at Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA). In this role, Meredith oversees all of CBCA's programs and events, including Leadership Arts, Colorado Attorneys for the Arts, Advancing Creatives Intensives, Business for the Arts Awards, and Economic Activity Study of Metro Denver Culture. She also stewards CBCA's grassroots and direct advocacy for the arts and creative industries at the state and federal level. She is regularly asked to present on why art is smart for business, advocacy for the arts, and the value of our creative economy.

Prior to CBCA, Meredith worked as a strategy consultant for the nonprofit and public sector at Corona Insights, facilitating board retreats and strategic planning processes. She worked in patron services for Curious Theatre Company for several years. She has a background in theatre and performs short and long-form improv comedy.

Meredith was honored to be a Denver Business Journal 40 Under 40 in 2025. She received a B.A. with honors in Comparative Literature and French Studies from Smith College. Meredith serves on the Board for Art Students League of Denver and is Co-Chair of the Capacity Building Committee for the national Creative States Coalition.



Candice Bataille

Founder & Executive Director at Glowmundo

A seasoned multicultural and multilingual leader with over 25 years of experience driving program development, adult education, systems change, and impactful international initiatives. She is the president and founder of Glowmundo, a Denver based nonprofit organization serving schools and supporting children and youth mental health in partnership with their parents and teachers. Her expertise spans reshaping educational systems globally, designing and facilitating trainings in topics such as neuroleadership, professional resilience, psychological safety, change management, and trauma-informed practices, and advising UNESCO on reimagining 21st-century

education. Candice is passionate about facilitating learning experiences, that assist organizations with culture shifts towards increased impact, longevity, and sustainability.



Tania Chairez

CEO & Founder at Convivir Colorado

Tania Chairez is a queer, undocumented immigrant with the temporary privilege of DACA who was born in Chihuahua, Mexico and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. For more than a decade, Tania has prioritized her passion for the intersection of immigration and education as a grassroots community organizer and as an educator in secondary and post-secondary spaces.

Watch her TedX Talk on being Undocumented and Unafraid, share her journey in the local documentary Five Dreamers, and uplift her monologue titled "Listen to Your Heart" in the Shoebox Stories podcast from Motus Theater.

Tania received a B.S. from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and M.Ed. from Grand Canyon University, and currently advises the state of Colorado via the New Americans Advisory Committee.

She is the Founder & CEO of Convivir Colorado, a nonprofit that uses the power of storytelling, artistic expression, and community building to engage 6th through 12th grade immigrant, refugee, and first-gen students in self-empowerment, leadership development, and decolonized mental health practices.



Chris Chopyak

Owner & Visual Strategist at Arlosoul

Chris is a creative entrepreneur small business owner that has supported businesses, universities and NGOs across the globe with skilled facilitation, visual strategy, and organizational development for over 20 years. Using battle-tested tools of the trade, Chris has the uncanny ability to combine strategy, design thinking and innovation with pictures and color, turning everyday work into meaningful and thoughtful strategy and action. Honing her skills with Fortune 100 companies and many nationally recognized nonprofit organizations Chris built the foundation for her first book, the business best seller, *Picture Your Business Strategy: Transform Decisions with the Power of Visuals* (2014

McGraw-Hill Professional). Based in Denver, Chris is finding joy working with nonprofit Board leaders and scaling their work to be more generative, effective and impactful. She is an experienced workshop presenter, keynote speaker, guest speaker, co-collaborator and conspirator in helping all people grow and realize their full potential.



Paulina Erices-Ocampo

Visual Facilitator & Consultant at Arlosoul

Paulina is a doctoral student in the Health and Behavioral Science department and Program Director at Lifespan Local Inc. Paulina's areas of current work are community-based interventions on maternal-child health and COVID - health education in multicultural/multilingual communities. She supports Cuenta Conmigo Lactancia, a Latino group of lactation counselors in the Denver Metro Area and is a board member for the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC).



Curtis Esquibel

Senior Director of Communications & Community Engagement at Boettcher Foundation

Curtis leads Boettcher's strategic communications and outreach efforts, working to connect with our diverse stakeholders through brand journalism, community engagement, and thoughtful messaging. A native Coloradan, Curtis holds a deep belief in philanthropy's potential to learn from and work with Colorado communities to meet their evolving, complex needs. His passion lies in supporting – and telling the stories of – organizations and individuals dedicated to the public good in service of their communities. Before Boettcher, Curtis spent more than two decades working in the nonprofit and education

sectors in Colorado and New Mexico. His various roles for the Latino Leadership Institute, Denver Scholarship Foundation, and Pueblo of Jemez included associate director, outreach lead, fundraiser, program director, college advisor, postsecondary counselor, and educator. Early in his career, Curtis was an award-winning journalist and wrote professionally for newspapers in Colorado and California. He earned a Bachelor of Science with honors from the University of Colorado Boulder and an MPA from the CU Denver School of Public Affairs.



Jessi Follett

Program Manager at Center for Leadership

Jessi was born and raised in Colorado, where she has dedicated her career to leadership development and higher education. She earned a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Colorado Boulder and a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies from Colorado State University. With over five years of experience at CU Boulder, Jessi currently serves as the Program Manager at the Center for Leadership, focusing on fostering student growth and leadership development across campus. She has also shared her expertise at Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado, gaining valuable perspectives from multiple institutions. Jessi is

passionate about making meaningful and innovative impacts through her work, using her skills to help students realize their potential. Outside her professional life, she enjoys exploring the outdoors through hiking, paddleboarding, and skiing. She is also an avid reader, and currently serves on the Broomfield Library Friends Foundation Board of Directors



Amanda Gonzales

Managing Director of Schools & Programs at Moonshot edVentures

Amanda Gonzales is the Managing Director of Schools and Programs at Moonshot, where she leads programming and alumni services for over 100 Moonshot fellows. A Moonshot alum herself, Amanda brings 29 years of experience working with youth across education and community sectors in Denver and Adams counties. Her work is rooted in the Nahuatl word *tiahui*; to move, change, or go forward, and she centers the empowerment of young people with historically marginalized identities.

Her career spans roles as a high school principal, special education teacher, mental health practitioner, and gang outreach worker. She specializes in special education law and advocacy for students with affective needs and significant mental health disabilities. Amanda is a first-generation college graduate who holds degrees from MSU Denver and the University of Northern Colorado, and is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Colorado Denver where she is completing her Ed.D. in Leadership for Educational Equity. Amanda is the founder of Ollin Educational Consulting, Co-Founder of Be The Change Community School, and adjunct faculty at MSU Denver and UNC. In 2022, she was named Educational Leader of the Year by CO-CABE for her advocacy with bilingual students and families.



Kate Greeley

Program Consultant, CiviCO Governors Fellowship

Kate Greeley is an experienced leadership development facilitator and program director with a proven track record of designing and leading dynamic leadership programs for diverse adult learners. Currently serving as a Program Consultant for the CiviCO Governors Fellowship program. She previously worked for the Denver Metro Leadership Foundation, where she facilitated multi-month civic leadership programs including Leadership Denver, Access Denver, and Leadership Fellows. Kate brings deep expertise in curriculum design, participant engagement, and program management, while also securing partnerships and sponsorships to sustain and grow these initiatives. Her work is

grounded in a belief that strong, inclusive leadership transforms communities, and she is dedicated to cultivating leaders who drive meaningful change.

Prior to her current role, Kate spent over two decades in educational leadership and organizational consulting, including serving as a Principal in Denver Public Schools, Assistant Principal at two of Denver's largest high schools and Lead Educational Turnaround Specialist for MGT Consulting. Her leadership has consistently focused on building systems for sustainable improvement, developing emerging leaders, and fostering inclusive, equity-centered environments. Kate holds a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Colorado Denver, a Type D License in Educational Leadership, and has been honored with multiple awards for her service and leadership impact. She continues to engage in her community, most recently as a member of The Women's Commission for the City of Denver.



Melanie Sue Hicks

Vice President of Programs at Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

Dr. Melanie Sue Hicks is a distinguished workforce and employee experience expert, award-winning author, dynamic speaker, and corporate trainer with a passion for innovative strategy, organizational development, and workforce optimization. She has managed high performance teams, spearheaded high profit, high growth initiatives and transformed organizational efficiencies to maximize profit and impact.

Beyond her professional work, Dr. Hicks is a dedicated global philanthropist, driven by a deep commitment to fostering human connection and resilience.

Her extensive travels have taken her to more than 44 countries, spanning over 120,000 miles, where she has contributed more than 2,500 hours to service projects ranging from educational initiatives to community development programs. These experiences have profoundly shaped her perspective on leadership, adaptability, and the power of service-driven transformation.



Denise King

Consultant at Boettcher Foundation

Denise King is an experienced facilitator, coach and community leader. She has expertise in building collaborative teams, creating experiential learning environments and preparing leaders to take action.

Most recently she was program director at the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation where she managed and created community leadership programs including Leadership Denver, the Colorado Civic DNA Fellows program, and Access Denver. She collaborated to create the new Leadership Veteran program and facilitates strategic planning sessions for local non-profits. She received her Masters in Adult Education from Fordham University and a

certificate in leadership development from New York University. She served on the Governor's Commission on Community Service (Serve Colorado) and the national board of Association of Leadership Professionals. She is a Colorado Master Gardener and a proud graduate of the Leadership Denver class of 2003 and the Highlands Ranch Citizens Academy.



Katie Kramer

President & CEO at Boettcher Foundation

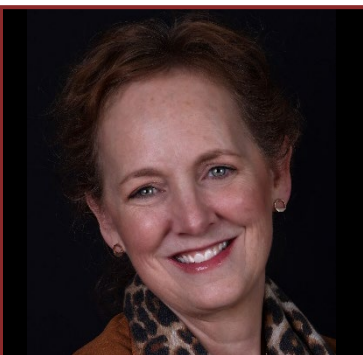
As president and CEO, Katie has come full-circle with the Boettcher Foundation. She was selected as a Boettcher Scholar in 1993 and has been at the Foundation in various roles since 1997, including as the director of the scholarship program and vice president — a title she assumed at the age of 26. Katie has been recognized as one of the Denver Business Journal's "40 Under 40" and the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce's "Top 25 Most Powerful Women."

A fourth-generation Colorado native, Katie attended the University of Colorado Boulder, where she was a Presidents Leadership Class Scholar and honors

graduate at the Leeds School of Business. In 2009, she completed her Executive MBA at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business.

Katie has served extensively in the community on both local and national boards and is widely regarded as a national expert in scholarship selection processes. Recently, Katie and her colleague wrote and published *All the Wisdom and None of the Junk: Secrets of Applying for College Admission and Scholarships* in an effort to demystify the scholarship selection process and help the next generation of talented citizens apply for college and scholarships.

Katie is a harmonica-playing, trout-catching, Star Wars-watching, country-dancing, scuba-diving, elk-hunting, Grand Canyon-rafting, mountain-hiking, family-loving, outdoor enthusiast. She lives in Arvada with her husband and two sons.



Jennifer Landers

Executive Director at Colorado Young Leaders

Jennifer is the Executive Director of Colorado Young Leaders, a nonprofit that partners with high school youth to build leadership through service, community connection, and authentic engagement. With a background in nonprofit leadership, community development, and youth engagement, Jennifer designs experiences that elevate both youth and adult leadership capacity. She brings a human-centered approach to facilitation and believes in the power of cross-generational collaboration to shift systems.



Seth Lindsey

Project Manager at White River Strategy

Seth Lindsey is a nonprofit consultant, AI specialist, and artist based in Colorado Springs/Denver. He serves as a Strategic Project Coordinator with White River Strategy, supporting social impact initiatives and leadership development projects. He also works as the AI & Process Improvement Efficiency Specialist at El Pomar Foundation, where he develops and applies AI solutions to improve communications, logistics, and event planning. From 2023 to 2025, Seth completed a two-year Fellowship with El Pomar, contributing to grantmaking, regional convenings, and internal innovation efforts. Seth is the founder of Lindsey Venture Group, an LLC focused on AI-integrated solutions

for nonprofits and small businesses, public speaking on leadership, the arts, and emerging technology, and strategic consulting for nonprofit boards. He earned his B.A. in Visual and Performing Arts with a minor in Leadership Studies from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, graduating summa cum laude in 2023. He remains active in the community through service on the Theatreworks Advisory Board (board secretary), the Chancellor's Leadership Class Advisory Board (alumni representative), and the Light the Night Mission Committee for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



Kate Jordan Little

Summer Fellow at Colorado Young Leaders

Kate Jordan Little is a United States Presidential Scholar, Boettcher Scholar, and Mission Spark Summer Fellow committed to amplifying youth voice and driving community impact. She studies Business Administration at the University of Colorado Boulder with an emphasis in Management, Marketing, and Real Estate. As a Mission Spark Fellow, Kate supports Colorado Young Leaders (CYL) through research, facilitation, and strategic outreach focused on youth-led change. On campus, she leads through the President's Leadership Class (PLC), CU Student Government (CUSG), and Chi Omega, where she champions equity, access, and experiential learning.



Steve Ludwig

Lead Coach & Facilitator at White River Strategy

Before beginning his consulting and executive coaching work, Steve served as the Vice President of Marketing, Communications, and Strategy for a \$1 billion business unit with 5,000 employees in 10 countries for CH2M, a FORTUNE 500 firm. He has also worked with TIAA, a financial services firm with US\$1 trillion in assets under management, as a Public Relations Director. Overall, Steve has more than 35 years of professional experience, including service as the Vice-Chairman of the Board for a \$5.2 billion public university system.

Steve's business acumen, leadership in and understanding of complex organizations, navigating uncertainty, and years of experience provide executive coaching clients insight and clarity, practical advice, and honest feedback to help them address issues and grow in new and dynamic ways.



Richard Maez, 2011 Scholar

Executive Director at Ednium: The Alumni Collective

A graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in southwest Denver, Richard is the Executive Director for Ednium: The Alumni Collective, a non-profit organization that partners with public school alumni to change the way cities educate and reinvest in their homegrown talent. Since 2020, Ednium has engaged a powerful collective of Alumni to influence systems change, including adding Financial Literacy and Ethnic Studies as graduation requirements in the Denver Public Schools and expanding access to the Prosperity Denver Fund. Prior to joining Ednium Richard served as the IB Program Manager at George Washington High School, where he led school-wide professional development around equity and

authentic student engagement and helped eliminate barriers to increase BIPOC student access and engagement in advanced courses. He is passionate about community engagement, volunteering with organizations such as Minds Matter Colorado and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program. Richard holds a bachelor's degree in History and Spanish and a masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Denver, and a certificate in Educational Leadership from Colorado State University Global. Richard resides in southwest Denver with his husband and two rambunctious doodles.



Kyle Majchrowski

Founder at NexIntent

Kyle Majchrowski focuses on human-centric leadership and development, known for his ability to inspire and empower teams. With experience in healthcare, research, academia, construction, real estate development, and technology, Kyle cultivates this diversity to emphasize the importance of people. He is dedicated to fostering high-performing teams and unlocking the potential of people. Kyle's approach is grounded in relatability - he shares personal stories that foster connection and encourages open conversations. Kyle is passionate about giving back to the community, leading Ripple Intent, a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of individuals and

communities. Through these efforts, he continues to demonstrate his belief that effective leadership is about self-awareness, continuous growth, and making a positive impact on others. Kyle's commitment to enhancing personal and organizational growth includes authoring *Powerful Conversations: How to Talk About What Matters Most in Work and Life*, focused on connecting people and building a brighter future for people and organizations alike.



Amanda Miller

Director of Details at The Place Setting Company

With a passion for her community and event planning, Amanda Miller Nye launched The Place Setting Company in 2011. The team at The Place Setting Company helps clients handle the details of their events and community program through Planning, Support and Collaboration. As a CSU alum, Fort Collins has been her home for over 26 years but Amanda grew up in an Air Force family and got to experience life in many communities across the US and lived in the Netherlands for three years.

Amanda enjoys spending time traveling, cheering for her favorite teams, attending concerts and the theater, serving her community and celebrating all

things in life! Amanda supports programs that empower, serve and educate including WomenGive, WISH—Women Investing in Strategies for Health, Junior League of Fort Collins, Heart J Center, Camp Chief Ouray YMCA of the Rockies, CSU Women in Philanthropy, the Green and Gold Foundation, Emerging Leaders and others. Amanda and her husband, Shane, have three doodles and three young adults who are forging their path in Wyoming. The Nyes love being home in the county outside of Fort Collins and traveling to sandy beaches, the Black Hills, or European cities.



Andrea Palm-Porter

Executive Director at Roaring Fork Leadership

Andrea Palm-Porter, Executive Director of Roaring Fork Leadership, is a lifelong student of leadership whose passion for developing people and communities began with her undergraduate studies in Business Administration, emphasizing Marketing and Leadership, at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. With over 30 years of experience and a Master's in Organizational Leadership from Colorado State University, Andrea brings deep expertise in strategic planning, facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and relationship-driven leadership. She has a proven track record in guiding multi-million dollar organizations through growth, innovation, and change. A skilled trainer, coach, and community

convener, Andrea is known for her ability to design and lead transformational leadership programs that connect vision to action. She has earned recognition through her roles with Roaring Fork Leadership, the Boettcher Foundation, American Leadership Forum, and Vail Leadership Institute—where she continues to shape Colorado's leadership ecosystem with insight, empathy, and integrity.



Cody Parish

Program Director at Chancellor's Leadership Class & UCCSlead at University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Cody Parish (he/him) is an educator and Program Director of the Chancellor's Leadership Class and UCCSlead at University of Colorado Colorado Springs. He earned his master's degree in English: Literary and Cultural Studies from Illinois State University. He leads a team that coordinates and facilitates accessible leadership programming for all UCCS students, as well as ongoing, holistic leadership development for scholarship students. His mission is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to be everyday leaders on campus and in the greater Colorado Springs community.



Floyd Pierce

Alumni Engagement Manager at Boettcher Foundation

As the Alumni Engagement Manager, Floyd is responsible for creating and overseeing Boettcher's alumni engagement strategy. Through building intentional relationships and connecting alum with opportunities, Floyd's goal is to keep Scholars connected to the foundation and support them in all stages of their lives.

Before joining Boettcher, Floyd worked in the investment and finance industry for over five years. Despite knowing that he wanted to leave the investment space early on, Floyd earned his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation because he loves learning. After earning this designation, he briefly worked as a senior financial analyst at a firm that audited royalty fees for media & entertainment companies.

A native Coloradan and 2013 Boettcher Scholar, Floyd attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. During his time at CU, he served as the drum major of CU's "Golden Buffalo" Marching Band, a position he considers to be the best leadership position that he has ever held. Shortly after graduating, Floyd lived out his life's greatest dream as he appeared on the 29th and 31st seasons of CBS's Emmy-winning reality show, *The Amazing Race*. Those that are curious can stream his seasons on Hulu and Paramount Plus.



Pierre Powell

Leadership & Peak Performance Coach at B-Shift LLC

Pierre Powell is a Leadership and Peak Performance Coach; specializing in supporting high-level executives and their teams. Pierre's passion for leadership was engendered as an Air Force Colonel, commanding over 4,500 troops in Afghanistan and flying fighter aircraft; and more recently, as the deputy director of higher education in Colorado. Currently, he is the president of a multi-specialty investment office focused on wealth management. Desiring to support other leaders, Pierre began executive coaching in 2015.

Pierre's preferred leadership modality is based on the Harvard Kennedy School model of Adaptive Leadership; where he has received certification in the Art

and Practice of leadership. Beyond Adaptive Leadership, Pierre has coaching certifications in High Flow Coaching, Heroic-Optimize, Disruption Advisors, WBECS, ACE, Robbins-Madanis, Strategic Intervention, Franklin Covey and the Mankind Project. Pierre is also trained to provide assessments using the instruments of LMAP, EQi and EQi360.

Pierre has attended multiple graduate programs, including as a National Security Fellow at the JFK School of Government, Harvard, an MBA from Kellogg School of Management, two additional Master's Degrees aligned with leadership and management, and a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering.

While in the Air Force, Pierre was an advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force as well as other staff duties: including a \$180 billion budget submission to Congress, a \$9B Foreign Military Sales program with the Royal Saudi Air Force, commanding multiple large organizations, president of aircraft accident boards and designated on-scene commander responsibilities. Pierre has 2,200 hours of fighter time including seven combat tours in the Middle East and Asia; awarded the legion of merit, distinguished flying cross, bronze star, and others.



Patti Schmitt

Community Development Director for the Office of Engagement & Extension at Colorado State University

Patti Schmitt is the Community Development Director for the Office of Engagement and Extension at Colorado State University. In this role, she works closely with Colorado communities to address complex social, health, economic and safety challenges. Additionally, she is the Director of a unique leadership program called the Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) of Colorado at CSU Extension. FLTI is a community-based leadership program that utilizes an evidence-based curriculum to build community member capacity to be leaders in addressing local challenges in collaboration with content experts and

decision makers. The mission of the FLTI Collaborative is to bridge the gap between decision makers and community members so that communities can better learn, plan and act together and targets community members who are often left out of community decision making process.



Stephanie Scott

Leadership Consultant & Coach at Scott Solutions Consulting

Stephanie Scott is a Master Certified Coach and Leadership Consultant, and the founder of Scott Solutions Consulting. For over 20 years, she has designed and facilitated leadership programs that integrate individual and organizational strengths with a mission-driven approach to solving complex challenges.

Stephanie's philosophy for leadership development centers around making people the solution. To execute this philosophy she partners with individuals, teams, and organizations to enhance leadership capacity, foster collaboration, and drive impactful changes. Stephanie is certified in Positive Psychology Coaching, Group and Team Coaching, Integral Coaching. She is also a certified

Technology of Participation (ToP) Facilitator trained in environmental scanning, action planning, consensus workshops and how to facilitate engaging and impactful workshops. She is certified and uses numerous assessments to enhance awareness and growth for individuals and organizations. She brings creativity, adaptability, and a client-centered approach to both in-person and virtual settings.



Ashley Seeley

CEO at Excellence Advantage

Ashley Seeley Ph. D earned her Ph.D. in Consulting Psychology (Industrial/Organizational Psychology with a concentration in coaching and individual assessment) from Alliant International University and is the founder of Excellence Advantage. She has built a career partnering with organizations to maximize people's initiatives and catalyst business results, as well as coaching leaders and executives to define, develop and leverage their strengths to achieve extraordinary success. Dr. Seeley has worked with business leaders in over 220 unique organizations, across industries including Technology, Finance, Government, Healthcare, Hospitality, Education, Engineering, Aerospace,

Aviation, Analytics, Cyber, Communications, and small businesses in 50 countries. With more than 23 years of experience directly in leadership and organizational development, talent management, and coaching, Dr. Seeley has proven approaches, products and services to benefit global leaders and businesses.



Anataly Uribe

Director of Alumni and Partnerships Director at Moonshot edVentures

As the Director of Alumni and Partnerships, Anataly leads Moonshot's alumni services and strategy while developing and nurturing community partnerships. Born and raised in Denver, Anataly proudly identifies as Mexican-American and brings over 12 years of experience in education and nonprofits. Prior to Moonshot, she had the privilege of leading and collaborating with both professional and aspiring BIPOC educators in running a summer program for Denver Public Schools. She also worked as a bilingual educator, teaching grades K-4 primarily in the Far Northeast, where she developed and

implemented bilingual curricula and cultivated strong, trusting relationships with students and families.

Being a first-generation college student ignited her passion for creating equitable opportunities in education and supporting those from marginalized communities. Anataly deeply believes in the power of education and, over her eight years of teaching, witnessed firsthand the profound impact that representation can have on students' lives. Her commitment extends beyond the classroom as she strives to create systems that support and uplift individuals throughout their personal and educational journeys.

Anataly earned her BA in International Affairs with a minor in Ethnic Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder, as well as an MA in Education Equity and Cultural Diversity from the same institution. She currently serves as a Research Graduate Assistant in a Grow Your Own program that allows high school students to earn college credit while exploring teaching and related careers through a social justice and equity lens. She is also pursuing a Doctorate of Education from the University of Colorado Denver, where her research focuses on the role of Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and explores the concept of servingness and the experiences of HSI leaders in Colorado.



Sheila Van de Graaph

Executive Director at YouthRoots

Sheila Van de Graaph is the Executive Director of YouthRoots, a Colorado-based nonprofit that unleashes the power of youth to change the world. With more than 20 years of experience in executive and strategic leadership, Sheila has worked in over 12 countries advancing youth development, philanthropy, and social impact. She holds a Master's in International Development and Development Economics from the University of Denver and a Master's in Gender and Development Studies. Sheila is passionate about equity-centered leadership and creating spaces where youth, especially those from underrepresented communities, are not only heard but drive the solutions. Her

work bridges the gap between data, practice, and systemic transformation.



Scott van Loo

Owner & Principal Consultant at Culturas Consulting Group

Scott is the owner and principal consultant with Culturas Consulting Group, Inc, a company Scott created to provide dynamically designed professional development experiences focused on whole-system change, Equity initiatives, leadership, change management, data storytelling and engagement strategies. Scott worked as a lead facilitator and Senior Faculty member for the National Coalition for Equity in Education and PassageWorks Institute and is currently an adjunct faculty working with Equity Labs at the University of Denver and a Faculty member of the nonprofit Glowmundo.

For more than 20 years, Scott has led and facilitated professional development experiences across the United States and at Hispanic Learning Institutions, public and private colleges and universities, k-12 education systems, and private corporations. Scott is passionate about working with groups of people and creating transformational change experiences. He enjoys playing music and being active in Colorado natural environments and spending time with family and friends.



Kurt Wilson

President at Effect X

Kurt is the President of Effect X, an independent evaluation consulting company with over 10 years experience serving a diverse range of organizations around the world. His education includes a BS in Economics from The Colorado College, a Diploma in International Development from the University of London, and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Evaluation from Western Michigan University. He is an Affiliate Faculty Member at Regis University, teaching in the Masters of Development Practice program. His career started with his work as a Program Officer and Investment Analyst for El Pomar Foundation, during which time he established a grant review program, provided financial reports on the

Foundation's internally managed portfolio, and managed the Fellowship in Community Service Program. He later served as the Director of Corporate Giving for the Furniture Row Companies, followed by leading a nonprofit advertising agency and film school. Kurt's international evaluation experience includes projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Uganda, El Salvador, Kenya and London as well as site visits of World Vision programs in thirteen countries.