

# Ripple Effect for Leadership Practitioners

## Speaker Bios

---



### **Mark Anderson**

#### **Executive Director at Craig-Scheckman Family Foundation**

Mark provides leadership in developing the strategic direction and oversees daily operations of the Foundation. He also seeks partnerships with other funders and community members to collaborate and strengthen the advocacy and philanthropic impact of CSFF. He has over 30 years of experience in the nonprofit sector including serving as the Executive Director of the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, heading the Routt County United Way, leading a summer camp for children with chronic medical conditions, and working as a program manager at a residential facility for abused and neglected youth. Mark has served on numerous community boards including as Board Chair of

Philanthropy Colorado. His connections throughout the state highly benefits CSFF as the Foundation looks to learn from and partner with other funders to strengthen its advocacy and deepen its philanthropic impact. He enjoys a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including mountain unicycling, reading a good book and sampling the local craft beer. Mark and his wife, Kris, have two grown sons and originally moved to the Yampa Valley in 1993.



### **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.



### **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.



## **Katy Craig**

### **President at Katy Craig Coaching**

Katy Craig is a coach, curriculum designer, facilitator, and lifelong improviser who believes growth should be both grounded and bold. For over 25 years, she's supported high-achieving individuals and mission-driven teams in navigating complexity, leading with intention, and living in alignment with what matters most.

Her coaching blends deep presence with playful experimentation. Whether in a one-on-one session or a leadership workshop, Katy creates space for insight, clarity, and transformation. She draws from ICF Master Certified Coaching, Co-Active Coaching, Adaptive Leadership, Improv, and Narrative Acumen.

Katy triple-majored in French, English, and Communications as a Boettcher Scholar in undergrad. She also holds an MFA in Creative Writing, an MA in English, and is a graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School's Art & Practice of Leadership Development, as well as CTI's Co-Active Leadership and the Daniels College of Business' High Performance Leadership programs. Katy coaches individuals and speaks on leadership development nationally and internationally, across corporate, nonprofit, higher education, and government organizations. She lives in Denver with her partner Dan, their twins Liam and Everett, dog Callie, and cat Mia.



## **Paulina Erices**

### **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 at University of Colorado Boulder**

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.



### **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**

### **Director of Executive Education Partnership at University of Denver**

Jennifer Landers brings two decades of experience spanning corporate consulting, nonprofit management, and leadership development to her current role as director of executive education partnerships at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business. A proud DU MBA alum, Jennifer has built her career at the intersection of strategy, organizational growth and community impact, committed to empowering people and aligning organizations for greater impact.

Her expertise lies in forging cross-sector partnerships, aligning programs with organizational priorities, and creating opportunities where people and organizations can thrive. In her most recent role as executive director of Colorado Young Leaders, and previously directing the Colorado Governors Fellowship, she has focused on empowering leaders at every stage, from the next generation of changemakers to senior executives, to strengthen communities and build a more engaged, civic-minded Colorado.



### **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.



### **Amanda Miller Nye**

#### **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-Madanés, 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 Harvard, an MBA, two additional Master's Degrees aligned with leadership and management, and a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering. While in the Air Force, Pierre was an advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force. 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.



### **Riley Ruff**

#### **Volunteer Coordinator at Colorado Young Leaders**

Riley Ruff (he/they) brings over 10 years of experience in dedicated environmental justice, youth empowerment and community engagement work. As an alumnus of the Colorado Young Leaders program, Riley dove into grassroots organizing in 2016 as a freshman in high school, found his passion for environmental stewardship and bringing people together and never looked back. Riley graduated from Colorado State University in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Ecosystem Science and Sustainability, and joined the nonprofit sector full-time. From spearheading an EPA-funded project monitoring air quality around active fracking operations in Greeley with 350 Colorado to building out

a program providing free meeting space for community groups at The Alliance Center, Riley is deeply dedicated to an intersectional, equity-centric and systems-level approach to complex issues. Now, Riley acts as the Volunteer Coordinator for Colorado Young Leaders, connecting students to impactful service opportunities and facilitating inclusive leadership programming across the state. When not building out workshops or volunteering alongside youth in the community, Riley can be found outside, camping, hiking and frolicking with their dog, Ernie.



### **Meg Satrom**

#### **Founder & Principal at Memoro**

Meg Satrom has nearly two decades of experience in strategic marketing, communications, strategy, and policy development. Since 2017, she has focused on helping clients optimize their communications, marketing, and business development efforts by using a full range of creative and strategic tools. Her work includes creating and implementing full-scale communications and strategic plans, facilitating strategic discussions, overhauling existing communications and outreach strategies, initiating and overseeing public relations campaigns, and supporting change management and culture building in small to large businesses and nonprofits. Her past work experience includes

serving as the director of client relations for a boutique international intellectual property law firm, the director of communications for a national nonprofit, and a communications manager for a nationally recognized nonprofit. Meg holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and a law degree from the University of Denver.



### **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 & 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.



**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.



**Lori D. Wilson**  
**Lead Consultant at Effect X**

As a group process facilitator, Lori helps leaders and their teams gather to think creatively, plan effectively, and dream big. Along with the Effect X team, she supports non-profit organizations in their work for effective and sustainable change. Lori earned a BA in Spanish Literature from the Colorado College and an MA in theology from King's College London. Lori grew up in the northwestern foothills of Argentina and is delighted to call Denver "home."