

RISING STAR AWARDS



Recognition Ceremony & Honorary Luncheon

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019 • 12:00 pm
Auraria Campus ~ Tivoli Turnhalle

Presented by:
State Student Advisory Council
Colorado Community College System

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WELCOME

Ms. Catherine Allen, Vice Chair, State Student Advisory Council

LUNCH

OPENING REMARKS

Ms. Shelley Banker, COSI

CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

Joe Garcia, Chancellor, Colorado Community College System

PRESENTATION OF RISING STAR AWARDS

Colorado Community College System Presidents

ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Diana Doyle

COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. Ron Granger

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA

Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

Dr. Everette Freeman

FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. Andy Dorsey

LAMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Linda Lujan

MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Curt Freed

NORTHEASTERN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Mr. Jay Lee

OTERO JUNIOR COLLEGE

Dr. Timothy Alvarez

PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Lance Bolton

PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Patty Erjavec

RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Michele Haney

TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

Dr. Kerry Hart

**PRESENTATION OF THE ADVOCATE
OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Ms. Catherine Allen, Vice Chair, State Student Advisory Council

**PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT / VP
OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Representatives of the State Student Advisory Council

PRESENTATION OF SSAC HONOR RECOGNITION

Dr. Ryan Ross & Ms. Stacie Amaya

Co-Advisors to the State Student Advisory Council

THANK YOU AND CLOSING REMARKS

Joe Garcia, Chancellor, Colorado Community College System

ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



RYAN HOLMES

In Ryan's time at Arapahoe Community College (ACC), he has enjoyed the privilege of engaging in a breadth of academic pursuits both in and out of the classroom. He is proud to say that he has spent four semesters as a peer tutor in ACC's student success center and enjoyed watching a number of highly capable people realize exactly that. Ryan has been heavily involved in ACC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society chapter, Sigma Phi. He was selected as the Vice President of the Honors in Action project before running a successful campaign to be the Regional President of Phi Theta Kappa's Colorado/Wyoming region. Ryan also serves on the State Student Advisory Council (SSAC) as treasurer, is an active member of the ACC Student Government Association, is President of the Astronomy Club and Vice President of the Philosophy Club on campus. He has found both experiences to be enriching as he says, "they forced me (a history major) to expand my academic horizon." Ryan has received two President's list designations (4.0 GPA) and one Dean's List designation (3.5-3.74) and was recently selected to Phi Theta Kappa's All-Colorado Academic team and to the national Coca-Cola All-Academic as a bronze-level scholar.



ELLIE MAYER

Ellie Mayer is the Vice President of Leadership for the Sigma Phi chapter and the Vice President of Colorado for the CO/WY region of Phi Theta Kappa. She is also the President of the Communication Club. She has been on the President's List as a student every semester since the fall of 2016. She recently made the 2019 PTK All-Colorado Academic Team. Ellie has also been selected as a Gold Scholar for the Coca-Cola 2019 Academic Team, and she has been offered a Boettcher Scholarship. During her time at ACC, Ellie has completed an Associate of Science degree with a designation in biology with a 4.0 GPA.

COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



ADAM COOLEY

Adam is an up and coming young man who takes pride and passion in every aspect that he is involved in. Adam is a singer, plays guitar, and a runner who hits the gym regularly and hopes to run "The Cog" soon. Adam is on a quest for knowledge and absorbs it like a sponge to water. Taking classes like microbiology and ceramics outside of his AS degree just because he had the time and it sounded fun.

Adam sought out and set up the SGA that had fallen by the wayside. He is currently running for President. He also initiated and filed appropriate documentation to start and run a Logic Club. He is the only one of many students offered the opportunity who decided to learn additional lab skills helping our paid lab tech. He is always helping other students understand the material in various classes. Also Adam serves as a student ambassador for the Craig campus. Adam's educational goal is to obtain Bachelors of Science, followed by additional education to be a synthetic chemist.



DAVID RILEY

David Riley is an outstanding individual who demonstrates leadership on and off the court. He is the captain of Colorado Northwestern CC's basketball team, a Resident Assistant, volunteers for his community, and maintains an extremely high GPA. He has shown great commitment and leadership on the court where he is an all-conference player. He volunteers at the elementary where he reads to and encourages students to try their best. He helps out at a summer camp that he looks forward to ever year. On campus David

spends his time in his student leadership role by putting on activities for his fellow students and encouraging them to get engaged with campus life. In his other time he likes to read and study to maintain his GPA, as he plans to go pre-med and then later to medical school. When David has time to himself he enjoys playing video games and watching comic-book movies. He recently purchased a Nintendo Switch which has occupied most of his free-time. In the resident halls even when David is not on duty he keeps an open door policy for any student to join in on some game time. David has surpassed his duties as a student leader in all aspects setting a great example for all students especially student-athletes, he goes out of his way to help tutor on the road. Helping his team stay eligible through the season. He leads, volunteers, keeps great academic standing and still has enough time for his own activities.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA



NEREIDA ARROYO-RAMIREZ

Nereida is pursuing her major in Biology at the Community College of Aurora and will start working on her minor in Chemistry at Colorado State University beginning Fall 2019. She is the current LatinX Student Alliance President whose goal is to bring all people of different backgrounds together and educate one another of where we come from and who we are. This semester her focus was on creating an event that CCA had never seen before. Along with her team she worked to bring a little piece of Brazilian Carnival to CCA through a week long celebration of life with dancing, color, and tremendous amounts of culture. Nereida says that being the President of LatinX has taught her how to be a good leader when her team is in disagreement and to be vulnerable with my advisers and teammates working with her. She plans to search for leadership opportunities at CSU and bring something new to their campus. Nereida thanks her teammates and those who support her and says, "they shaped me into the leader I am today."



JACOB LEAVITT

Jacob is a non-traditional student pursuing an A.S. in Biology. He plans to transfer to CSU in Fort Collins to double major in Biology and Behavior and Cognitive Neuroscience with the intention of achieving his Ph.D. Jacob plans to study the energy produced in different emotional states with an emphasis on happiness and positivity. He is the co-founder of the CCA STEM+ Organization and holds the title of the Programs and Projects Director. Jacob also serves as the Vice President of the LGBTQIA+ Alliance, is a member of the Inclusive Excellence Student Council, a S-STEM Scholar, a COSI recipient, and works in the Biology Department at CCA. Outside of academics he enjoys RPG/JRPG video games, epic fantasy novels, and binge-watching movies and tv shows. Jacob was raised on a beach in South Florida and loves the warmer months when he can hike and enjoy the outdoors of CO, but has found that he also absolutely loves the snow and colder weather and is often hoping for a blizzard! A driving force of his life is to be happy and spread positivity wherever he goes.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER



BRYAN SAENZ

Bryan Saenz began studying at the Community College of Denver in Spring 2018. He will graduate with his Associate of Arts degree in Spring of 2019 with a focus in Graphic Design. Bryan dedicated most of his free time from his studies to volunteer for both the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Life. Early in his college career, he found a position on SGA as a Student Representative. After serving the student body for one semester, he chose to run for Student Government President. As President, he chose to focus on establishing a sense of community on campus. Ensuring that his peers can improve their experience at the Community College of Denver. Bryan plans to transfer to Metropolitan State University to complete his Bachelor's degree. He spends his free time with his dogs and his love of photography.



EMANUEL WALKER

Emanuel is studying Business and Computer Information Systems at the Community College of Denver. He came to the United States as a refugee with his mother in 2004. He plans to earn his associates by Spring 2020 and will transfer to CU Denver to study Information Systems. Emanuel's passion is to return to Liberia and utilize his technological skills to improve the economy and life of the country. He is the co-founder of a non-Profit called Pan African Youth Association, whose mission is to unite, educate, and support those in and outside the African diaspora. Their first goal is building a well in Liberia, which is currently in progress. He believes technology can save his country and the foundation is already in place. Emanuel likes to read go fishing, especially at Grand Lake.

FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



LEN BARRERA

Len is a Mexican and Native American single mother, and proud first-generation college student. She holds a 3.5 GPA while working as the Lead Student Technician within the IT dept of Front Range. She thanks the Family Self-sufficiency program and credits this program in making it possible for her to do all this and provide a home for her daughter, Sophia. She also served as elected Chair of the State Student Advisory Council (SSAC) and therefore, SSAC representative to the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational

Education. In this position, she is surrounded by similarly ambitious and hard-working students, dedicated to serving their communities as advocates for the student body of the Colorado Community College System. Serving as the Chair has been the greatest honor this past year especially with the passing of our first bill. In this position she has had the opportunity to speak at several events such as the CCCS Higher Education Opportunity and Equity Day at the Capitol on behalf of the student body and was nominated for the PTK/All-Colorado Academic Team. She says, "to watch the passion with which the individuals of CCCS, both student and faculty/staff, pursue the concerns of the body that we represent is inspiring and the experiences we have shared has greatly shaped the bright futures of all who have had the opportunity to participate." The experiences and community she have found at FRCC have inspired her to take these lessons of kindness, integrity and compassion to any place that she goes and to continue to advocate for the enriching experience that is community college.



ANNA DORY

Anna Dory is a creative, fun, dedicated, kind, and socially aware young woman who is a leader on the Front Range Community College, Larimer campus. Anna finds value in creating and sharing ideas with her peers, and she is willing to challenge those around her to make a difference in our campus community. A self-starter, Anna mobilized a group of students to launch Larimer campus' first online student newspaper, where she currently serves as an editor, writes articles, co-manages student contributors, maintains the website and oversees

the budget for the group. She is also active in the Student Government Associations the Club Outreach Officer, serving on several committees including Master Teacher selection, a Smoke- and Vape-free workgroup, and a taskforce addressing city ordinances affecting college students and their ability to access affordable housing. Anna is a vocal advocate for FRCC's Learning Communities program, serving as the student representative on the Learning Communities Advisory Board. She has spent hours interviewing students and compiling video testimonials simply from a desire to support a program that helped her to develop as a student. Anna is active in local writing groups, having participated in several open-mic and invitation-only reading events, and she spends time working on her family's farm. She uplifts every student and faculty/staff person she comes in contact with. She is the epitome of grit, and she knows she was born to create; as a result, she flourishes.



KATIE DURAN

Katie Duran is a bright, shining personality on the FRCC Westminster Campus. You may recognize her by her vivid hair color, which she changes regularly. Music is a big part of Katie's life. She sang the National Anthem at the May 2018 Westminster Campus graduation, and she recently formed a new band, serving as the lead singer. Katie is a New Student Orientation Leader, helping incoming students with the transition to FRCC. Katie's nominator, Tim Mellon, assistant

director of student life, said of her, "Katie is a servant and selfless leader who makes positive contributions to the FRCC community." Additionally, Katie is a graduate of the FRCC Gateway to College Program, and she is studying communication with plans to graduate from FRCC in May 2020. Katie hopes to transfer to a four-year institution with the goal of studying music and interning with a local radio station. Katie is originally from Denver.

LAMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE



RAYCE COEN

Rayce is a graduating sophomore from Wiley, Colorado, pursuing an Associate's of General Science degree. He has been an active member of FFA before joining LCC. He was FFA State Reporter for 2017-2018. His primary responsibilities including travelling throughout the state, country and world promoting agriculture. He visited Vietnam and Japan as part of this work. In addition, he was a national delegate for FFA at their national conference. Other non-campus activities include promoting Pedals to Plains, trash pickup on the highway, and judging FFA contests at LCC. As a member of the LCC Student Government Association, Rayce served as a State Student Advisory Council Representative and lobbied on the state level to remove restrictions on student leadership. Rayce is also the President of the Agriculture Club. As Ag Club president, Rayce is working with SGA to encourage and increase collaboration among student groups, such as the Cosmetology Club. He has also been involved in conversations about working with the local food bank to create a garden for them in order to provide fresh produce for food bank clients. Rayce intends to transfer to West Texas A & M and major in Ag Business. After completing his bachelor's degree, he plans to return to Lamar Colorado and start a crop-dusting business.



JAMES MOFFETT

James Moffett is a graduating sophomore from Denver Colorado, pursuing an Associate's of Science degree. He has been active in SGA and PTK since his arrival on campus. As an SGA Senator, James encouraged SGA to work collaboratively with the LCC Agriculture Club to become more involved in the local community's food bank. As a member of PTK, James has helped build membership in that organization through talking with students and encouraging them to get involved. James also has a love for basketball and is a member of the Lopes Men's Basketball team. On the basketball court, he excels as a team player and creates a high level of team spirit. When not in classes, James volunteers with National Sports Center for the Disabled where he helps disabled individuals ski and snowboard. He also volunteers with a Denver youth sports organization. James began as a referee there and now has expanded his volunteering to include acting as an assistant manager for coordinating soccer, football, baseball, lacrosse and basketball leagues. Upon graduation from LCC, James plans to transfer to a university with hopes of studying abroad. James' educational goals include completing a bachelor's and master's degree in Environmental Science or Business.

MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



COUY MILLER

Couy is a charismatic, motivated, compassionate individual with a contagious sense of humor and optimism. He is a Goetz Family Scholarship recipient, is on the Dean's List, and has earned the MCC Outstanding Student Leadership Award. As a leader in the MCC Student Government Association, Couy has been involved in virtually every student activity on campus, including organizing a major student event for Halloween. He serves as a Student Ambassador, where he frequently assists the advising, marketing, and recruiting

departments with student tours and activities. During his first year at MCC, Couy earned a certificate in real estate, and subsequently became a licensed realtor. This spring, Couy will graduate with an Associate of Arts degree with a designation in Business and will be pursuing a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Colorado following graduation. Couy's impact reaches beyond MCC, as he volunteers for an array of causes and events and advocates for his community. He is a talented actor and performer, and enjoys participating in drama productions. Couy leaves every place he touches better than he found it.



ROSA SANDOVAL

Rosa is completing three associate degrees with Morgan Community College, while also earning her diploma from Burlington High School. She will graduate in May 2019, and intends to pursue a Biomedical Sciences degree with minors in Spanish and Leadership. Her career goal is to become an oncologist or pediatric oncologist. While taking college classes, Rosa maintains a full high school course load, plays volleyball and basketball, is a member and officer of Future Business

Leaders of America (FBLA), volunteers her time, and maintains a part-time job. She is a role model for her peers and has achieved a cumulative GPA of 4.0 in high school and 3.8 in college. Rosa Sandoval is an engaging young woman who always wears a smile and demonstrates an energetic and courteous demeanor. Her drive, discipline, and positive outlook have positioned her for a brilliant future.

NORTHEASTERN JUNIOR COLLEGE



STEPHANIE BUSHNELL

Stephanie is an aspiring Agricultural Education teacher, who is currently a candidate for the Associate of Agricultural Education and the Associate of Animal Science and plans to attend West Texas A&M in the fall. Stephanie is one of the most involved leaders on Northeastern's Campus as she serves as the Aggies Club President, Farm Bureau member, NJC Ambassador, Resident Assistant and work study in the Ag Department. Her impressive resume speaks volumes, as Stephanie has been a stand out leader since early in her freshman year. Stephanie emphasizes a family dynamic with her residents and takes special effort to make sure every student's voice is heard on campus. In addition to her on campus involvement, she maintains a 3.54 GPA, has been on the President's List Honor Roll and earned her American FFA degree. She will also run for a State FFA Office this June. Stephanie is always willing to try something new and attract others on the adventure with her. She has been a great asset to Northeastern Junior College. Stephanie has a passion for agriculture and educating others, and will do great things in her future in the agricultural industry.



AMANDA PLATT

Mandi is currently on track to graduate from Northeastern Junior College in May 2019. She is a candidate for the Associate of Early Childhood Education and plans to attend the University of Northern Colorado in the Fall. Mandi has left her mark at NJC through her service as a resident assistant, work study in the Residence Life office, NJC Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa Secretary and substitute teacher at a local preschool. Through these various positions on campus, Mandi has grown into a remarkable student leader. She has a passion for service and helping other students find their home at Northeastern Junior College. On any given day, you can find Mandi giving prospective students a tour, making sure her residents feel at home, or offering a friendly smile to anyone she meets. In addition to being an outstanding and integral piece of our campus community, she has a 3.94 GPA and has been on the President's List Honor Roll twice. She serves as a strong advocate for the Early Childhood Education department and a voice for students across campus. Mandi hopes to be a preschool teacher in the school district she attended.

OTERO JUNIOR COLLEGE



JULES BERG

Jules is both an excellent student and student leader. She is currently President of the OJC PTK chapter, and has provided strong leadership and taken on all the responsibilities of President with enthusiasm and gusto. This included submitting the write up for the PTK Chapter project, which was awarded third place in the region. In addition, she has been the OJC Associated Student Government

Secretary for the 2018-2019 academic year, maintaining meticulous and clear minutes, as well as taking a leadership role in ASG events and initiatives. And she does all this while maintaining her GPA and raising her children.



SAM WILLETT

Sam Willett is truly a Rising Star. He is active on OJC's campus in a number of student organizations and activities. He is a member of the OJC chapter of PTK, and is a member of the OJC Presidents Leadership Program. He has been an active participant in the OJC drama program, appearing in student productions of End Game in April 2018, and preparing for an appearance in this year's production

of Everyman. In addition, Sam is a candidate for ASG President for next year, running in this year's election to be held in the middle of April.

PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CHELSEA BARRETT

Chelsea is a quiet leader at PPCC. She is the president of PPCC's Black Student Union, a member of the Quad Innovation Partnership class of 18/19, serves as a board member on Educating Children Of Color; the African-American Youth Leadership Council; El Pomar's Emerging Leaders Black Advisory Council; and on the Empowerment Solidarity Network. Her interests range from environmental justice through empowering people to engage in meaningful, constructive

interpersonal communication. People who have felt marginalized, or simply uncomfortable getting involved, have found Chelsea an ardent supporter of their finding their place at PPCC. Chelsea embodies the state motto: Nil sine Numine, which reminds us to be grateful stewards of those resources given to us. She has been a student employee in the Office of Sustainability and currently works at PPCC's Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Both roles allowed Chelsea to actualize her passion and commitment to making our world a place that is (or will be) characterized by equity. When she is not studying or volunteering, Chelsea likes to stay abreast of current events and is also a fan of going to the movies. She is a loving dog parent to Kai and has a penchant for trivia-based games.

PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE



BARBARA WILSON

Barbara, a first-generation student, will graduate from Pueblo Community College with an Associate of Arts and a Certificate of Leadership. She will transfer into the Audiology-Speech Language Sciences program at the University of Northern Colorado this fall and plans to become a speech-language pathologist. As a member of the League of TRIO Students and the PS Care club, Barbara has learned the value of collaboration that makes great things happen. In the President's Leadership Program, she discovered grit and strength she didn't know she had. And in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, she developed the leadership skills necessary to take on the challenges that face our communities. Through her programs and courses at PCC, Barbara has developed professional leadership skills that will allow her to help children overcome communication barriers so they can be successful in school and in life. Barbara plans to continue serving her community as a Destination Imagination coach, American Sign Language interpreter, worship leader and a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer – the “voice of the child” in our legal system. She has a natural sense of curiosity and enjoys research, nature, bird-watching, fishing, hiking in the mountains, dancing and basking in the sunshine on a beach. Barbara is grateful for the community at PCC – her fellow students, professors and advisors who have believed in her, taught her, challenged her and gone the extra mile to provide opportunities that have helped her grow as a person and as a professional!



ELENA ROMERO

Elena is a Pueblo native who graduated from Pueblo West High School in 2018. She will graduate from PCC in May with an associate of arts degree. She plans on transferring to CSU-Pueblo to pursue a bachelor's and master's degree in elementary special education. Elena is the Director of Chartered Organizations for Associated Student Government. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa, History Club, and P.S. Cares club. Elena has assisted with the Homeless Count in Pueblo through the P.S. Cares. Outside of school, Elena volunteers her time at Heroes K-8 Academy in a Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) classroom. She found her love for students and learning while at Heroes. Originally, Elena had planned on teaching in regular education, but has been unable to leave her students in the SED classroom. Over the past four years, Elena has also volunteered with Colorado Mission of Mercy (COMOM) which provides free dental care to low-income individuals and families throughout the state. She also volunteers her time with a Special Olympics team, Steel City Heroes, where she has participated in a Night to Shine, as well as multiple sporting events. Elena's hobbies include working with children, sports, and hiking. She has been a hiking organizer with a local group and takes any opportunity to explore the great outdoors. Elena likes to play an active role in her community and aspires to advocate for her future students.

RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



JAMES COOK

James was homeschooled all the way through his senior year of high school, after which he started attending Red Rocks Community College where he has been studying to earn an Associates of Science for the past 3 years. James will be graduating this May with his degree and plans to transfer to CSU with to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering or Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Political Science, something he has developed an interest in through

his time with SSAC. On campus James is the Student Lead at the Student Life Desk, VP of Student Government where he also serves as the SSAC secondary representative. He is also the VP of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium club, a group of STEM students who work on projects though funding from NASA.



SARAH KIDDER

Sarah loves biology and loves the research, but plans to become a counselor and help people in times of need. She is the primary SSAC representative for Red Rocks and serves as Secretary. She is also the VP and co-founder of the RRCC Biology club. Sarah has worked on many projects with the club like creating a "living wall" to help cool the servers in the Idea Lab. She also works as a Biology TA and helps put on bio workshops in collaboration with the Colorado Space Grant.

TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE



MEGAN NUNEZ

Megan is an enthusiastic student who strives to earn a high GPA and find ways to be involved on campus. Although she came to Trinidad State to play softball, she has done so much more in her time as a Trojan. Megan has been the SGA secretary for 2 years, she is an RA and a team led on her softball team. She was a part of the 2018 Region IX Championship Team, the NJCAA All-Academic Third Team and received the 2018 Outstanding Leadership award.

Megan attended the 2018 National Student SGA Leadership conference in St. Louis and has taken this training opportunity to find ways to make campus better including introducing Safe Zone Training to students. As a Colorado native she enjoy spending time outdoors, painting the scenery and spends times reading and cooking. She plans to stay close to family and transfer to MSU Denver this upcoming fall, and will be dearly missed by her Trojan family.



JOELLE VALDEZ

Joelle is originally from Biloxi, MS, and has lived in Alamosa, CO, for 5 years with her husband, Mario, and sons, Dario (12 yrs. old) and Donovan (14 yrs. old). After witnessing the kindness and grace a nurse showed her grandmother in the hospital, she decided she, too, wanted to be a positive presence in the lives of patients facing difficult times. After her husband got out of the military they moved to the San Luis Valley to be closer to his family while rising their children. During

Joelle's time at TSJC, she has been a tutor, work study, and teacher's assistance for the biology department, President of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, and heavily active in her Nursing Club. Joelle is known for always being around for a good laugh and a helping hand. She will be graduating with the Nursing Class of 2019 from the Valley Campus of Trinidad State Junior College in May and plans to continue her nursing education while working at becoming a "dang good nurse."

ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR



DAVID SIGUENZA, PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

David Siguenza is a Student Success Coach at Pueblo Community College and is very passionate about student success. Additionally, he serves as the advisor for PCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter and has recently been named the PTK Colorado/Wyoming Regional Coordinator. He is a 1st generation, non-traditional college graduate. David earned a Master's of Business Administration from CSU-Pueblo as well as a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration majoring in Business Management with minors in Economics and Accounting from CSU-Pueblo. He attained his Associate of Arts Business Management from Pueblo Community College in 2011. David's greatest supporter is his mother and he enjoys spending time with her any chance he gets.



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COLORADO
PERA

COLORADO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Colorado PERA provides retirement and other benefits to more than 550,000 current and former public employees who provide valuable service to all of Colorado. PERA is a vital and stable contributor to Colorado's economy, distributing \$3.8 billion in 2016 to retirees who live in Colorado. PERA manages more than \$47 billion in defined benefit and defined contribution assets, and helps sustain 32,800 jobs, making it one of Colorado's best investments.



COLORADO
Colorado Opportunity
Scholarship Initiative

COLORADO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE (COSI)

Shelley Banker is the Director of the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative - created in 2014 - and manages the Initiative's \$36 million reserve fund and \$7 million annual appropriation. Celebrating the program's fifth anniversary this year, COSI has already awarded \$39 million of state funds, leveraged \$20 million in additional local and private dollars, and has served more than 60,000 students in Colorado. Those students are persisting at rates 15-25 percentage points higher than their peers. And already 3,000 students served by COSI have completed their degree or credential.

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