



**University of Colorado Denver Public Service Weekend
A Mile High Ascent to Public Service**

Speaker Bios

Thursday, June 7th

Welcome

Paul Teske, Dean, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver

Paul Teske was named Dean of the School of Public Affairs in 2008. He was recently ranked again among the most influential education policy academics in the annual “Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings.” Compiled by American Enterprise Institute, the rankings recognize 200 university-based scholars who shape public discussions of education.

Prior to his appointment, Teske served as Director of CU Denver’s Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA), in addition to his teaching and research activities as a Professor. He was also director of the SPA Ph.D. program. From 1988-2003 he was a professor of political science at SUNY Stony Brook. He earned his Ph.D. (1989) and MPA (1982) degrees in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He earned his B.A. in economics and political science from UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was a Johnston Scholar and Phi Beta Kappa.

Teske won the 2005 Distinguished Research Award from the 275 college member group NASPAA/ASPA (National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration/American Society for Public Administration). He also won the 2005 Excellence in Research and Creative Activities award from the University of Colorado Denver.

In 2008, the CU Regents and CU President named Dr. Teske as a University of Colorado Distinguished Professor, one of just 75 scholars across all fields in the CU system (including 3,000 faculty members) ever given this designation, and the first ever honoree on the downtown Denver campus.

Teske is very active in real world public affairs issues in Colorado. He has advised the state’s Department of Regulatory Affairs on the regulation of professions. He was a member of the Denver Public School’s School Improvement Grant committee from 2006-2008, was appointed by Governor Ritter to the state’s P20 System Transformation Committee from 2009-2011, and was appointed by Governor Hickenlooper as Colorado at-large representative to the federally-funded Regional Education Laboratory for 2012-present. He is currently chair of the Board of the nonprofit Catapult School Leadership.

Teske’s public policy research has centered on education policy, regulatory policy, urban policy, and economic development policy. He has written 8 books, 50 articles, and 20 book chapters on these topics. His most recent book (co-edited with Colin Provost in 2009) is *President George W. Bush’s Influence over Bureaucracy and Policy –Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Powers*. A prior book, *Pay for Performance Teacher Compensation: An Inside Story of Denver’s ProComp Plan* (Harvard Education Press, 2007, with Phil Gonring and Brad Jupp) analyzes the entrepreneurial policy development of the nation’s leading market-based teacher pay plan. His co-authored book, *Choosing Schools* (Princeton University Press, 2000, with Mark Schneider and Melissa Marschall), won the Aaron Wildavsky Award for best book from the American Policy Studies Organization.

Nicole Kim, Campus Relations Specialist, City and County of Denver

Nicole Kim is a senior level professional with over 15 years in recruiting. She has broad industry experience in talent acquisition, relationship management, and career development coaching. Ms. Kim is experienced in recruiting for privately held companies, post-secondary recruitment for degree attainment and career development, and local government agencies. She works with the School of

Public Affairs at CU Denver to promote field based learning opportunities to highly motivated undergraduate and graduate students interested in developing careers in public service. Ms. Kim earned her BA in Sociology from the University of Nebraska and is highly skilled in recruitment, human resources, and city administration.

Guest Speakers

Representative James Coleman (Colorado House District 7)

James Coleman is a native of Denver—having grown up in the Park Hill neighborhood, currently living in Green Valley Ranch. He represents the citizens, families, and communities of District 7 in Colorado’s House of Representatives.

His professional career has been dedicated to empowering families and engaging the community to improve the quality of life for Colorado residents. He serves as Vice President of Community Engagement at ACE Scholarships, a local nonprofit providing educational scholarships to low-income families.

James is a passionate champion for excellent education and quality options. It’s driven by his formative years growing up in the Park Hill neighborhood and experiencing the full range of educational options. He attended Smiley Middle School, a traditional Denver Public School. Later, through a need-based scholarship, he attended a private high school. As a parent, he sends his own young children to a public charter school in Northeast Denver. He understands that different students and families have different needs, and every parent deserves the opportunity to choose the school that works best for their child.

James serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors at Highline Academy, a tuition-free public charter school with a custom liberal arts curriculum and rigorous academic program. His civic engagement also includes the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce, INROADS, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Urban League of Metro Denver Young Professionals, and several other organizations.

James earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, with a minor in Business Administration, from Oral Roberts University. He and his wife, Shayna, have been together since the 8th grade, and have two amazing children (twins), James Jr. and Naomi.

James Coleman, Vice President of Community Engagement, ACE Scholarships
Democratic State Representative, District 7
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Jamie Van Leeuwen, Senior Advisor to Governor Hickenlooper

Jamie Van Leeuwen currently serves as the Senior Advisor for Governor Hickenlooper after almost four years as Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Community Partnerships. Leading up to the Hickenlooper administration, he worked as the Policy Director and served on the transition team for the Hickenlooper for Colorado gubernatorial campaign. He is also the founder and Executive Director of the Global Livingston Institute, a non-governmental organization in East Africa designed to engage students and community leaders to develop innovative solutions to poverty. He became a Fullbright Scholar in 2013.

Nuri Heckler, Instructor/PhD Candidate, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver

Before seeking his Ph.D., Nuri Heckler is an attorney with experience as a fundraiser, nonprofit executive, community organizer, campaign manager, and financial director. Nuri taught seminars on resource and financial development, constitutional law, race, and gender. His research interests look at nonprofits and social enterprises, and how they reinforce and/or resist racism and sexism. He has published in law journals and professional newsletters, and is now writing for public administration journals. Nuri practices learner centered pedagogy focused on giving students hands-on experiences in the classroom and online.

Friday, June 8th

Grad School Presentation

Dean David Engelke, Graduate School, CU Denver

Dr. Engelke earned a B.S. in Biochemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and a Ph.D. in Biological Chemistry at Washington University (St. Louis) working with Robert Roeder. After postdoctoral studies with John Abelson at UC San Diego and Caltech, he was on the faculty of Biological Chemistry at the University of Michigan, where he also served in various roles as director of graduate programs and associate deans in the Medical School and Graduate School. His research interests center on the biosynthesis and functions of small RNAs in eukaryotic nuclei. In September, 2015 became Dean of the Graduate School for the Denver and Anschutz Medical campuses of the University of Colorado, as well as Professor of Chemistry and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics.

Colorado State Capitol – Governor Hickenlooper’s Office

Masha Myslovskaya, Policy Aid & Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Hickenlooper

Masha Myslovskaya currently serves as Policy Aide and Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff with the Office of the Governor for the State of Colorado. Masha has been in this role since January, previously serving as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff from December 2016-January 2018. Masha has been with Governor Hickenlooper’s office since April 2016, when she was a Correspondence and Constituent Services Intern. After her internship was completed, she was hired on to the team as the Staff Assistant, where she represented the Governor’s Office and managed a staff of 35.

In her role as Policy Aide, Masha writes remarks for the Governor, does research for the Governor’s various meetings, and provides the policy team with background for specific topics of interest. As special assistant to the Chief of Staff, Masha acts as an advisor to the Chief of Staff, as a liaison between Cabinet members and the Governor’s office, and manages communications and the Chief of Staff’s calendar. She also manages the communication between a federal lobbying group in DC, which results in advocacy for Colorado’s interests in DC, as well as relationship building with the Hill. Masha works with the departments across the state to organize town hall meetings, Cabinet meetings, and Cabinet retreats.

Masha graduated from University of Denver in June of 2016. She double majored in Russian and International Studies, and wrote her Honors Distinction in Russian, titled “Russian Rhetoric and Relations in Ukraine: How the Russian Youth Continues the Kremlin’s Narrative”. She studied abroad in 2014, living in the Netherlands for 6 months and attending University of Maastricht. Masha has lived in Denver for 6 years and enjoys camping, snowshoeing, rock climbing, concerts, and exploring the city in the search for really great food.

Haden Cleverly, Program Manager, Office of Governor Hickenlooper

Hayden currently serves as Program Administrator in the Office of Community Partnerships & Special Initiatives. Her primary roles include providing administrative support for Jamie Van Leeuwen, the Governor’s Senior Advisor and managing the Executive Internship Program. Hayden also works on other initiatives in different capacities, including: Take Note Colorado, One Book 4 Colorado, Pedal the Plains, and the Blueprint to End Hunger. She attended the University of Vermont where she studied Political Science and Philosophy. Outside of work, she is active in the community and helping to start a new chapter of the Awesome Foundation in Denver and is passionate about voter mobilization.

Local Government Workshop

Dannette Robberson, Management Assistant, Town Administrator and Town Council, Town of Parker

Ms. Robberson is new to the Town of Parker, starting in early 2017. Previously, she worked for the City of Greenwood Village as a management analyst and for the Town of Addison in the Dallas metro area as the Assistant to the City Manager. Prior to changing careers, Dannette worked as Director of Business Development in the hospitality industry. Dannette is active in the International City/County Manager's Association (ICMA) and has served on the Advisory Board on Graduate Education since 2015. She also serves as the ICMA Chapter Mentor for the University of Colorado at Denver School of Public Affairs. Dannette is an active member of the Colorado City and County Manager's Association and serves as a planning committee member for the American Public Works Association. Ms. Robberson has a BA in Political Science from the University of North Texas and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas.

Dannette Robberson, Assistant to the Town Administrator, Town of Parker, CO
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Jan Michael Zavislan, Senior Counsel, Consumer Protection Section, Colorado Department of Law

Jan Zavislan currently serves as Senior Counsel of Consumer Resources. Zavislan has served in the Department for 27 years, 8 as a First Assistant Attorney General and the last 15 1/2 as Deputy of the Consumer Protection Section. Jan Zavislan is a nationally recognized consumer protection expert and frequently testifies before the General Assembly. Zavislan will work closely with José Esquibel and the Office of Community Engagement to ensure Colorado consumers have the necessary tools to protect themselves from fraud and abuse.

Denise Taylor, Executive Director, Colorado City and County Management Association (CCCMA)

Ms. Taylor is the Executive Director of the Colorado City and County Management Association (CCCMA). In many ways, she manages the activities, trainings and contributes to strategic priorities for Colorado localities across the state. After college, Denise Taylor worked in the city manager's office of a small town and a larger city. When looking for a job closer to home she landed in professional development and association management. It all came full circle when I was able to bring the two careers together working for the Colorado City and County Management Association. Denise Taylor holds a BA in History from the University of Colorado Denver and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Alabama Huntsville.

Denise Taylor, Executive Director, Colorado City County Management Association
denise@coloradoccma.org

Sherry Corcoran, Community Resource Officer, Parker Police Department

Officer Corcoran has been with the Parker Police Department for 17 years. Her career began in the year 2000 as a patrol officer where she worked routine patrol, traffic and community policing. In 2003, she became a detective and investigated felony crime. She had a passion working crimes against children and was one of the first detectives assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit for the Department. She worked in an undercover capacity on the internet for several years. In 2011, she was transferred to the Office of Professional Standards (Chief's Office) and assisted with Accreditation and became the Internal Affairs Investigator. She is a public information officer (PIO) and works directly with the news media, news releases and a social media admin for the Department. In 2017, she became the Community Resource Officer and currently works with the community, Parker businesses and the schools on a variety of education and outreach programs. She is a composite artist and can assist in unsolved crimes.

Sherry Corcoran, Community Resource Officer. Town of Parker, CO
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Mark Deven, City Manager, Arvada, Colorado

Arvada's City Manager is Mark Deven, who started with the city on October 1, 2011. Mark served as city manager of Woodland, California, from 2007 to 2011, immediately prior to joining Arvada. Over the last six years Arvada has implemented strategic planning and performance budgeting that defines the City Council's goals. At the same time, Arvada has redefined its Vision, Mission and Values in order to improve the organization's capacity to deliver the results associated with the Council's goals.

While admitting to being a California resident for 54 years before coming to Colorado, Mark is proud to proclaim that he is now a Coloradan! He has forever sworn allegiance to the Centennial State. The Deven family has contributed to Colorado's in-migration as four of the family's five children have now moved to Arvada from California.

Ray Gonzalez, County Manager, Adams County, Colorado

Raymond H. Gonzales has over 20 years of experience in Federal, State and local government. He currently serves as County Manager for Adams County, where he oversees a budget of approximately \$468 million that provides direct services for the community through Public Works, Parks and Open Space, Community & Economic Development and Human Services Departments; Administrative functions of Facilities and Fleet, Information Technology, Finance and Retirement; and a newly dedicated People and Culture Services where he oversees the empowerment of over 2000 employees personal impact, influence and inspiration regardless of title or designation. An ever industrious conductor, Raymond continuously strives for organizational improvement and premier delivery of public services to meet the needs of an ever increasing diverse community.

Michelle Kivela, Town Administrator, Town of Parker, Colorado

Michelle joined the Town in June 2012 as the Deputy Town Administrator and was appointed Town Administrator position in September 2017 by the Parker Town Council, where she has been a resident for the past 16 years. She has 23 years of municipal government experience in a wide variety of capacities and positions. Through her previous positions, she has overseen many functions and departments, including Public Works, Police, Finance, Human Resources, Parks & Recreation and Community Outreach. Prior to joining the Town of Parker, Michelle served as the Deputy City Manager for the City of Lone Tree for seven years. She has also held positions with the City of Greenwood Village, the City of Sugar Land, Texas and the Town of Addison, Texas. Michelle earned both her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and her Master of Public Administration at the University of North Texas. Michelle

Kivela, Town Administrator for the Town of Parker, CO
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Michael Penny, Castle Pines City Manager

For more than two decades, Michael Penny has exemplified the ideals of leadership, collaboration, partnership, and teamwork as the administrative manager for both large and small municipalities across Colorado. His passion and dedication to building robust communities that address the critical needs of citizens, businesses, and industry is evidenced by the strong footprint Michael has left in each community he has touched. Michael's career path is marked with success and significant contributions to local government as a municipal manager, consultant, and private sector strategist. Michael currently serves as an independent strategic management consultant, where he works closely with municipal governments providing expertise and guidance to communities facing a management and leadership void due to the absence of a municipal administrator.

Murphy Robinson, City of Denver, Exec. Director of General Service

Robinson, a Denver native, currently serves as the Chief of Staff to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to Denver's southern neighbor, the City of Englewood. In this role, Robinson directs a cross-functional executive leadership team and staff of 650 full-time employees, as well as providing recommendations to the City Manager and City Council while managing the city's \$41 million annual operating budget. During his time with the City of Englewood, he has overseen multiple department reorganizations, drove the city's capital asset condition assessment and improvement plan, and led the creation of Englewood's Innovation and Strategy Office, Communications Department and Employee Advisory Committee. Before his work with the City of Englewood, Robinson oversaw General Services as Assistant City Manager of the City of Brighton. While with Brighton, he directed Brighton's facilities department, oversaw the city's facility growth and improvement plan, and created and directed the Brighton Sustainability Office.

The Magic of Dialog

Dr. Jane Hansberry, Scholar in Residence & MPA Program Director, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver

School of Public Affairs faculty member and Director of the MPA program, Jane Hansberry has held several executive positions in the public and nonprofit sectors. Prior to coming to SPA full time in fall of 2015, Dr. Hansberry was the Managing Director of Think 360 Arts Complete Education. Prior to assuming this position, Dr. Hansberry was the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Enrichment (FHE) - a Boulder Colorado based somatic psychology training organization. In addition to her management positions, Dr. Hansberry lectured at University of Colorado School of Public Affairs and taught at the University of Denver's University College in its Master in Arts Management program. Hansberry's areas of research include the economic impact of arts and culture, nonprofit and public sector governance and organizational development, regional cultural asset districts, and the facilitation of collaboration. Prior to her doctoral studies, Hansberry served from 1990-1999 as the District Administrator for the metropolitan Denver Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. Jane Hansberry (MPA '89)

Scholar in Residence, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver

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Guest Speaker

Marion Rorke, Substance Use Resource Coordinator, Denver Dept. of Public Health & Environment

Marion Rorke earned her MPH from Tulane University in 2014 as a part of their combined degree program, with a focus on maternal and child health, and gender and sexuality. She was a founding member of Tulane's chapter of Gamma Rho Lambda, an LGBTQ-friendly, multicultural sorority. After finishing school she began working at NO/AIDS Task Force d.b.a. CrescentCare in their HIV prevention division. In this position she conducted research, interviews, and HIV/HCV testing as a part of the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System (NHBS) with populations deemed to be at increased risk for HIV by the CDC: men-who-have-sex-with men (MSM), high-risk heterosexuals, and people who inject drugs (PWID). During the PWID cycle she worked with the local syringe access program in New Orleans to develop protocols to facilitate the distribution of naloxone to program participants. In the spring of 2017 she re-located to Denver to take on a position with the Department of Public Health and Environment coordinating the city's response to the opioid crisis.

Saturday, June 9th

Guest Speaker

Kevin Patterson, CEO, Connect for Health Colorado

Kevin Patterson was named Chief Executive Officer of Connect for Health Colorado in April of 2015. Mr. Patterson previously served as chief administrative officer to Gov. John Hickenlooper and has an extensive history of public service. He has served as the interim executive director of three state agencies during leadership transitions, the Governor's Office of Information Technology, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs and the Governor's Energy Office.

Kevin Patterson has an intimate understanding of state government and stakeholder engagement. He has held leadership roles for the city and county of Denver in the Budget Office, the Planning Department, the Department of Human Services, the Department of General Services and the Department of Parks and Recreation. As the governor's chief administrative officer, Patterson served as a member of the State Board of Equalization, the Capitol Building Advisory Committee, the State Internet Portal Authority, and supervised 10 gubernatorial appointed public trustees. He was elected to the Denver Board of Education in 2001 and 2005. Patterson graduated with a B.A. in Teaching from Sam Houston State University and holds both a Master of Public Administration and Master of Urban Regional Planning from the University of Colorado Denver.

PPIA Welcome Remarks

Simone Gbolo, Executive Director, Public Policy & International Affairs Program (PPIA)

Simone Gbolo is the executive director of the Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Program, a national nonprofit organization that promotes the inclusion and full participation of underrepresented groups in public service. The organization selected the Humphrey School of Public Affairs as host of its national headquarters in 2015.

Simone comes to PPIA from the University of Minnesota Medical School's Office of Admissions, where she served as director of its Pipeline Programs since 2013. In this role, she led the initiatives that assist students from broadly diverse backgrounds to successfully matriculate to medical school. Prior to this, she served as associate program director of the North Star STEM Alliance at the University of Minnesota, where she helped socialize students to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields and STEM careers.

Simone's professional background includes varied experiences in higher education and nonprofit organizations including Century College, St. Catherine University, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and the American Lung Association.

She has a B.S., an M.Ed. (youth development leadership) and an M.A. (multicultural college teaching and learning) from the University of Minnesota, and is earning her Doctorate of Philosophy, also from the University of Minnesota.

Prevalent Policy Issues-Colorado and Beyond

Legalization of Marijuana

Lewis Koski, Lecturer, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver and Co-Founder, Freedman & Koski, Inc.

Lewis Koski is recognized nationally and internationally as an expert in formative marijuana policy, one of a small group of government executives who has been intimately involved in the development and implementation of marijuana policy from the infancy of medical marijuana through the realization of legalization. His leadership contributions and devotion to the thoughtful implementation of marijuana policy played a crucial role in achieving what has become one of the world's most fully developed marijuana regulatory frameworks.

Lewis was the Director of the Colorado Marijuana Enforcement Division—the world's first government agency dedicated to implementing medical and retail marijuana policy—and played a pivotal role in building and monitoring the state's early marijuana policies. This included constructing innovative strategies to develop balanced regulations, launching the first marijuana inventory tracking system, and finding solutions to some of the biggest challenges Colorado faced as it developed and executed the complex and divisive mandates around the new marijuana laws.

Lewis holds a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis on International Business and is a Doctoral Candidate in Public Administration with a focus on policy analysis and public participation in rulemaking. He also instructs a master's level class at the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs called "The Marijuana Policy Frontier". Lewis Koski Lecturer, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver Founder, Freedman & Koski, Inc.

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Immigration Policy

Njareh Beauty Jobe, Academic Services Professional, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz

Ms. Beauty Jobe has personal and professional experience working in areas directly tied to immigration policy. Beauty is an advocate and strong supporter for refugee services and progressive immigration policy. Beauty's full time position allows her to connect with students and scholars in higher education. Her passion and research has allowed her to gain a deep understanding of the issues surrounding immigration policy today. As a first generation migrant to the United States, she has firsthand experience going through all stages in the US immigration system and thus have been impacted by various immigration policies both old and new ones. Beauty's qualifications include service leadership through AmeriCorps programming, higher education administration, and advanced training in policy, analysis, and advocacy. Ms. Jobe earned a Bachelor of Science with honors from the University of Gambia and a Master of Public Administration from the School of Public Affairs at University of Colorado Denver.

Gentrification

Todd Ely, Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver

Todd Ely is associate professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver and Director of the Center for Local Government Research and Training. His research and teaching focus on the financing of state and local public services, direct democracy, municipal debt, education finance and policy, and public and nonprofit financial management. Todd's research has been supported by the American Educational Research Association, Ford Foundation, and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. Recent publications can be found in *The American Review of Public Administration*, *National Tax Journal*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, *Public Administration Review*, *Public Budgeting & Finance*, *State and Local Government Review*, and *Urban Affairs Review*. Todd currently serves as a Public Representative on the Colorado Municipal Bond Supervision Advisory Board and consults on a U.S. Department of Education contract monitoring charter school credit enhancement grantees. He received his PhD from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University.

Affordable Housing

Geoff Prophet, Assistant Professor, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver

Geoffrey Prophet is an assistant professor in the School of Public Affairs. His research explores property tax policy and administration, land and economic development, and sports and urban affairs.

Policy Writing Workshop

Tanya Heikkila, Professor & Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver

Professor Tanya Heikkila's research expertise is in comparative institutional analysis and the management of collaboration and conflict around common pool resources, with an emphasis on water resources. She has studied institutions for coordinating groundwater and surface water in the western United States, interstate water conflicts and cooperation, the organization of collaborative ecosystem restoration programs, as well as the political landscape of hydraulic fracturing in the United States. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the PepsiCo Foundation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Dr. Heikkila is also the director of MPA concentration in Environmental Policy, Management, and Law at the School of Public Affairs and Co-Director of the Workshop on Policy Process Research. She received her MPA and PhD in Public Administration and Policy from the University of Arizona.

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Josh Diosomito, Senior Policy Analyst & Diversity Instructor, Homeland Security and Justice Team

Josh Diosomito is a Senior Policy Analyst within the GAO Homeland Security and Justice Team. As an Analyst-in-Charge, Josh is responsible for managing performance audits that evaluate programs administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), among other DHS components. For nearly 15 years, he has been involved in and managed performance audits overseeing DHS aviation, border, and maritime security operations and has traveled overseas to conduct field work. Currently, he is leading a team examining foreign airport security operations in Cuba.

As a public servant, Josh also serves as a certified Diversity Instructor and teaches courses on enhancing awareness of diversity and inclusion issues—including unconscious/implicit bias, workplace civility, and effective listening, among others. As a former Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellow, he has dedicated his career towards promoting the inclusion and full participation of underrepresented groups in the public service arena and advocates for their leadership roles throughout the federal government. In Southern California, Josh serves as a Board Member of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board Diversity and Inclusion Group which promotes diversity and inclusion awareness through increased training and interagency collaboration. He has taught classes and led presentations for international, federal, and local organizations—including International Auditor Fellowship Program, Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department, among others.

Josh earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley and dual master's degree in public administration and international relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Outside the office, he is a devoted husband and father, active faith leader, marathon runner, and weekend golfer.

Latesha Love, Assistant Director, Forensic Audits and Investigations

As an Assistant Director in GAO's Forensic Audit and Investigative Service team (FAIS), Latesha Love leads a portfolio of high-quality forensic audits and investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse; other special investigations; and security and vulnerability assessments. She has sixteen years of experience at GAO leading performance audits and forensic audits of a wide range of federal programs and policies, including immigration, federal homeland security, consumer financial protection, Medicare, contracting, human capital management, taxes and the economy, regulatory policies, intergovernmental response and recovery from catastrophic events, and methods to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agency operations. Latesha has also served as Assistant Director of operations for FAIS, providing advice

to the Managing Director on all operational and personnel matters and overseeing the implementation of the Quality Assurance framework and Strategic Plan that provides the direction for FAIS's work.

Noteworthy impacts of her leadership and expertise include: identifying millions of dollars in savings to a variety of federal programs; leading assessments of major federal programs and recommending practical corrective actions that were implemented; benchmarking leading practices in a variety of areas to inform change management and complex problem solving; drafting numerous reports and congressional hearing testimonies on a range of program performance issues and forensic audits; and assisting internal top-level leadership in improving the performance, accountability, culture, and processes in GAO.

Prior to joining GAO, Latesha obtained a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Virginia State University, became a proud fellow of the PPIA program at the Ford School of Public Policy, and subsequently obtained a master's degree in Public Policy Studies from the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy.

Public Service Career Panel

Alexis Harrigan, Director of State Government Affairs, code.org

Ms. Harrigan recently left her post as Education Policy Advisor for the Office of the Governor, John Hickenlooper to join Code.org as their Director of State Government Affairs. Code.org® is a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools and increasing participation by women and underrepresented minorities. Their vision is for every student in every school to have the opportunity to learn computer science, just like biology, chemistry or algebra. Alexis' career in public service includes serving as Constituent Advocate for U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, Executive Director of Intercambio Denver, Denver City Council Aide, and Volunteer Coordinator for the Colorado "I Have a Dream" Foundation. As a volunteer, Alexis has served as the Vice Chair of the Colorado Latino Forum and co-chair of the Denver Latino Commission. She is a Daniels Fund Scholarship recipient and a first generation college graduate. The School of Public Affairs at CU Denver is proud to have her as one of our outstanding alumna from the Master of Public Administration program, class of 2016.

Kyle Huelsman, Political Director, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

Kyle Huelsman was born and raised in Jefferson County Colorado, and moved to Boulder to attend the University of Colorado. Raised by two Kansas farmers, Kyle was a first generation college student where he pursued degrees in Economics and Ethnic Studies. In 2010, Kyle organized with local immigrant rights activists to fight for Colorado ASSET, mobilizing a diverse university student coalition to garner CU Regent support for the legislation.

Prior to joining CIRC, Kyle co-founded the statewide nonprofit Food Rescue Alliance. He consulted food security organizations in Boulder, Denver, and Colorado Springs, and also worked with national food retailers to develop tax credit legislation for fresh food donations. During the 2015 legislative session, Kyle worked as the legislative aide for a Democratic state representative, supporting policy issues around equal pay and economic justice. Most recently, he held a position with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, developing health equity policy for Colorado Medicaid.

As the Policy and Advocacy Manager with CIRC, Kyle manages the legislative and advocacy components of the strategic campaigns, including coordination with our contract lobbyists and elected officials, developing policy related materials, and overseeing the annual advocacy day at the state capitol and national delegations to Washington D.C.

Ross Izard, Director of Policy, ACE Scholarships

Mr. Ross Izard serves as the Director of Policy for ACE Scholarships, where he leads the organization's efforts in the realms of public policy and government affairs. Ross has worked extensively in the public policy world at all levels, primarily in the realm of K-12 education. His knowledge of legislative and governmental processes and procedures have enabled him to pursue his true passion: Driving positive change through the complicated waters of the American political system. Ross's professional experience includes policy research, design, analysis, and writing; legislative/regulatory monitoring, analysis, and communications; and direct advocacy involving lawmakers, other elected officials, and state and local government agencies.

Mr. Izard holds a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Colorado and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver, School of Public Affairs. He currently lives in Douglas County, Colorado, with his wife and two young sons.

Becky Long, Policy and Strategy Consultant, Siegel Public Affairs

Ms. Long has over a decade of public policy experience and a deep understanding of environmental issues and policies. Becky joined Siegel Public Affairs in 2016. She began her work in public policy with the Colorado Environmental Coalition working in Colorado water policy and later served as the Advocacy Director for Conservation Colorado. With strong experience in a range of natural resource issues as well as in political and electoral work she is now putting those skills to work on behalf of a host of other clients.

She has led campaigns to create tax incentives for water right donations to protect rivers and streams, protect and expand renewable energy in Colorado, incentivize the electric vehicle market in Colorado, expand transportation infrastructure funding, strengthen protections for local communities facing oil and gas extraction and even to legalize rain barrels. She now works on a broad range of issues including conservation, local government, education and social justice. Becky has expertise in building coalitions, policy development, and in lobbying at the legislature to secure wins on behalf of progressive issues.

Ms. Long has a BA in Political Science from Metropolitan State College and a MPA from the University of Colorado, Denver. She is a Colorado native who grew up in the mountains of Summit County. She enjoys spending time at her family's cattle ranch where she is working to convince her parents to adopt several goats. Until then, she lives in Northwest Denver with her boyfriend and their cats Lewis, Martin & Liza Minelli.

Emily Nielson, Housing Colorado, Membership & Communication Specialist

Emily Nilsen currently serves as the Membership and Communications Specialist for Housing Colorado. Housing Colorado is the statewide association for the affordable housing industry. In this position, Emily helps fundraise, build membership engagement, mobilize volunteers, assist with legislative support, and manage outgoing communications, including project management of research reports. Notably, Emily's duties also include advocacy communications and public outreach and education including the Live Affordably Colorado campaign, which circulates public service announcements and informational collateral. Emily has nine years of experience in the nonprofit sector. Most recently, she served as Communications Manager for a national association and nonprofit. Emily Nilsen has a Bachelor's degree in History from Regent University and is currently working toward her Master's in Public Administration at the School of Public Affairs at University of Colorado Denver.

Guest Speaker

Senator Chris Holbert, Senate Majority Leader, District 30, Colorado State Senate

Mr. Holbert is a Republican member of the Colorado Senate representing District 30 since January 6, 2015. Formerly he represented the 44th District in Colorado's House of Representatives. He was elected in November 2016 by the Senate Republican Caucus to the position of Senate Majority Leader, the Second highest position in the Colorado Senate.

Chris has been involved in federal and state legislative and regulatory matters pertaining to the real estate industry since 1992, and in the automobile industry during the preceding seven years. From Denver to Washington, D.C., Mr. Holbert has advocated with success within the executive and legislative branches of government. Mr. Holbert has a solid track record of value delivery, bottom line profitability, effective communications, and principled representation. Both Democrats and Republicans in the Colorado General Assembly, and members of the Colorado Congressional delegation, have praised Chris' principled, respectful, and informed advocacy based on truth and accountability.

Teaching and public speaking are passions for Chris. He has spent countless hours educating people throughout Colorado about the two-year election cycle, caucus system, and how to affect positive change. Married in 1986, Chris and Diane Holbert are parents of two sons: Victor and Carson. Chris enjoys bow hunting and has climbed 39 of the 54 "14'ers" in Colorado.

Sunday, June 10th

John Butt, PhD Candidate and Enrollment Navigator, CU Denver

John received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Alabama with a focus in Broadcast Journalism. He later earned a Masters in Higher Education Administration from the College of William and Mary and a Masters of Human Resource Management from the University of Richmond.

John has worked in academic and career advising, student activities, and admissions and recruitment for institutions like the University of South Alabama, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Richmond, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In his current role with CU Denver, John is responsible for the recruitment and enrollment management of students pursuing fully online academic programs. At the college level, John has taught Organizational Management and Behavioral, a self-designed degree course, and multiple online success skills classes.

John enjoys spending time with his wife, Emily, a pediatric psychologist at Children's Hospital Colorado, their two Shetland Sheepdogs (Bosley and Charley), renovating their home, and exploring the world!

Chief Elias A. Diggins, Chief of Operations, Denver Sheriff's Office, Exec. MPA Candidate, School of Public Affairs, CU Denver

Elias has been with the Denver Sheriff Department since 1994, holding all uniform ranks including serving as the Interim Sheriff. He is currently the Chief of Operations with responsibility of both of Denver's jails. His work has included assignments in Court Services and Internal Affairs; as commander of the ERU/SWAT Team and the Training Academy; and as a project administrator of several multi-million-dollar detention construction ventures.

Elias is a Certified Jail Manager through the American Jail Association (AJA) where he also currently serves as President-Elect. He has been a Certified Auditor for the American Correctional Association (ACA) and was a Commissioner and Chair for ACA's Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. He is also a Certified Correctional Executive through ACA.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice/Criminology from Metropolitan State University in Denver and is currently working towards a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Colorado-Denver. He and his wife Leslie have five children and reside in Aurora, Colorado.