



Educating Children of Color, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 1, 2022 TO MARCH 31, 2023

EDUCATINGCHILDRENOFCOLOR.ORG

Greetings from the Educating Children of Color Board President,

ECOC is excited to introduce you to our new executive director, Victoria Stone! In December, ECOC was fortunate to be awarded a Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention Grant through the Colorado Department of Safety. That grant has made it possible to bring on Ms. Stone as an executive director for the next 18 months. We will be asking you to help us make it a permanent position!



Victoria Stone, Educating Children of Color Executive Director

After landing in Colorado Springs in 1995 and graduating from the University of Phoenix with a B.S. in Human Services Management, Victoria has made it her mission to ensure that the citizens of our city have the means to thrive and live their best and most joyous life. Victoria has an extensive career and involvement with nonprofits and boards that work to address homelessness, education, the juvenile justice system, and food equity. She participates in programs that have given her the leadership skills and programmatic know-how to run and design programs for success. Her visionary ideas and passions will help ECOC dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline.

Having Victoria join us is just one of many the year's highlights:

- We returned to in-person programming for Diversity University, The Leadership Academy, and the 16th Annual Educating Children of Color Summit.
- Through generosity from USAA, Beauty Bar, GE Johnson, Omega Psi Phi, OHE Construction, Sherman and Howard, and other donors, we awarded \$157,500 in scholarships and educational gifts at the Summit on 1-14-2023.
- Thanks to Sherman and Howard, we offered a first-time scholarship for an undergraduate student who will be attending law school in the next two years.
- We awarded 22 laptops and six \$500 awards to educators at the Summit.

- USAFA cadets, Skylar Burke and Mayra Quintana, chose ECOC as their senior capstone project and facilitated the transition of the executive director role from Regina Walter to Victoria Stone.
- We increased our collaboration with other nonprofit organizations in the region; we partnered with the African American Youth Leadership Conference, Peak Educated, and the Sachs Foundation Elevated Program to bring the United Negro College Fund to Colorado Springs as part of a financial aid and scholarship writing workshop.
- ECOC partnered with the Youth Documentary Academy (YDA), Inside Out Youth Services (IOYS), Leadership Pikes Peak, and continued its partnerships with the Collaborative for Community Engagement (CCE) and the Colket Center at Colorado College. CCE Bonner Fellow, Pai Kelley, conducted program evaluations of the Summit.
- ECOC added two additional Harrison School District 2 schools to the Leadership Academy for the 22-23 Academic year and doubled youth participation from the previous year. The Leadership Academy is currently serving 194 youth.
- ECOC was the recipient of a Crime Prevention and Crisis Intervention Grant through the Colorado Department of Safety.
- Colorado College continued to provide facilities, funding, staff, and financial support.
- We adopted a new logo and were so busy serving youth and planning for the Summit, that we forgot to make a big deal of it!!!!



ECOC
Educating Children of Color
equity · empowerment · education

ECOC has already started planning for the 17th Annual Summit. The Summit will take place on 1-13-24 at Colorado College. The theme is based on the life and legacy of Fannie May Duncan, "Everybody Welcome." We are accepting applications to present effective immediately at:

<https://form.jotform.com/202437907298060>

Please consider attending the Summer Session of Diversity University. The session is to be held June 26 to June 30, 2023, at Colorado College. Registration is open.

<https://form.jotform.com/223485480917060>

We look forward to another productive year as we work to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline for children of color and children in poverty through education. We are grateful for your support and your commitment to equity and justice.

Cynthia Jacquet

Diversity University-April 2022 to March 31, 2023

The purpose of Diversity University is to provide equity and inclusion training to improve the ability of professionals and the community to respond to the needs of a culturally diverse population. It is designed to increase justice by helping individuals to address their bias and leverage their power to address problems of disparate treatment and outcomes for young people.

To meet the needs of the community, ECOC has offered various versions of Diversity University during this fiscal year. Each session addressed implicit and explicit bias, equity, inclusion, and justice. The sessions were facilitated by Dr. Regina Lewis and Senior Judge Regina Walter, ECOC Founder.



Dr. Regina Lewis

Guest speakers included John Register, Paralympic athlete; Silas Musick, transgender educator; Bev Sencenbaugh, transgender educator; Allyson Pena, YDA Filmmaker; Francisco Bailey, YDA Filmmaker; Goddess Tyescha Clark, IOYS; Noelle Strait, IOYS; Dr. Kelly Cross; Arlene Garcia, Deaf Educator; Julie Riddle, Deaf Educator; Andy Kwiatkowski, YDA Filmmaker; Jules Navarrete, YDA Filmmaker; Rose Nsey, YDA Filmmaker.



Regina Walter, ECOC Founder

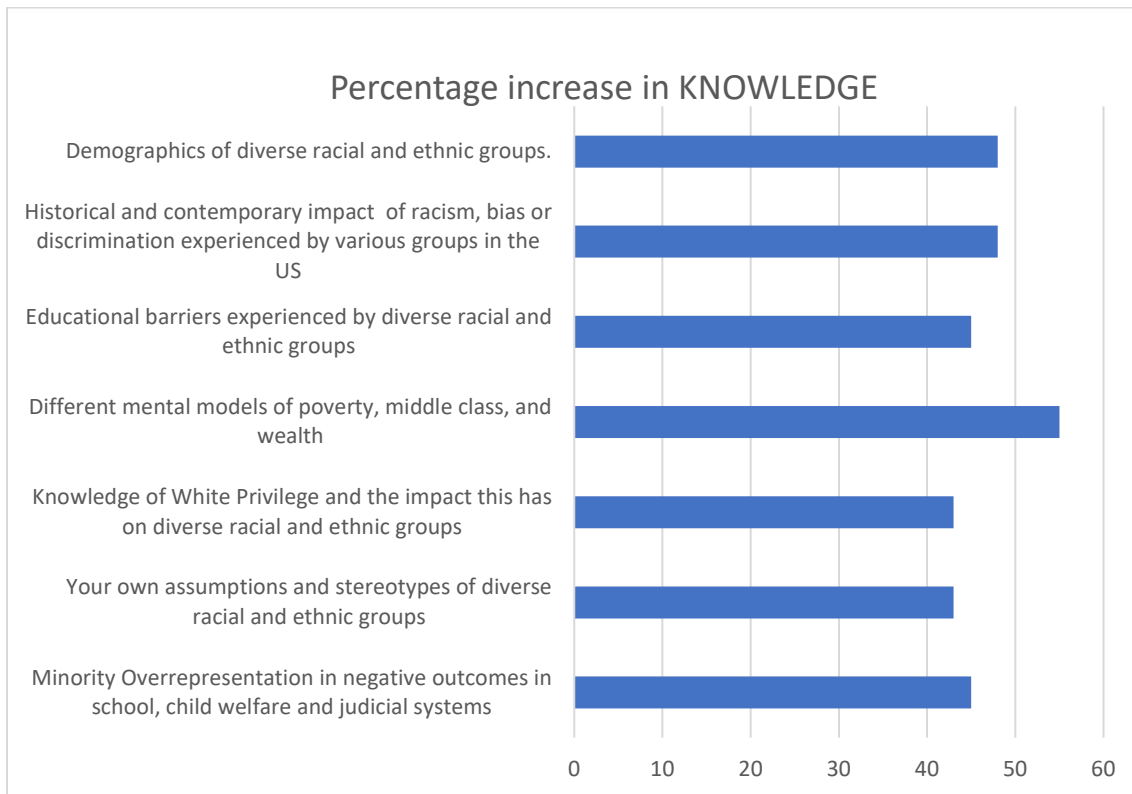
Over the course of the year, 274 individuals participated in some form of Diversity University. Most participated in a two-day version. At the culmination of each session, participants were required to create a bias reduction plan for the future and to evaluate the usefulness of programming content. More than 80% of participants said they would use the knowledge imparted in their personal or professional life.

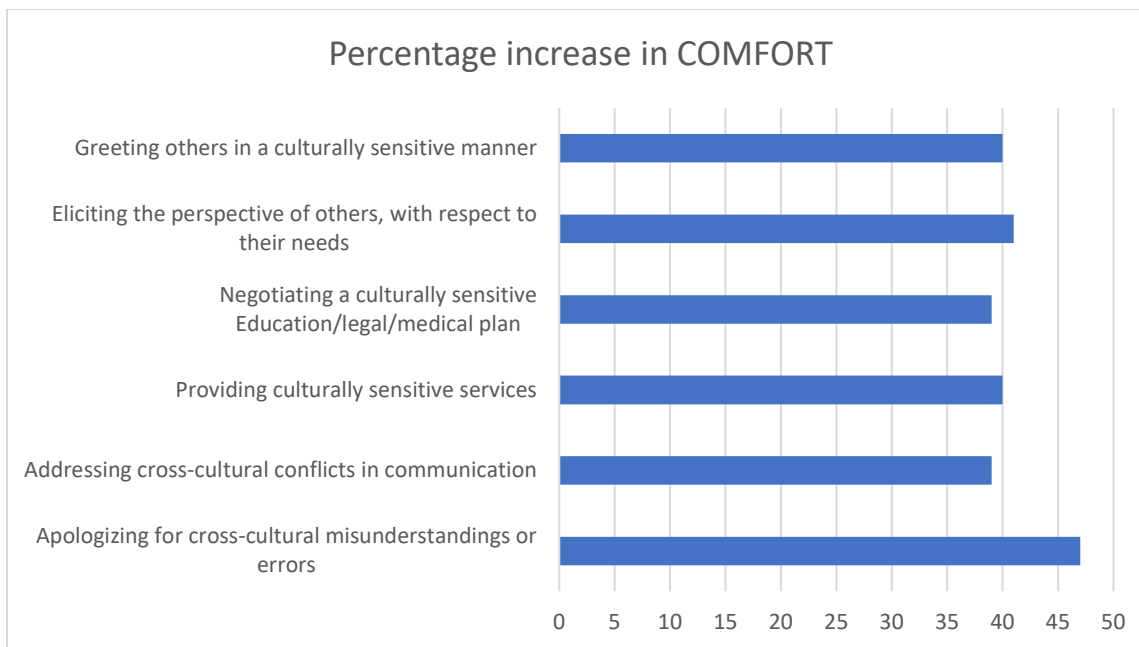
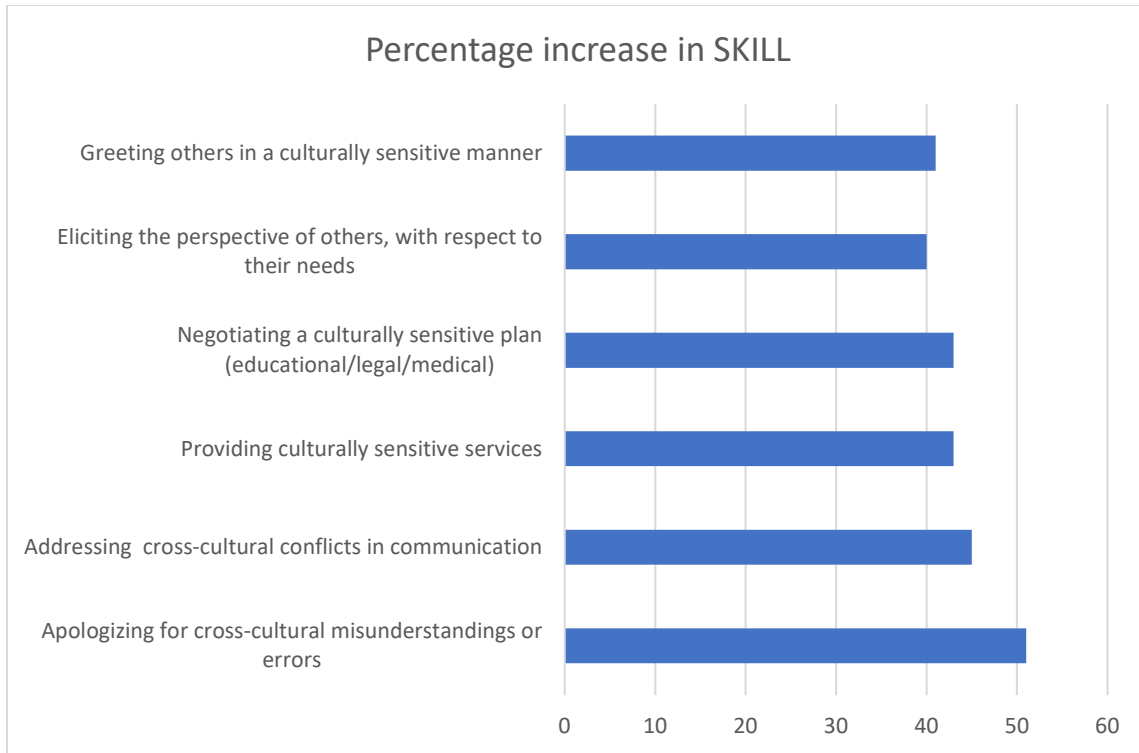
- May 6 and May 20, 2022-Colorado Springs Municipal Court
- May 31 and June 3, 2022-Widefield School District 3
- June 20 to June 24, 2022-The first of two week-long versions of Diversity University took place at Colorado College. Participants were educators, non-profit professionals, and government employees.
- July 11 to July 15, 2022-Second one-week session took place by Zoom. Participants were educators, non-profit professionals, and government employees.
- July 18 to July 20, 2022-Diversity University II at Colorado College. Participants were educators, non-profit professionals, and government employees.
- August 11 and 12, 2022-4th Judicial District
- October 17-Jefferson County Juvenile Court
- January 25-27, 2023-Colorado Department of Human Services
- February 15-17, 2023-Colorado Department of Human Services

At the culmination of the week-long versions of Diversity University, participants were asked to rank their KNOWLEDGE, SKILL and COMFORT before the week and how they ranked that knowledge at the end of the week. They were asked to use a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is clueless and 5 is fully enlightened.

Even though the group was mostly made up of educators and employees of non-profits who work with communities of color, 15% of the participants ranked their pre-event knowledge of demographics of diverse racial and ethnic groups and their knowledge of the historical impact of racism at the lowest possible level. Similarly, 10% of the group ranked their pre-event knowledge of educational barriers, white privilege, and minority overrepresentation at the lowest possible score. Thirty percent of the participants ranked their knowledge of poverty at the lowest possible score. Finally, one individual indicated that they had zero knowledge of their own assumptions before we started the week.

The increase in KNOWLEDGE, SKILL and COMFORT reported by the participants was 40% or more in all categories except for comfort in negotiating a culturally sensitive plan (educational, legal, or medical), and comfort in addressing cross-cultural conflicts in communication. The increase in comfort in both of those areas was 39%.





The Leadership Academy-April 2022 to March 31, 2023

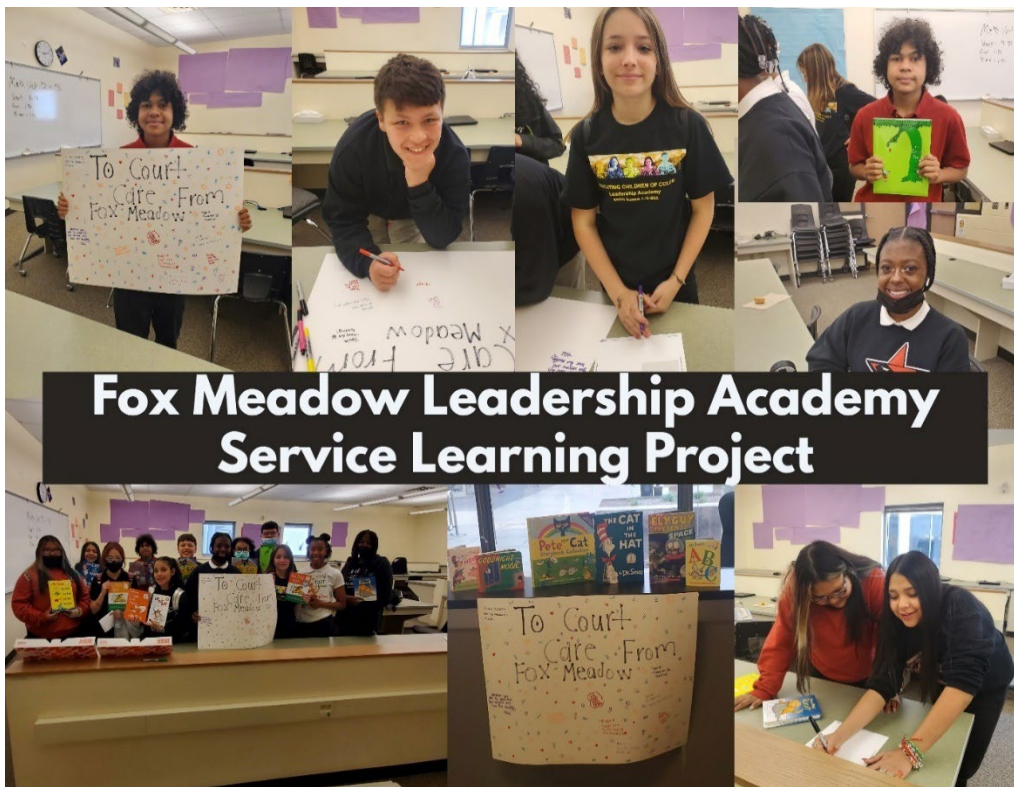
The ECOC Leadership Academy (LA) is designed to enhance students’ leadership capabilities, confidence, ability to pursue higher education and career opportunities. The youth are nominated by school personnel and meet monthly with college mentors. The program is designed to involve youth who may otherwise never have a leadership role. The program includes youth 8th to 12th grade.

LA students participate in the program for the entire school year and complete a service-learning project that supports the community. Students engage in suicide prevention activities and education; they learn how to cope with trauma; they learn about grit and coping skills; they learn life skills and leadership capabilities; they learn their constitutional rights and how to survive an encounter with the police; and they learn about their personality and how to navigate relationships with others. ECOC’s goal is to empower youth and to increase resilience, while exposing youth to higher education and careers.

Impact of the 21-22 Leadership Academy:

The 2021-22 LA was completed in May of 2022. At the culmination of the program a post-event survey was administered to the students. Ninety-six percent of the middle school students indicated that they would be attending college. Seventy-nine percent of respondents from all cohorts indicated that they were more likely to attend college, the military, or a vocational school specifically because of their involvement with the Leadership Academy.

May 2022 Service-Learning projects





Panorama Leadership Academy Students' Service Learning Project

2022-2023 Academic Year

LA has doubled in size from last year’s cohort of 96 youth. There are 194 students enrolled and actively engaged. Sixty-nine percent of the youth are from HSD2 in Southeast Colorado Springs. We expanded services to include two additional HSD2 schools this year. ECOC is serving Harrison HS, Sierra HS, the Career Readiness Academy, Fox Meadow MS, Panorama MS and has added Carmel Community School, and Mountain Vista Community School. In addition to the HSD2 schools, ECOC has a Leadership Academy cohort from Widefield School District 3, Fountain Fort Carson High School in District 8, and a cohort from Academy School District 20.

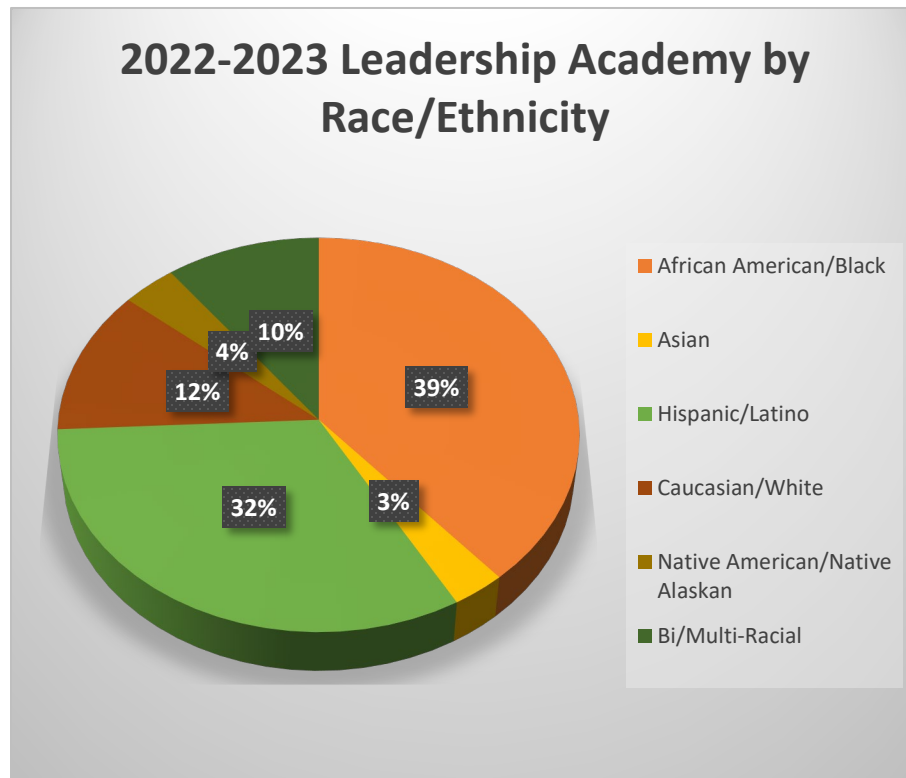
The LA youth are partnered with college mentors from Colorado College and Pikes Peak State College. The mentors prepared the youth to be Student Ambassadors at the Educating Children of Color Summit. They assisted the high school students with public speaking skills, and in turn, those students introduced speakers at the Summit. The mentors have been meeting with the youth at their schools and will meet monthly for the remainder of the school year. A service-learning project will be completed with each cohort.

The LA youth attended three field trips and the Educating Children of Color Summit between October 4, 2022, and January 14, 2023. Two of the three field trips were at Colorado College to familiarize them with the campus in anticipation of their roles as Student Ambassadors at the Summit and to expose them to college experiences. The students participated in programming on leadership, constitutional rights, suicide prevention, resilience, grit, mental health, college readiness, and social activism. The third field trip was to the Colorado Springs Fine Art Center. Every student experienced three different art forms. They attended the art museum, participated in a theater workshop, and completed an art project. For many of the youth, it was their first time in an art museum. The excitement was palpable!

November 1, 2022-Colorado Springs Fine Art Center at Colorado College



LA Demographics:



- 31% Male
- 50% Female
- 2% Transgender
- 9% Non-binary
- 8% Unknown gender
- 37% LGBTQ+
- 25% are or have an immediate family member involved in the justice system.
- 43% qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- 36% are military dependents.
- 29% will be first generation college students.

The 2022-23 Leadership Academy will be completed in May 2023.

2023 ECOC Summit

The 16th Annual Educating Children of Color Summit, “Education is the Passport to the Future,” was held at Colorado College on January 14, 2023. In addition to the Leadership Academy youth, the Summit served 400 youth who are not part of the Academy as well as 542 adults. The Summit was successful with the assistance of more than 100 volunteers, Colorado College Staff, and 80 presenters. Click the following link for local newspaper coverage:

https://gazette.com/news/education/colorado-springs-based-nonprofit-kicks-off-mlk-weekend-with-educational-summit/article_807e4302-946f-11ed-a3e3-bf3fd6bde186.html

The Summit is ECOC’s flagship program and takes place annually in January. It provides an opportunity for educators, juvenile justice, and child welfare professionals to enhance their ability to retain and inspire the students they serve. The sessions for adults focus on implicit bias and culturally responsive pedagogy. The emphasis for youth is leadership, financial literacy, self-empowerment, self-actualization, career options, perception, and readiness to enter the adult world.

The 2023 Summit was kicked off by Chris Singleton. His message that love is stronger than hate was an amazing way to start the Summit. His mother was one of the victims in the 2015 racially motivated shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston, South Carolina. To quote attendee, Charlotte Martinez:

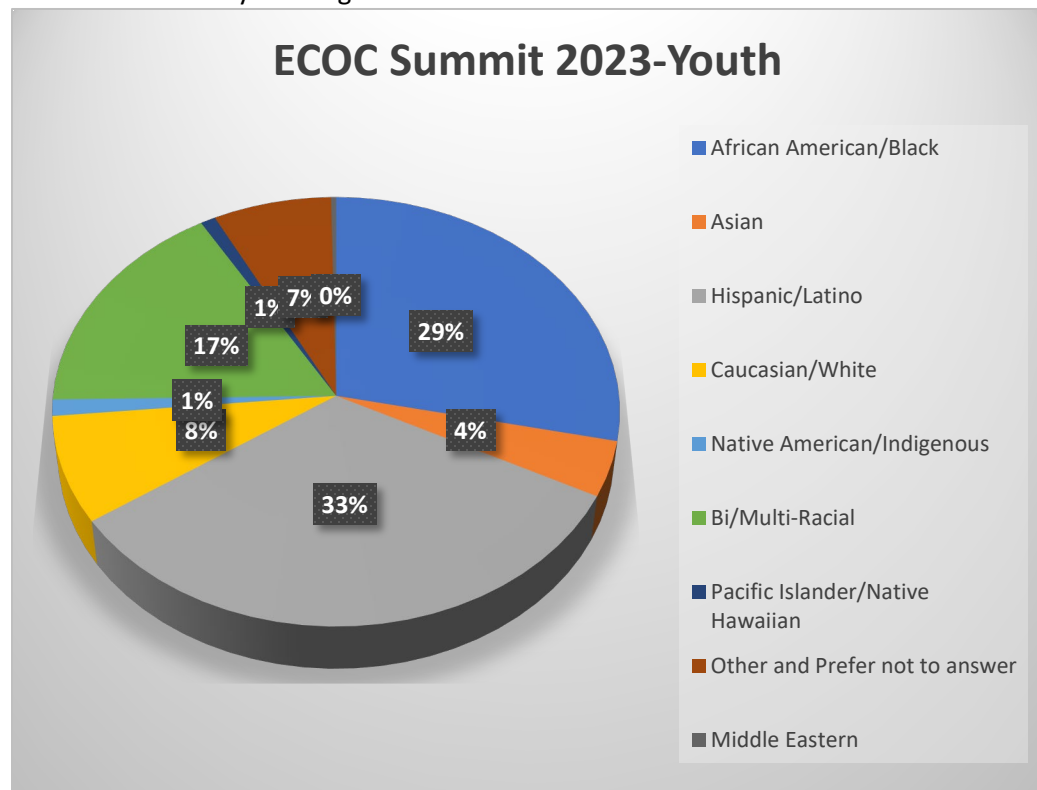
“His description of this tragic event emphasized resilience, forgiveness, unity, and the importance of the people who stood by his side. My heart was touched by his positive message and purpose to impact the world, especially our youth. As an educator, I know his message touched the hearts of our students who attending this conference.”

Following the keynote, the adult participants had 26 breakout options and a lunch plenary with Maynard Okereke, the Hip Hop MD. Adult programming included social and emotional learning, restorative justice, culturally appropriate school discipline, dealing with youth trauma, dealing with personal trauma, human trafficking, gender dysphoria, empathy building, and recognizing and providing resources for the trauma that impacts Black males.

The youth content for 2023 focused on programming to improve grit and perseverance as well as emotional intelligence. The 37 breakout options for the youth included sessions on careers in medicine and archaeology. Students had an opportunity to do DNA typing of strawberries and to fly drones. The students who attended the session on Aviation were offered an airplane or helicopter flight with Falcon Aerolab. Every student attended a financial literacy session and had an opportunity to engage in creativity: hip hop, spoken work poetry, culinary arts and creating a spice blend that reflected their personality and culture.

Adult registrants: There were 388 professionals, 77 parents and 77 college students who registered for the 2023 Summit. Professionals in attendance earn 8 hours of professional development credit for the day. Thirty-six educators were part of Teach for America. Forty educators received graduate credits from Adams State University for their attendance. Additionally, as part of a collaboration between ECOC and the alterative licensure program at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, sixty teachers from the BOCES program attended and received credit towards their license.

Youth registrants: There were 649 youth registrants for the Summit.



- 30% of the youth identified as male/ 66% identified as female/ 1% identified as transgender/ 2% identified as non-binary.
- 62% of youth identified as qualifying for free or reduced lunch.
- 27% identified as a military dependent.
- 24% indicated that English was their second language.
- 5% identified as having one or more disabilities.
- 12% indicated that they or an immediate family member had been involved with the criminal justice system.

College Student Registrants

The college students attend sessions with the adults but are also eligible for many of the scholarships. They are eligible to win laptops and educational gifts.

- 91% are Students of Color
- 24% Male/ 69% Female/ 7% Non-binary
- 68% qualified for free or reduced lunch K-12
- 54% are first generation college students.
- 25% are students for whom English is a second language.
- 28% have been incarcerated or had an immediate family member who has been incarcerated.
- 24% were military dependents.
- 1 individual has served in the military.

Summit Impact

The overall Summit evaluation completed by Pai Kelley, Colorado College Bonner Fellow, resulted in the following findings:

Adult Respondents were asked to rate their experience as Great-5, Good-4, Okay-3, Bad-2, Horrible-1. The average response was **4.6**. When asked "Did you take away at least one tool that you will use in your personal or professional life?" **97%** of individuals who answered the question indicated "yes." **81%** of overall survey participants answered in the affirmative.

The youth participants were also asked to rate their experience as Great-5, Good-4, Okay-3, Bad-2, Horrible-1. The average response was **4.3**. When asked "Did you take away at least one tool that you will use in your personal life?" **93%** of individuals who answered the question said "yes." **79%** of overall survey participants answered in the affirmative.

Adult Feedback:

"One of the most surprising things I experienced was a greater sense of community with other educators outside of my school. THANK YOU for this event! I look forward to future events."

"I would strongly encourage every counselor in the state to attend this conference - whether it is their first year or their 50th year in counseling. The conversations that were had, the experiences that were shared, the significance of an event like this in the political climate that exists today cannot be overstressed to anyone in the field."

"Following this highly inspired and inspiring conference, I feel refreshed and hopeful as an educator. I look forward to the challenge that awaits."

"The ECOC Summit was a great experience and very helpful for me as an educator. There is a lot of work that still needs to be done in our country, but I am hopeful that I can start with small steps by how I work with my students."

Youth Feedback:

"I really enjoyed my class that was medical where we learned about phlebotomy, physical therapy, how to wrap an arm, and how to sew skin back together. I used the phlebotomy lesson in my Biomed class."

"I learned about having compassion and understanding that minorities can be in any career."

" 'I must, I will, I can' was something one of the last professors told me to use in everyday life."

Summit Scholarship Awards

During the Summit, scholarships, educational awards, educator gifts and laptops were awarded to attendees. Tianna Staples, D-3 Educator and Scholarship Chair had the monumental task of organizing scholarship selection from 346 applications. ECOC awarded 38 scholarships in the amount of \$152,500 at the Summit. Ten educational gifts were also awarded for a total of \$157,500 in financial assistance for higher education. Twenty-two youth won laptops. Additionally, \$500 educator awards went to Melva Hall (HSD2), Kirk McCreary (BOCES), Mikaya Stickland (New Legacy Charter), Joseph Kniss (BOCES), Elsa Munoz (HSD2), and Meghan Jannicole (D49).

USAA continues to support our scholarship efforts with a generous racial equity grant. As a result of their support, we awarded \$116,000 in STEAM scholarships:



Havana Herro	<i>Pine Creek HS</i>	\$15000	Keaton Morrison	<i>Widefield HS</i>	\$5000
Katie Ly	<i>Liberty HS</i>	\$15000	Benjamin Carino	<i>Homeschooled-Thrive HSA</i>	\$2000
Allyson Pena	<i>Atlas Prep</i>	\$15000	Aminata Fall	<i>Palmer High School</i>	\$2000
Nyma Watkins	<i>D3 My Way Virtual</i>	\$15000	Juliana Garcia	<i>Vanguard School</i>	\$2000
Zya Woodfork	<i>Vanguard School</i>	\$15000	Precious Holland	<i>Harrison HS</i>	\$2000
Olivia Allison	<i>Widefield HS</i>	\$5000	Micahstia Lumpkins	<i>Sierra HS</i>	\$2000
Alannah Coplan	<i>D3 My Way Virtual</i>	\$5000	Malachi Miller	<i>Fountain Valley HS</i>	\$2000
Deschna Jain Kishore	<i>Discovery Canyon</i>	\$5000	Allen Jun Park	<i>Fountain Fort Carson HS</i>	\$2000
Maxwell Lamb	<i>Fountain Fort Carson</i>	\$5000	Micah Ronald	<i>Pine Creek HS</i>	\$2000

Additional scholarships were awarded as follows:



MacKenzie Hartman *Coronado HS* \$2500
 Tara Marie Punto *Fountain Fort Carson HS* \$1250
 Rebecca Wu *Stanford* \$1250

Kelanjanae Curry *Sierra HS* \$1000
 Evelyn Pelayo *Atlas Prep* \$1000



Dyamond Smith *Pikes Peak State College* \$1000
 Emmanuel Sogunle *Colby College* \$5000
 Cradler Volmer *George Washington University* \$500
 Deja Daniel *Howard University* \$500

Ann Delores Scott Scholarship \$500 each

Brittany Hardy *PPSC* Promis Bruno *PPSC* Maya Arnold Mendoza



Dyamond Smith *PPSC* \$1000

ECOC Scholarships

Edna Williams Memorial Scholarship \$1000
 Malaysia Schaffer *Rampart HS*

Rhonda Campbell Memorial Scholarship \$2000
 Ni'Asia Ali *Sierra HS*



“Education is the Passport to the Future”-ECOC Theme Scholarship

Alexander Hollingsworth *University of Northern Colorado* \$5000
 Beula Bogle *Pikes Peak State College* \$3000
 Alannah Coplan *D3 My Way Virtual* \$3000
 Coryn Cohen *Rampart HS* \$3000
 Alyssa Frescaz *Mitchell HS* \$3000



Ten educational gifts in the amount of \$500 were awarded to:
 Sofia Crosson, Tatiana Patterson, Alesia Gambera, Erin Park, Julius Torres, Elansa Yu, Oliver Dalfollo-Daley, Alison Villalobos, Trevon Sistronu, and Micah Ronald.

Twenty-two laptops were awarded to:
 Adin Sher, Barbara Rivera, Ava Archuleta, Logan Arviso, Kimberly De Lira Garay, Nathan Hacker, Sophie Vijayam, Hector Martinez, Israel Nellum, Leland Molliconi, Ben Carino, Kate Cochner, Orion Gilliam, Alexis Johnson, Chael Davila, Emma Ruiz, Royal Garrison, Leslie Alvarez Rios, LeAzia Bailey, Gianelle Okal, Alex Neri, and Adriana Lage.

College Preparedness Classes

ECOC awarded eighteen USAA Racial Equity STEAM scholarships at the Educating Children of Color Summit on 1-15-2022. The scholarship recipients attended six mandatory college preparedness classes in anticipation of starting college. Each completed an ALEKS math assessment and received an individualized plan which included resources and study guides to address gaps in skill and knowledge. The classes were

provided by the Colket Center and the Qualitative Reasoning Center at Colorado College. The sessions were completed between February and June of 2022.

Upon completion of the program in June, the students were asked to rank their experience and the effectiveness of the classes.

On a scale from 1-5 with 5 being the highest, please rank your experience in the College Preparedness Classes
How useful was the College Student Panel session?
How useful was the ALEKS Math Assessment session?
How useful was the Communicating with College Professors session?
How useful was the Working in College session?
How useful was the Time Management session?
How useful was the Resume/Cover Letters and On Campus Resources session?
How helpful were the college readiness sessions overall?

The students were also asked to rank their increase in knowledge on specific topics using a 1-5 scale.

Increase in Knowledge-College Preparedness Sessions	Pre-session	Post-session	Increase
Stress Management/Self Care and Navigating Independence	3.2	4.5	29%
Preparedness for College Math	3.3	4.2	21%
Communication with Professors	3.2	4.6	30%
Employment While Attending College/On Campus Jobs	2.5	4.3	42%
Time Management	3.3	4.5	29%
Resume and Cover Letters/Affinity Groups	3.1	4.4	30%

The 2022 STEAM scholars are attending Willamette University, Boston College, Northeastern University, Community College of Philadelphia, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado College, University of Colorado Denver, American University, University of Delhi, and Southern Methodist University. Two scholars are attending Colorado School of Mines. Two are high school seniors this year and both won a 2023 STEAM scholarship.

The 2023 STEAM scholars are also required to attend college preparedness classes. The students have attended two sessions to include the ALEKS math assessment.

SAT Prep

Thirty-seven youth are actively participating in the free SAT prep classes offered by ECOC. The classes are facilitated by Colorado College students and take place online weekly, utilizing Khan Academy. The classes have been taking place since February 7 and will continue to April 4, 2023. The student with the most improved score from the outset of the program will win a laptop. The SAT will be administered at high schools on April 12, 2023.

Students are attending from 16 different schools and include one youth who is homeschooled. 62% of the participants are students of color. 60% are female and 40% male. The number one source of referrals to the program were teachers, followed by parents. Instagram and Facebook limped in behind.

ilnspire Awards



ECOC partners with the Equity Taskforce to Address Minority Overrepresentation of the 4th Judicial District Best Practices Court to sponsor the annual ilnspire awards. Nominations are solicited from educators, Court Appointed Special Advocates, attorneys, case workers, and foster parents. Awards are given to El Paso and Teller County youth who have overcome adversity and inspired others to do the same. We honor their individual achievements and highlight the extraordinary potential of our community's youth.

Honorees Receive:

- public recognition in a ceremony at the Pioneer's Museum which will take place on 4-11-23;
- a framed copy of a Fourth Judicial Court proclamation declaring ilnspire Day, in their honor;
- an opportunity to shadow a local leader for a day; and
- a monetary gift.

2023 ilnspire Honorees-Excerpts from the ilnspire nominations:

Ashiya Brown has overcome adversity and inspired others to do the same by enduring the hardship of her mother passing away in November 2021 from cancer. Thereafter, Ashiya and her siblings moved to Colorado Springs to live with her grandmother. Throughout her adversity of profound grief, anxiety, and depression, Ashiya has been a beacon of light and generously shares her strength and work with a professional counselor, not only with her peers but also with adults of West Middle School. Ashiya is currently participating in the Gifted Magnet Program, is a leader in the Sources of Strength Club, and has been accepted into the UCCS Pre-Collegiate Program.

Brandon Hamlow has overcome adversity and inspired others to do the same. He was abandoned by his adoptive parents during his sophomore year at Woodland Park High School. His adoptive father withdrew all of Brandon's hard-earned savings from a joint account and moved out-of-state to an undisclosed location. During this difficult time, Brandon continued to be a good student and held a part-time job. With the care and support of the Hamlow family, Brandon settled into their family and contributed by doing household chores and running errands. Brandon pursued an interest in Aerospace Engineering by attending the Colorado Space Business Roundtable and has applied to CU-Boulder to study engineering. Brandon will graduate from high school with over 20 college credits already earned and a 3.6 GPA. Brandon has shown exceptional focus in overcoming obstacles.

Ethan Huffman has overcome adversity and inspired others to do the same by sharing his obstacles that he has overcome and lending his strength to others by showing them that no situation is too terrible to come back from. Ethan's mother struggled with drug addiction and is currently incarcerated. During middle school, Ethan experienced a sharp decline in his mental health which led to a suicide attempt. He spent much of his 8th and 9th grade school years in residential treatment. Through therapy and hard work, he learned healthier coping mechanisms, better communication skills, and gained hope. When he returned to high school, he started playing football again. He then experienced an injury and was unable

to play football. This led to self-esteem and body image challenges, yet Ethan was able to demonstrate resilience by applying skills he had learned in therapy to move forward. His perseverance radiates hope to others. Ethan will graduate early from Widefield High School and study radiography in college.

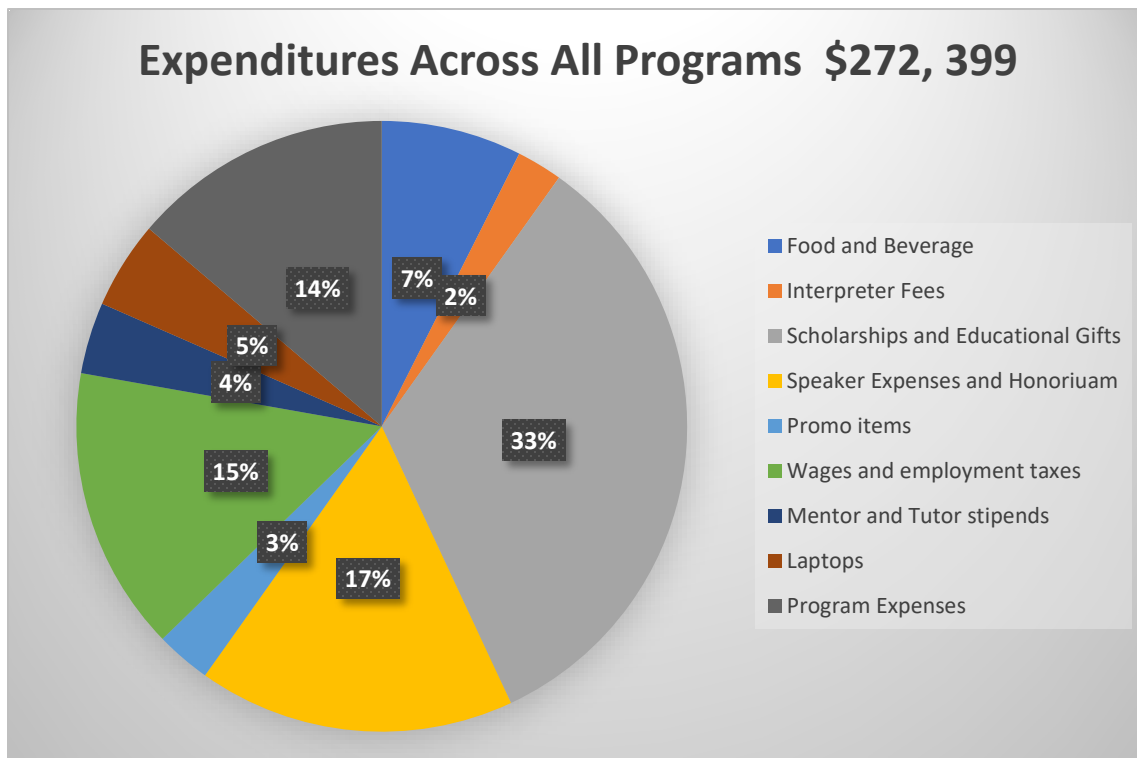
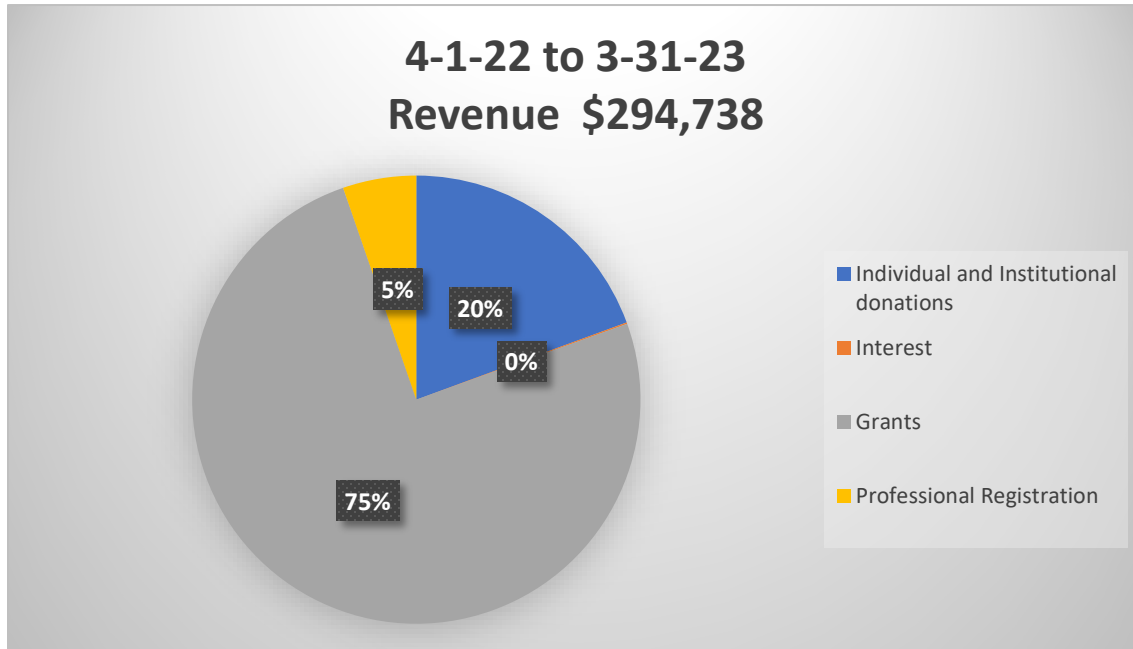
Eunice Rivera has overcome adversity and inspired others to do the same by living on her own at the young age of 18. Eunice moved into Working Fusion at Mill Street Village as one of the first five residents. As Eunice faced difficult circumstances in her personal life, she uses her positive demeanor and exceptional problem-solving skills to improve her own life as well as members of the Village. Eunice prepares for the monthly residential meetings, communicates suggestions effectively and work to improve the lives of all people in the community. Whether it is working on a mural in blistering heat or organizing potlucks and parties, Eunice demonstrates positivity and excellent problem-solving skills. She is an excellent student and hard worker. Eunice received all A's in her most recent semester of school and is a Dakota Promise recipient. She is interested in Psychology and hopes to help others. She works to support herself without much assistance. Eunice will continue to make a positive impact on this world.

Nadia Valdez has overcome adversity and inspired others to do the same by supporting others through schoolwork, mental health, and being a good listener. At a very young age, Nadia endured challenges in the home, as other members of the family struggled with substance abuse, attempted suicide, and abuse. Nadia had to parent herself at several stages while growing up to include taking care of herself and finding ways to attend school. Nadia learned healthy boundaries with her parents by moving in with her sister, working on her education and sports. She is willing to share with others that no matter how tough things can get, there is always a way to work through it and set high goals. Nadia graduated early from Widefield High School and plans to study ultrasound technology in college.

Destinie White has overcome adversity and inspired others to do the same by being an amazing advocate for herself and her siblings through tenacity, grit, and determination. Destinie, along with her six siblings, entered foster care in November of 2018. Their parents' rights were terminated in January 2020 and she has remained in care since. Destinie has experienced more adversity than anyone should have to endure. She has had to balance the realities of an uncertain future in the foster care system and learn to heal from traumas she has endured. Destinie has carried the weight of being a caretaker and protector of her siblings, while transitioning into adulthood herself. The path hasn't been easy and there were times when she was uncertain whether she would graduate from high school. Eventually, she landed in a stable living situation, learned to focus inward, and transitioned into Community Prep High School where she excelled. Destinie graduated with her high school diploma, a semester early, in December of 2022 and is the first in her family to graduate. She will start college at Pikes Peak State College this summer.

Financials: Revenue \$294,738

Expenditures: \$272,399.67



Board of Directors, Educating Children of Color, Inc.

Cynthia Jacquet-President



Cynthia Jacquet joined the Board in July of 2020 and now serves as the Board President. She is a middle school educator with a passion to inspire and empower all students to succeed. She firmly believes in equity in education; every child is entitled to receive opportunities and resources to improve their academic and personal outcome. Cynthia has a B.A. in Biology and a minor in Sociology from the University of Rhode Island, Secondary Science licensure from Regis University, and is enrolled in Principal Licensure and master's in Educational Leadership Program at U.C.C.S. Cynthia is a Board Member of Colorado ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development).

Dr. Albert Wiggins III-Vice President

Dr. Wiggins III grew up a military dependent mostly living in Georgia and New York. He is an Eagle Scout who attended Fort Valley State University (Fort Valley, GA) and graduated with a B.S. in Education. He received his MA in Curriculum & Instruction: Instructional Technology from the University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, IA); and graduated with the highest honors with his Ph.D. in Educational Administration & Educational Sociology from Capella University (Minneapolis, MN). Currently, he is a Principal within Widefield School District 3.. He currently develops ways to integrate STEM into the core academic curriculum and extend STEM learning opportunities. Dr. Wiggins enjoys spending his time with his family, friends, church family, and supporting student activities.

Personal Quote: In life, we are faced with many locked doors of opportunity. In order to walk through these doors, we need a key. That key is education!!!



Ray Edwards-Treasurer



Ray Edwards, currently serving as the ECOC Board Treasurer, joined ECOC as a Volunteer in 2015 and also serves as Chair of the Logistics Committee. He is a retired executive with over 35 years of experience in postsecondary education administration and nonprofit and healthcare management. During his tenure in university administration, he served as an adjunct professor of education, was president of a state association of financial aid officers and served on the American College Testing Program's regional and national advisory councils. In his role as Executive Director of a two-county youth and family services nonprofit, he was active in numerous local initiatives working to improve life for at-risk youth and their families. Among other involvements, he chaired the local community evaluation team and served as the 7th Judicial District SB-94 Program Coordinator. He was a two-term member of the Governor's Commission on National and Community Service, a three-term board president of a multistate youth mentoring association. In his last professional stint, he served as senior vice president of business development and contracts for a growing healthcare company serving veterans. He is a Vietnam veteran who holds a baccalaureate in history and international studies, a masters in higher education management, and is ABD in a doctoral program in postsecondary administration.

Anita Gandhi-Secretary



Anita Gandhi is an award-winning French teacher currently residing in Denver, CO. She earned a B.A. Honors and a B.Ed. from the University of Western Ontario and completed her M.A. in French Literature at Carleton University. She has presented at local, state, regional and international conferences and holds workshops regularly on Innovative teaching methods to engage students. Anita works actively to advocate for diversity and inclusion, to build a future generation for whom empathy is fundamental. She is Google Level 2 certified and is a certified EdPuzzle and Flipgrid coach. CCFLT Teacher of the Year 2019-2020 and recipient of the John Asbury award, Anita loves to share her skills to build up the community. By joining ECOC, Anita hopes to reach

management, educators, and community outreach organizations to support and strengthen concepts needed to thrive in various environments.

Kathy Robbins-Development

Kathy Robbins joined the ECOC board of directors in May 2019. She is the ECOC Fundraising Chair and has been a member of the Planning Committee since 2016. She retired in 2016 from PricewaterhouseCoopers where she was a proposal writer. Robbins has a BA from the University of Colorado-Boulder and grew up in Colorado Springs.



Natricee Bryant



Natricee currently serves as the Deputy Chief Customer Officer at the Governor’s Office of Information Technology. In her role she oversees all IT leadership for 17 State agencies as it relates to statewide strategic technology needs and services.

During the pandemic she served jointly as the Office of Economic Development and International Trade's, State and Local Stimulus Coordinator for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. In the role she provided guidance to executive leadership regarding funding for affordable housing, workforce, behavioral health and mental health projects statewide.

Previously, she served as the Department of Local Affairs’ Deputy Executive Director where she managed all operations for affordable housing, local government, policy, property taxation and assessment appeals statewide. She also served as the State Complete Count Committee Chair for the 2020 Census. She had oversight of the department’s \$625M budget, managed all finance, contracts, accounting, procurement, and administrative work for the State agency.

She has worked for the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies in the Divisions of Financial Services and Banking to overseeing all compliance, education, and outreach strategies for 60 banks and 39 credit unions. She developed the BankSafe program in partnership with AARP for Colorado and worked to launch the program to ensure financial safety and security for older Coloradans.

She is an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Denver and Regis University. She has three master’s degrees in business administration, Sociology and Criminal Justice. She also has a bachelor’s degree in communications.

Lucien Jacquet

Lucien joined the Board in 2022 after more than three years of "unofficial" association with ECOC, including volunteering at the Summit and occasional technical support. He is a Software Engineer originally from the East Coast and has four grown children scattered across the country.



Marie Mendoza



Dr. Marie Mendoza currently serves as the Executive Director of Professional Development in a large urban district in the Houston, Texas area. She has 30 years of experience in education with varied experiences including serving as a bilingual teacher, a Reading Recovery/Descubriendo la lectura teacher leader, a Title 1 special and a district Administrator for multilingual/EL programs serving both bilingual and ESL students. She holds a bachelor's in Bilingual Education from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, a master's in Instructional Leadership/Administration from Trinity Washington University and her PhD in Education through Northcentral University.

Dana Oros

Dana Oros became a member of the ECOC board in December 2021. She is a Colorado native and earned a BS from University of Colorado - Colorado Springs. Dana is a Business Analyst for a local company. Her two sons attend Fox Meadow Middle School in District 2 and are members of ECOC's Leadership Academy.



Peniel Owusu-Ansah



Peniel Owusu-Ansah, ECOC’s college representative, joined the Board in June 2021. She is originally from Ghana but now lives in Aurora, Colorado. She is a student at Colorado College and works to connect the Colorado College community with community partners to provide English as a Second Language tutoring for immigrants and refugees.

Regina Walter-Founder

Judge Regina Walter retired from the State of Colorado Judiciary in January of 2019 after 32 years on the bench. Currently, she serves as a Senior Judge for the State. She began her judicial career in 1987 as a juvenile magistrate in the Fourth Judicial District. She served as a county court judge from 2008 until her retirement. Prior to joining the bench, she was a deputy public defender. Judge Walter is a graduate of Colorado College, class of 1980, and the University of Tulsa School of Law, class of 1983. In January of 2008, she initiated the first Educating Children of Color Summit. As chair, she has helped to organize 16 successful summits. To date, in excess of \$530,000 has been awarded to students and educators at the Summit to advance education.



Victoria Stone-Executive Director

Victoria Stone is a graduate of the University of Phoenix with a B.S. in Human Services Management. As a Colorado Springs resident since 1995 and a mom to two daughters born and raised in Colorado, Victoria is proud to be an integral part of the Colorado Springs Community. She’s built her career on making sure every individual in Colorado Springs has the best chance at thriving and living their best and most joyous life. Victoria is especially proud to be ECOC’s Executive Director because she believes in the power of programs that provide information and help people advance from one level to the next. As a participant in programs that have helped her become successful and fulfilled, Victoria has first hands experience and knowledge on how to run and design programs that result in successful outcomes. Victoria has also completed some of the most prestigious leadership training programs offered in the Pikes Peak Region and has a passion for urban farming. Her eclectic set of skills, passions, interests, and hobbies; along with career experience drives Victoria to making the world a better place. And it will be what she calls her “Victoria Magic” that will help advance innovative strategies for ECOC to realize it’s mission to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline through education. Victoria is excited to be spreading the word about ECOC through her #ThisIsHowIECOC.



Thank you!

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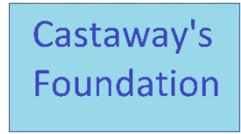
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