



Educating Children of Color, Inc

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

EDUCATINGCHILDRENOFCOLOR.ORG

Year in Review

More than 50 years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Let's build bridges, not walls." That message was the theme for the 2018 fiscal year and for the 2019 Educating Children of Color Summit. The 12th Annual Educating Children of Color Summit, "Building Bridges," took place on January 19, 2019 at Colorado College. Approximately, 1,500 registrants heard from more than 100 inspirational speakers from all over the country including Olympic Gold medalist, Michelle Carter, and author, Victor Woods.



ECOC spent the year building bridges and teaching others to break down

barriers. The 2018 season began and ended with Diversity University. The demand for training on implicit bias, diversity, equity, and inclusion was so great that ECOC offered two sessions during the fiscal year and will offer two additional sessions this summer.

During the fall of 2018, ECOC was honored to receive a Transforming Safety in Southeast Colorado Springs Award. The funds are distributed by the Denver Foundation and were reallocated from the State prison budget to prevention. ECOC was also a first-time recipient of a Front Porch Giving Circle Award. The Colorado Springs' organization supports non-profits that serve women, children and the arts. USAA provided a major grant to support ECOC's scholarship efforts and has committed to do the same for the 2020 Summit.

On May 19, 2019, three ECOC scholars graduated from Colorado College. Keenan Wright has started graduate school in chemistry, Molly Merkert will start graduate school in the fall, and Antonio Soto begins a two-year fellowship at Colorado College. Kalia Hunter, one of our newest scholarship winners, is headed



to Dartmouth for undergraduate studies in the fall, while Aizana Hunt, a 2018 scholarship winner, has enrolled at the University of Northern Colorado.

Other highlights:

Mary Katungu, Board Member (pictured left), was honored as the English Language Learner Educator of the Year at a ceremony held in March 2019.

Regina Walter, Executive Director, was honored by Pikes Peak Community College with the 2019 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Community Leader of the Year Award.

The 13th Annual Summit, "Keep Moving Forward," will take place at Colorado College on January 18, 2020.

Why do we need to keep moving forward? Disparate outcomes for children of color and children in poverty continue to be a reality. The 2018 statistics from the Colorado Commission on Criminal & Juvenile Justice report that Black children make up 7 percent of the El Paso County population, but account for 21 percent of youth arrests, 28 percent of juveniles detained, and 40 percent of juvenile commitments. There are still bridges to build! Please join us!

Diversity University-July 2018

The first of two sessions of Diversity University took place at the Centennial Campus of Pikes Peak Community College from July 23rd to July 27th of 2018. It was co-facilitated by Dr. Regina Lewis and then County Court Judge Regina Walter (since retired). Keith Barnes, Executive Director of Diversity, Equity and

Inclusion for PPCC assisted with facilitation and logistics.



Dr. Regina Lewis

Presenters included John Register, Paralympic Athlete; Inside/Out Youth Services Panel; representatives from Denver's Office of the Independent Monitor-Nina Horton and Michael Acuna; YDA filmmakers-Samuel Faux, Daniel Robinson and Andy Kwiatkowski; and Beverly Sencenbaugh, transgender educator.



John Register, Paralympic Athlete

Sixty individuals ranging in age from 18 to 86 attended. They included educators, parole officers, attorneys, students, mediators, the police officers, a medical practitioner, and representatives from the Colorado Department of Education, El Paso County Department of Human Services, Colorado Springs Utilities, and the National Forest Service.

2018 Diversity University Outcomes: At the culmination of the training, participants were asked to evaluate their pre and post knowledge of:

- K1. Demographics of diverse racial and ethnic groups.
- K2. Historical and contemporary impact of racism, bias, prejudice or discrimination experienced by various groups in the US.
- K3. Educational barriers experienced by diverse racial and ethnic groups.
- K4. Different mental models of poverty, middle class, and wealth.
- K5. Knowledge of White Privilege and the impact this has on diverse racial and ethnic groups.
- K6. Your own assumptions and stereotypes of diverse racial and ethnic groups.
- K7. Minority Overrepresentation in negative outcomes in school, child welfare and judicial systems.
- K8. The ability to interact with people from different backgrounds and experiences.

Participants reported growth in knowledge, skills and comfort in dealing with issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.



I would hope that this can become a mandatory training for all professionals."

"Thank you for making this a wonderful experience and I now have a new look on the meaning of race and culture and the diversity of people."

> "This week has been eye-opening---emotionally and intellectually challenging and exhausting in a great way. I am excited to continue my learning and discussion so I can be an ally and an advocate!"

■ Post

■ Pre

5.0

Diversity University-June 2019

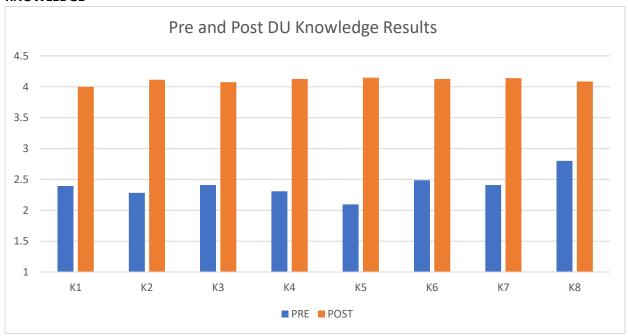
The second Diversity University of 2018-2019 took place from June 10 to June 14, 2019. Once again, Pikes Peak Community College co-sponsored the event and provided food and staff. Chelsea Barrett and Keith Barnes, Executive Director, of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion were critical to the success of the event. Of the 56 attendees, approximately half were from Mitchell High School and Cheyenne Mountain School District 12. Attendees also came from other schools in District 11, as well as schools in District 8 and District 3. A recent college graduate and individuals from Pikes Peak Community College, the El Paso County Health Department, the Fourth Judicial District, CASA, the Division of Youth Services and EviCore Healthcare also participated.

The week was co-facilitated by Dr. Regina Lewis and Regina Walter. Participants heard from PPCC student-Nick Burgland; PPCC graduate-Laurie Fang; transgender educator-Beverly Sencenbaugh; Deaf educators-Bev Buchannan and Paul Simmons; Inside Out Youth Services representatives-Joseph Shelton, Indi, and Shania Howells; and Youth Documentary Academy representatives-Tom Shepard, founder, with filmmakers: Anabelle Martinez, Mak De La Cruz, and Casey Gurtler.

Participants spent the week exploring implicit bias, poverty, race, white privilege, gender identity, sexual orientation, language minorities, ableism, and other diversity topics.

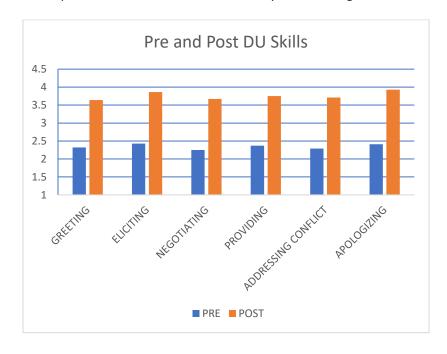
2019 Outcomes: Participants were once again asked to evaluate their pre and post knowledge (see previous page for key) and were asked to develop a positive behavior change related to their knowledge gain.

KNOWLEDGE

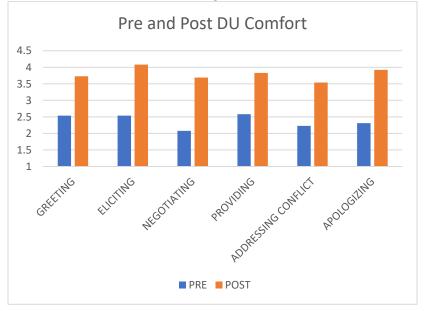


SOCIO AND CROSS-CULTURAL ISSUES

Participants were asked "How skilled are you in dealing with sociocultural issues in the following areas:"



Participants were asked "How **comfortable** are you in dealing with sociocultural issues in the following areas:"



Every participant in the June 2019 Diversity University developed a plan for positive behavior change based on their experience during the week.

"Loved, Loved, loved and appreciated this class. Thank you!"

"I will be processing what I learned and confronted in myself for a bit. Self-change first---leads to other change."
"I have gone through almost every emotion this week-fear, sadness, embarrassment, shame, anger, hopeto name a few and I have been emotionally exhausted every day. I will recommend this emphatically to any and every one!"

"Never knew how clueless I <u>was</u>. It's hard to explain how much I learned because I knew so little. Thank you!"
"I plan on following through with the individual, family, organization and

"This was a wonderfully powerful week. Thank you for doing this work. It was emotionally draining but well worth it!"

community plans."

"Wow! This was much more intense than I ever imagined. THANK YOU!!" "I had no idea how much I didn't know. This class is life changing."

A special thanks to Walt Cooper, Superintendent Cheyenne Mountain School District 12, and Tom Jacobs, Mitchell High School educator, for modeling a commitment to address systemic issues of racism and implicit bias.

The Leadership Academy

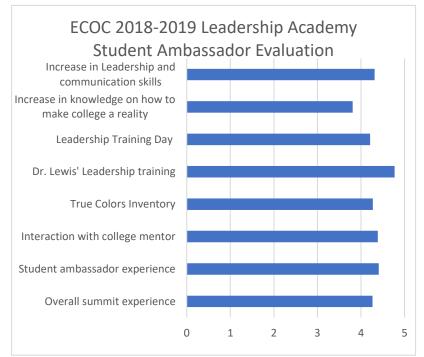
The ECOC Leadership Academy pairs each Student Ambassador with an ECOC summit speaker and then prepares the student to introduce and assist the speaker on the day of the Summit. The program enhances the students' leadership capabilities and competence and gives them confidence to pursue college and careers. With the assistance of school counselors, ECOC selects Student Ambassadors who would not otherwise have leadership opportunities. The high school students are also paired with college mentors and complete leadership training.

One hundred eighteen youth and 12 college mentors attended the 2018-2019 Leadership Academy which culminated in March 2019. The largest cohort from a single school was from Sierra High School with 29 students. In total, Sierra and Harrison students accounted for 46 of the youth (39 percent). Other participants were from Air Academy High School's ASL program, Fountain Fort Carson High School, Mesa Ridge High School, Mitchell High School, Palmer High School, Welte Education Center, and Widefield High School.

Demographics: Ninety-one percent of youth in the program identified as children of color or as belonging to an ethnic minority. One third indicated that they would be the first child in their family to attend college; 87 percent of the participants qualified for free or reduced lunch; and, 69 percent of the youth reported that someone close to them had been incarcerated.

Following the Summit and the Leadership Academy

98 percent of Student Ambassadors reported that they would be going to college.



"Being a student ambassador expanded my learning and comfort zone. Before arriving I was afraid to talk in large crowd but now I'm not. It's a great learning experience."

"I really enjoyed being a student ambassador, being able to learn and interact with different people and students. And it was something I would do again if given the opportunity."

"Listening to the guest speakers, I learned how to be a better version of myself and to never give up on my dreams."

"It was a lot more fun than I expected and it was a new experience! More people should know about it."

Leadership Academy Continued

During the fall of 2018, Student Ambassadors met with their college mentors at their high schools. In December, they participated in the Leadership Academy at Colorado College. Dr. Julie Tetley of the Air Force Academy trained on grit and perseverance, while Dr. Regina Lewis of Pikes Peak Community College taught leadership skills. Marcie Hureax, also of Pikes Peak Community College, gave tips on communication.

Students were asked to evaluate their resilience as a result of their participation in the Leadership Academy and the Summit. The question that was posed in October and again in February was "To what degree do you believe you are able to overcome adversity?" The possible responses were NEVER, RARELY, SOMETIMES, OFTEN, VERY OFTEN. The entire group of student ambassadors reported a 7 percent increase in their resilience. However, the Sierra students indicated an 18.75 percent increase in their assessment of their ability to overcome adversity.

Welte students demonstrated tremendous resilience and growth. Three of the nine students graduated in the class of 2019. Two of nine attained/recovered enough credits to gain senior status for the 2019-2020 school year.

"During the process (the Welte) students were held accountable for behavior, attendance, and grades on a weekly basis. Affording them this opportunity kept them focused and determined. As a result of participating, they learned about their culture, and most importantly the next steps in life or their education!"





The 2019 ECOC Summit

The 12th Educating Children of Color Summit "Building Bridges" took place on January 19, 2019 at Colorado College. There were 612 professionals registered for the event, 112 parents and 794 students (8th through 12th grade, and undergraduate college students).

Noted presenters included Willy Wilkinson, Chinese-American transgender activist and author of <u>Born on the Edge of Race and Gender</u>; Victor Woods, author of <u>A Breed Apart: One Man's Journey to Redemption</u>; and Julian Brave Noisecat, journalist and social justice advocate. Other presenters included WAWA, rapper and Deaf advocate and Dr. Beverly Bennett-Roberts, expert on early childhood education and special education. More than 107 presenters facilitated two plenary sessions and fifty-one breakout sessions for youth, two plenary and thirty-one breakout sessions for professionals, and an additional nine sessions exclusively for parents.



Willy Wilkinson



Victor Woods

<u>Demographics:</u> 91% of middle and high school students were children of color; 43% were from Harrison School District 2; 65% qualified for free or reduced lunch; and, 22% had been incarcerated or had an immediate family member who had been incarcerated.

"The ECOC Summit was one of the most interesting and useful conferences I have attended in years. The opening address really sparked my interest and imagination in what I could have influence over as a person who works primarily with preschoolers."

"This was my first Summit. What an eye opener it was for me! I found it to be enormously informative and helpful in my field."



Julian Brave Noisecat

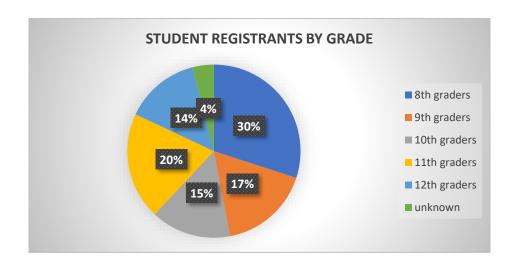
Marian Wright Edelman said, "You can't be what you don't see." ECOC addresses that issue by giving youth

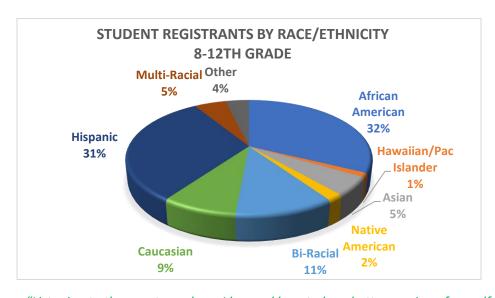


an opportunity to learn from physicians, aerospace engineers, judges, teachers, lawyers, cyber sleuths, law enforcement officers and construction managers, who not only look like them, but communicate like them. The students learn self-advocacy and leadership skills. They learn about career opportunities and life lessons. They also learn about their constitutional rights and social activism.

794 Youth Registrants:

- 100 military dependents
- 73 identified as LGBTQ
- 65 percent qualified for free or reduced lunch
- 22 percent had been incarcerated or had a family member who had been incarcerated





Students attended from 57 schools and 13 colleges and universities. Harrison SD 2 43% Widefield SD 3 7% FFC SD 8 6% CSSD 11 13% **Academy SD 20** 4% District 49 10% Jeffco 3% 3% Aurora Other 11%

"Listening to the guest speakers, I learned how to be a better version of myself and to never give up on my dreams."

"It was a great experience! There really is a lot of information for the future and the Summit helped a lot.

It helped us be better leaders."

"I feel more informed about college and how to apply as a POC."

Professionals: There were 612 professionals who registered for the 2019 Summit, an increase of 278 from the previous year. Part of that increase was due to the availability of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education credits. One hundred educators registered for the CLDE sessions presented by Dr. Barbara Dray and Meghan McCracken. Forty-seven educators received graduate credits from Adams State University for their attendance at the Summit. Additionally, as part of a collaboration between ECOC and the alterative licensure program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, 60 teachers from the BOCES program also attended.

Summit Scholarships: Twenty-two scholarships and education gifts were awarded to youth in attendance at the Summit. Educational gifts in the amount of \$500 were awarded to Kyria Barrow, Aubrey Madrid, Bryce Odom, Vivian Martinez Guzman, Kevin Aguilera, April Gonzalez, Ariyonna McCullough, Sabrina Wutzlhofer, Aquinnah Smith, Lauren Knight, Adonnis Rivera, Monet Patterson, Kennedy Seabron-Wolff, Gerardo Dominguez, and Joyce Salazar.

Taylor Hawkins, Colorado College sophomore, was the recipient of the George Harris Memorial Scholarship sponsored by G.E. Johnson Construction. Kalia Hunter, Palmer High School, won the Fairness for All Scholarship, sponsored by the Strub Heer Fund. She also won \$2,000 for her Building Bridges Scholarship submission.



Jordan Strub, Michele Strub Heer and Kalia Hunter, Fairness for All Scholarship Recipient 2019

As a result of a generous donation by USAA, ECOC was able to increase the monetary value of its scholarships. Alana Jackson, a Centennial High School student, won a \$3,000 scholarship for her Building Bridges entry. Upon proof of college admission, Kalia Hunter, Jasmine Poblano, Sunderland Baker and Bryce Odom will each receive \$2,000 for their winning Building Bridges applications.

Over the course of the last twelve years ECOC has awarded more than \$175,000 in money for higher education and given 178 laptops to students in attendance at the Summit.

iInspire Awards

ilnspire Awards are given to El Paso County youth who have overcome adversity and inspired others to do the same. By recognizing them we reinforce their individual achievements and highlight the extraordinary potential of our community's youth.

Honorees Receive:

- public recognition at, and a starring role in a video presented during, a meeting of the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC);
- a framed copy of the BOCC proclamation declaring January 17, 2019, ilnspire Day, in their honor;
- an opportunity to shadow a local leader for a day; and
- · a monetary gift.



Who are this year's iInspire Honorees?

Zaire Crockett, overcame adversity by having hope that he would one day be a part of a family after spending most of his life in foster care. He has dealt with his traumas layer by layer. He has received academic awards and recognition, graduated from Mitchell High School, and currently attends Pikes Peak Community College. He has a tremendous work ethic and mentors other young men who are in the foster care system and encourages them to never give up.

Lazarious Williams, has overcome adversity by not letting Autism stop him from achieving his goals. He is his class treasurer, was elected to Homecoming Royalty, and is a member of the junior varsity basketball team at his school. He inspires his classmates to pursue their goals regardless of their circumstances.

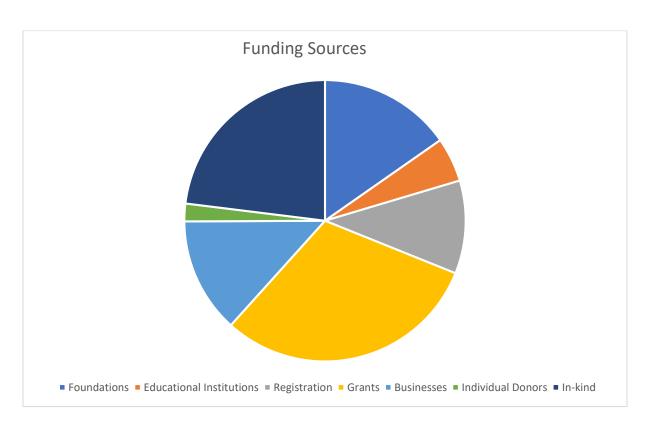
Che'Paris Mobley, has overcome adversity by staying positive and staying focused on her goal of becoming a doctor despite having an incarcerated father. She has a 4.1 GPA at Doherty High School and started an organization called Dollz 4 Dollz which provides dolls to girls with incarcerated fathers to help them through hard times.

Jada Nicks, has overcome adversity by maintaining sobriety and focusing on her schoolwork. Even though Jada's placement history in the foster care system has presented great obstacles, she is now stable and looking to graduate from high school. She will be the first person in her family to do so. She inspires others to never give up and to believe in themselves.

Kristian Smith, has overcome adversity by attending Mitchell High School, where he is a senior, the Vice President of the Link Crew, a member of student government, and the captain of the cheerleading squad, while helping care for his little brother and working to help with family expenses, as his father is terminally ill. Kristian inspires others to give of themselves. He raises money for cancer and volunteers in the community.

Financials





Board of Directors, Educating Children of Color, Inc.

Na'Im Briggs is a high school student at Colorado Springs Early Colleges. He is concurrently enrolled at CSU-Pueblo and at PPCC and has been taking both college and high school classes since his freshman year. He has been a member of the Educating Children of Color board for a year. Prior to joining the board, Na'Im participated in Ticket to Success which teaches Colorado Springs youth about city government. He has volunteered for Partners in Housing and was a team manager for Harrison High School's boys' basketball team. Na'Im plans to go to college at either Hampton University, Howard University, or Morehouse College after he graduates from high school. He hopes to become a history teacher, a politician, a lawyer, or a school administrator.

Natasha Brunton is the Board Secretary. Her life in the USA is tightly connected to the University of Colorado. In 1998, she arrived from Russia to study at University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS). To grow professionally and to find her way in a new country, she completed her second bachelor's degree and two graduate degrees (MBA and Leadership in Instruction). Last fall she started the PhD in Educational Leadership, Policy and Research at UCCS, seeking to advance her knowledge in educational policies. For the past 20 years, she has dedicated her career to public education, serving as a Language Arts teacher at Tesla Alternative High School and Eagleview Middle School. Currently, she serves as an assistant principal at Fox Meadow Middle School. With her children and a mini Aussie, Natalia enjoys the Colorado outdoors. This is Natalia's second year on the board of ECOC, Inc.

Rhonda J. Campbell has been on the Board of Directors of ECOC, Inc. for 4 years. She is a special needs educator with Falcon District 49. She received her B. S. from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Rhonda was a military spouse for 33 years and is the proud parent of two adult children. She is an active member of Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Colorado Springs.

Nicole Deal has been on the Educating Children of Color Summit planning committee since June of 2018. She joined the Board of Directors in May of 2019. Nicole Deal was named Chief Security Officer for the United States Olympic Committee in July 2017. In her role, Ms. Deal oversees all security needs for the USOC, including at its headquarters building in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the U.S. Olympic Training Centers in Colorado Springs and Lake Placid, New York. Additionally, she is responsible for the security of the U.S. delegations at USOC-supported functions and Games. Prior to the USOC, Nicole was a career special agent in the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security from 1999-2017. During her tenure with the U.S. Department of State, she served as a Regional Security Officer, principal security attaché and advisor to U.S. Ambassadors at embassies in Algeria, Kosovo, and Venezuela. She was also Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge for Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's protection detail. Nicole received a bachelor's degree in both criminal justice/sociology and Spanish from Dillard University and a master's degree in planning and strategy from the Joint Forces Staff College.

Joe DeBise has served on the Board for two years. A father and a published poet, DeBise has recently started teaching as substitute teacher in District 49 and in Colorado Springs School District 11. Despite becoming a tetraplegic as a result of a car accident, he has been active coaching youth in the community. He was the head basketball coach at Swigert Junior High in 2011 and has coached club sports for the last 9 years.

Eric Graham has been on the Board of Directors for 4 years. He is the Senior Systems Engineer for the newly formed United States Space Command after serving over 20 years in the US Army. He holds various Information Technology and Cyber Security certifications. He has bachelor's degrees in mathematics and in history from Morris College and a Masters in Information Technology/Software Engineering concentration and a certificate in Project Management from University of Maryland. Eric is also a licensed Minister at Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, INC.

Taylor Hawkins joined the Board in May of 2019. She has been an ECOC college mentor for two years and has interned with ECOC for one year. She was raised is Denver, Colorado. She is a current student at Colorado College majoring in History/Political Science and minoring in English. She serves the Colorado Springs community through her time with ECOC, volunteering at North Middle School and volunteering at Palmer High School. In her free time, Taylor enjoys reading, spending time with friends and bingewatching bad Netflix dramas.

Mary Katungu has been on the Board of Directors of ECOC, Inc. since the inception of the 501(c)(3) in 2014. She coordinates the sign language interpreters for the Summit. She is an educator in Colorado Springs School District 11. As a member of the Colorado Department of Education Grant Proposal Reviewing Committee, Mary presents at annual conferences on Family, School, and Community Partnerships. In addition, she has successfully facilitated projects on engaging families and the community in Colorado. Mary possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, two Master's Degrees in Deaf Education and English Language Learning, an Education Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership, as well as the Colorado endorsements in Culturally Linguistically Diverse Education and Special Education (K-12). She holds a Colorado Professional Principal License (K-12).

Alex Malone, Board Vice President, is the Senior Project and Grant Manager at The GEH Foundation. GEH foundation, in partnership with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., seeks to create a culturally relevant, college preparatory academy that produces life-long learners and critical thinkers, who are civic minded and steeped in the tradition of social justice as servant-leaders. Alex has worked in the education sector for 10 years as an administrator in K-12 public charter schools and recently as a High Impact Practices coordinator at Pikes Peak Community College. In addition to the two years that Alex has served on the ECOC Board, he has also served on the board of The African American Youth Leadership Conference.

Elaine Nolen, Board Treasurer, is an attorney at Sherman & Howard where she practices corporate and real estate law, with focuses in nonprofit governance and mergers & acquisitions. Prior to attending law school, she was a grant administrator for Colorado Springs' refugee resettlement program, overseeing grant compliance and direct services. Elaine is a graduate of the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law and of Colorado College. She joined the Board in January of 2019.

Karin Reynolds, Board President, serves districts across the state as an educational consultant and as an Educator Effectiveness Regional Principal Consultant with the Colorado Department of Education. Karin is also an independent educational consultant focusing on coaching upper level leadership and strategic planning and an instructor with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Finally, Karin serves as the Vice President of the Academy District 20 Board of Education. Prior to retiring as the Deputy Superintendent of Academy School District 20 in 2016, Karin served as an English and journalism teacher, volleyball coach, drama coach, and cheerleading coach, middle school principal, high school principal, Executive Director for Learning Services and Assistant Superintendent. She received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and her master's degree in Curriculum and

Instruction with a focus on Educational Leadership from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

Kathy Robbins joined the ECOC board of directors in May, 2019. Previously, Robbins served as the ECOC Fundraising Chair and as a member of the Planning Committee. 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.

Julissa Soto joined the Board in May of 2019. She is considered one of the visionary and trailblazing leaders in public health in the State of Colorado and has served in significant leadership capacities in numerous capacities across the state. Her background includes over 19 years of success in leading and managing evidence-based prevention programs serving new immigrants. She immigrated to the United States nearly 21 years ago from the state of Michoacán in central Mexico and understands the health needs of Colorado Latinos and the importance of reaching out to them. Her outreach efforts include hosting a radio show, leading exercise groups and teaching the National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) and evidence-based yearlong lifestyle change program. She is also a certified master trainer for the NDPP program and Stanford University's evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP). In 2017 her NDPP program was deemed most promising in its potential to positively impact diabetes related health outcomes among the Latino population by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Regina Walter, executive director, retired from the State of Colorado Judiciary in January of 2019 after 32 years on the bench. 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.

2018-2019 Donors and Supporters – Thank you!

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