Excellence in Leadership Alumni [1]

On Nov. 17, 2023, we will host a luncheon and lecture at Denver's Brown Palace Hotel to honor the 2023 Excellence in Leadership Award winner.

Hosted by the Office of the President, the event recognizes an ELP alumnus who has shown exemplary leadership at the University of Colorado. The luncheon provides alumni an opportunity to reestablish connections, attend a leadership lecture, and congratulate this year’s award recipient.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Stefanie K. Johnson [2] will deliver this year’s keynote, “We See You at CU – How Leaders Can Bolster Belonging.” Johnson was recently named the new director of CU Boulder’s Center for Leadership and is the author of the Wall Street Journal national bestseller, Inclusify: The Power of Uniqueness and Belonging to Build Innovative Teams.

Award winner: Nominations are now closed for 2023. The ELP award winner will be announced later this fall.

Event invitations: To be sent to current program participants and alumni in early October.

Nominate a CU leader for the ELP Award
Each year, the Excellence in Leadership Award honors an Excellence in Leadership Program graduate who has shown exemplary leadership at the University of Colorado.

Nominees should demonstrate, in one or more areas, the following attributes:

- Leadership of organizations, departments or teams
- Leadership of projects, programs and/or research
- Fiscal management and/or fundraising
- Student instruction

Applications are closed for 2023.

**Past award recipients**

**2021 Winner**
Sharon Matusik  
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [3]  
- CU Connections spotlight [4]

2019 Winners
Regina Kilkenny  
University of Colorado Denver

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [5]
- CU Connections spotlight [6]

Kelly Fox  
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [5]
2018 Winner

Megan Bell
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [7]
- CU Connections spotlight [8]

2017 Winners

Brenda J. Allen
University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [9]
Penina Axelrad
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [9]
- CU Connections spotlight [11]

2016 Winner

Sandy Hicks
University of Colorado System Administration
• CU Connections award presentation coverage
• CU Connections spotlight

2015 Winner
2014 Winner

Patricia Rankin  
University of Colorado Boulder

2013 Winner

Diane Sieber
2012 Winner

Steve Zweck-Bronner
University of Colorado System Administration

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [18]
- CU Connections spotlight [19]

2011 Winner
Garrison Roots  
University of Colorado Boulder

- View the presentation (PDF) of site-specific art created by Professor Roots.
- Professor Roots passed away in December 2011, shortly after receiving the award.

---

2010 Winner

---

2010 Winner

---
Laura M. Argys
University of Colorado Denver

- CU Connections spotlight [23]

2009 Winner
## Past keynote speakers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>CU Innovations Executive Director Kimberly Muller, Esq, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus</td>
<td>Innovation and Leadership Lessons That Will Shape the Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Lauren Casteel, president and CEO, The Women's Foundation of Colorado</td>
<td>Reflections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Pam Shockley-Zalabak, Ph.D., president of CommuniCon Inc., UCCS chancellor and professor of Communication Emerita</td>
<td>Building Trust in Turbulent Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Laura Stack, president and CEO, The Productivity Pro, Inc.</td>
<td>Doing the Right Things Right: How the Effective Leader Spends Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Paul Gibbons, author, speaker and consultant</td>
<td>Complicated or Complex: Two Practical Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Roxane White, president and CEO of the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service</td>
<td>Tough Calls: Making Evidence-Based Decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Richard D. Krugman, MD, vice chancellor for Health Affairs for the University of Colorado Denver and dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine</td>
<td>Staying Cool in Jobs Where People Only Turn Up the Heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Dr. Joseph F. Coughlin, Ph.D., director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab</td>
<td>Three Retirement Questions to Plan a New Life Today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Dr. Cynthia Stevenson, superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools</td>
<td>Chaos, Ambiguity, Uncertainty ... How Can You Not Love Leadership!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Col. Kathleen Harrington, permanent professor and head of the English and Fine Arts Department, United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)</td>
<td>Leadership in the Military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas J. Noel, professor of history and director of Public History, Preservation and Colorado Studies at the University of Colorado Denver</td>
<td>How Colorado's Movers and Shakers have Faced Leadership Challenges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>