Each year, we host a luncheon and lecture at Denver's Brown Palace Hotel to honor the 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.

Past award recipients

2023 Winner
Ruth Ellen Kocher
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [2]
- CU Connections spotlight [3]

2021 Winner
Sharon Matusik
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [4]
- CU Connections spotlight [5]

2019 Winners
Regina Kilkenny
University of Colorado Denver

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [6]
- CU Connections spotlight [7]

Kelly Fox
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [6]
2018 Winner

Megan Bell
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [8]
- CU Connections spotlight [9]

2017 Winners

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

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [10]
Penina Axelrad  
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage
- CU Connections spotlight

2016 Winner

Sandy Hicks  
University of Colorado System Administration
• CU Connections award presentation coverage [13]
• CU Connections spotlight [14]

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 [19]
- CU Connections spotlight [21]

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
Laura M. Argys
University of Colorado Denver

- CU Connections spotlight [24]
## Past keynote speakers

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>Dr. Stefanie Johnson, CU Boulder's Center for Leadership Academic Director and Associate Professor of Organizational Leadership and Information Analytics.</td>
<td>We See You at CU – How Leaders Can Bolster Belonging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Kimberly Muller, Esq, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus</td>
<td>Innovation and Leadership Lessons That Will Shape the Future</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Lauren Casteel, president and CEO, The Women's Foundation of Colorado</td>
<td>Reflections</td>
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<td></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>
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<td>2018</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>2017</td>
<td>Paul Gibbons, author, speaker and consultant</td>
<td>Complicated or Complex: Two Practical Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</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>
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<td>2014</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>2013</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>2012</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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<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>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>James S. Voss, University of Colorado Boulder scholar in residence and Roubos chair</td>
<td>Leadership in Challenging Environments</td>
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Groups audience:
Employee Services

Right Sidebar:
ES: ELD ELP Alumni sidebar

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[22] [https://www.cu.edu/sites/default/files/visual-arts-complex.pdf](https://www.cu.edu/sites/default/files/visual-arts-complex.pdf)
[23] [https://connections.cu.edu/stories/garrison-roots-lived-taught-full-throttle](https://connections.cu.edu/stories/garrison-roots-lived-taught-full-throttle)
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