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Excellence in Leadership Luncheon [1]

The Excellence in Leadership Luncheon is dedicated to celebrating leadership, marking the completion of the ELP fellows' journey, and welcoming them into the ELP alumni group.

Attended by over 150 alumni and executive leaders from each campus and System Administration, the ELP Luncheon celebrates the leadership achievements of our ELP community and cultivates a community of leaders throughout CU. The event features a keynote address on a relevant leadership topic and the presentation of the Excellence in Leadership Award, recognizing one ELP alumni for their impact as a leader within the University of Colorado community. The luncheon will also be the culminating event for the current cohort as they graduate and are welcomed into the alumni community.

Past award recipients

2026 Staff Winner



Stephanie Hanenberg
UCCS

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [2]
- 2026 ELP Luncheon Award Winners & Nominees (PDF) [3]

2026 Faculty Winner



Natalie Serkova

CU Anschutz

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [2]
- 2026 ELP Luncheon Award Winners & Nominees (PDF) [3]

2025 Winner



Cathy Bradley

Anschutz Medical Campus

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [4]
- 2025 Nominee List (PDF) [5]

2023 Winner



Ruth Ellen Kocher

University of Colorado Boulder

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

2021 Winner



Sharon Matusik

University of Colorado Boulder

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

2019 Winners



Regina Kilkenny
University of Colorado Denver

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [10]
- CU Connections spotlight [11]



Kelly Fox
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [10]

2018 Winner



Megan Bell
University of Colorado Colorado Springs

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [12]
- CU Connections spotlight [13]

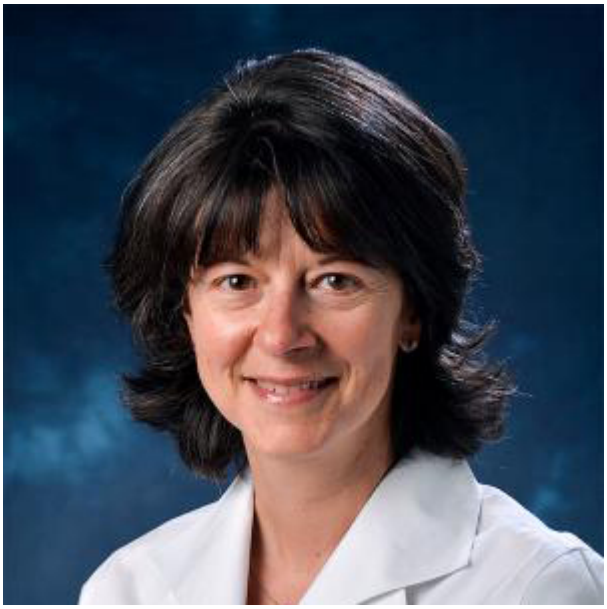
2017 Winners



Brenda J. Allen

University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [14]
- CU Connections spotlight [15]



Penina Axelrad

University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [14]
- CU Connections spotlight [16]

2016 Winner



Sandy Hicks

University of Colorado System Administration

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [17]
- CU Connections spotlight [18]

2015 Winner



Thomas Christensen

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [19]
- CU Connections spotlight [20]

2014 Winner



Patricia Rankin
University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [21]
- CU Connections spotlight [22]

2013 Winner



Diane Sieber

University of Colorado Boulder

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [23]

2012 Winner



Steve Zweck-Bronner
University of Colorado Sytsem Administration

- CU Connections award presentation coverage [24]
- CU Connections spotlight [25]

2011 Winner



Garrison Roots

University of Colorado Boulder

- View the presentation (PDF) [26] of site-specific art created by Professor Roots.
- Professor Roots passed away in December 2011 [27], shortly after receiving the award.

2010 Winner



Laura M. Argys
University of Colorado Denver

- CU Connections spotlight [28]

2009 Winner



Barbara A. Gaddis

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

- CU Connections spotlight [29]

Past keynote speakers

Year	Speaker	Lecture
2026	Karen Marrongelle, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Mathematics at CU Denver	Defying Gravity: How Visionary Leaders in Science Turn Resistance into Breakthroughs
2025	Ann Schmiesing, PhD, Interim Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Professor of German at CU Boulder	Leadership - A Tale of Teams
2023	Dr. Stefanie Johnson, CU Boulder's Center for Leadership Academic Director and Associate Professor of Organizational Leadership and Information Analytics.	We See You at CU – How Leaders Can Bolster Belonging
2022	CU Innovations Executive Director Kimberly Muller, Esq, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus	Innovation and Leadership Lessons That Will Shape the Future
2019	Lauren Casteel, president and CEO, The Women's Foundation of Colorado	Reflections
2018	Pam Shockley-Zalabak, Ph.D., president of CommuniCon Inc., UCCS chancellor and professor of Communication Emerita	Building Trust in Turbulent Times
2017	Laura Stack, president and CEO, The Productivity Pro, Inc.	Doing the Right Things Right: How the Effective Leader Spends Time
2016	Paul Gibbons, author, speaker and consultant	Complicated or Complex: Two Practical Tools
2015	Roxane White, president and CEO of the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service	Tough Calls: Making Evidence-Based Decisions
2014	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	Staying Cool in Jobs Where People Only Turn Up the Heat

Year	Speaker	Lecture
2013	Dr. Joseph F. Coughlin, Ph.D., director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AgeLab	Three Retirement Questions to Plan a New Life Today
2012	Dr. Cynthia Stevenson, superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools	Chaos, Ambiguity, Uncertainty ... How Can You Not Love Leadership!
2011	Col. Kathleen Harrington, permanent professor and head of the English and Fine Arts Department, United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)	Leadership in the Military
2010	Dr. Thomas J. Noel, professor of history and director of Public History, Preservation and Colorado Studies at the University of Colorado Denver	How Colorado's Movers and Shakers have Faced Leadership Challenges
2009	James S. Voss, University of Colorado Boulder scholar in residence and Roubos chair	Leadership in Challenging Environments

Groups audience:
Employee Services

Source URL:https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/professional-growth-training/excellence-leadership-program/excellence-leadership-0

Links
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[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/excellence-leadership-event-emphasizes-inclusion-recognizes-cu-boulder-professor-award [7] https://www.cu.edu/blog/work-life/excellence-leadership-award-winner-embodies-connected-practical-leadership [8] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/excellence-leadership-luncheon-and-lecture-celebration-collaboration [9] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/sharon-matusik-recognized-excellence-leadership-award [10] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/two-award-recipients-named-excellence-leadership-luncheon-and-lecture [11] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/kilkenny-s-four-decade-career-built-service-others [12] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/uccs-bell-wins-excellence-leadership-award [13] http://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/megan-bell-blazes-trails-future-higher-education-leaders [14] http://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/two-honored-excellence-leadership-luncheon-and-lecture [15] http://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/allen-builds-roots-sustainable-diversity
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[21] http://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder%E2%80%99s-rankin-receives-excellence-leadership-award [22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/elp-award-winner-rankin-uses-data-drive-leadership
[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-faculty-member-receives-excellence-leadership-award
[24] https://www.cuanschutztoday.org/zweck-bronner-excellence-in-leadership-award/
[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-steve-zweck-bronner
[26] https://www.cu.edu/sites/default/files/visual-arts-complex.pdf
[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/garrison-roots-lived-taught-full-throttle
[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-laura-argys [29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-barbara-gaddis