Mobilizing Implementation & Economic Opportunity through Digital Equity

Denver, Colorado
March 26, 2022
Event Agenda

Saturday, March 26, 2022

10:00 AM MT  Registration Begins
           COVID Protocols

11:30 AM MT  Opening Remarks
           Dr. Marielena DeSanctics, President, Community College of Denver
           First Lady Dr. Jill Biden
           Secretary Xavier Becerra
           Senator Michael Bennet
           Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera
           Joe Garcia, Chancellor, Colorado Community College System
           Alan Davidson, Assistant Secretary, National Telecommunications Information
           Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
           Melody Gonzales, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Advancing Educational
           Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
           Domenika Lynch, Executive Director, Latinos in Society Program, Aspen Institute
           Ernesto Apreza, Senior Advisor, Office of Public Engagement, The White House

11:51 AM MT  Press

12:00 PM MT  Breakout Sessions
           Session 1 Room 221: Digital Equity
           Session 2 Room 217: Lessons learned from COVID-19, Telehealth & Latinos
           Session 3 Room 219: Cybersecurity in the Digital Age for All
           Session 4 Room 223: Education Equity, Workforce Development and Federal Jobs

1:00 PM MT  Closing Remarks
           Ernesto Apreza, Senior Advisor, Office of Public Engagement, The White House
           Melody Gonzales, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Advancing Educational
           Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
           Dr. Marielena DeSanctics, President, Community College of Denver
           Joe Garcia, Chancellor, Colorado Community College System

1:10 PM MT  Summit concludes
Overview:

White House Initiative Latino Economic Summits

The Biden-Harris administration is partnering with the Aspen Institute to jointly host forums in several cities across the country. Titled White House Initiative Latino Economic Summits, the regional forums will highlight the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to advancing equity and economic empowerment and connect local Latino community members directly with federal leaders and resources. The forums will also feature community leaders, administration officials, local elected officials, and leadership from the Aspen Institute.

The program kicked off on March 22 in San Antonio and will proceed to additional communities through the spring and early summer. Each event will feature multi-faceted and dynamic sessions with the intent to:

- Demonstrate the Administration's continued commitment to the President's Executive Order on advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the federal government
- Highlight the impact of the Biden-Harris Administration initiatives such as the American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and COVID-19 response
- Increase engagement between Latino constituents and administration officials as well as federal offices and services at the regional level
- Encourage Latino community members to apply for federal procurement, jobs, grants, internships, and programs
Breakout Session Details

National Telecommunications Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce: “Digital Equity”

This digital equity roundtable will highlight NTIA’s BEAD and Digital Equity Programs made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It will serve as a critical listening session for the Latino community to engage in the local coordination process for statewide broadband implementation.

Panelists:
Alan Davidson, Assistant Secretary, NTIA, U.S. Department of Commerce
Andy Berke, Special Representative for Broadband, NTIA, U.S. Department of Commerce
Mayor Michael Hancock, City of Denver
Sarah Bleau, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
Representative Brianna Titone, Chair, Joint Committee on Technology, Colorado State Legislature
Commissioner Sarah Mudge, Lake County
Brandy Reitter, Executive Director, Colorado Broadband Office
Angeles Ortega, CEO, Mi Casa Resource Center
Alex Sanchez, President and CEO, Voces Unidas de las Montañas
Tony Anderson, Workforce Services Director, Denver Economic Development and Opportunity
Paula Schriefer, President/CEO, Spring Institute
John Sharer, National Director of Operations, PCs for People


This roundtable will highlight HHS’ Telehealth initiative made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It will serve as an important listening session for HHS to learn more about the challenges facing the Latino community in accessing broadband and subsequent health outcomes; and highlight solutions through Telehealth.

Panelists:
Lily Griego, Regional Director, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
Nick Zucconi, Regional Administrator, HRSA, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
Haddas Lev, Director, Ambulatory Care Services Operations, COO Denver Community Health Services, Denver Health
Deep Shah, Ambulatory Care Operations Coordinator, Denver Health
Ben Wiederholt, CEO/President, STRIDE Community Health Center
Karen Funk, Chief Medical Officer, Clinica family Health
Mitzi Moran, Chief Executive Officer, Sunrise Community Health
Tillman Farley, Chief Medical Officer, Salud Family Health
Small Business Administration (SBA): “Cybersecurity in the Digital Age for All”

This roundtable will highlight SBA’s cybersecurity initiatives. Small businesses, nonprofits and institutions must navigate digital resources and threats to be successful in today’s digital environment. This session will serve as an opportunity to connect Latino entrepreneurs to new technologies, learn about federal programs and resources to protect themselves against cybersecurity. It will also serve as a listening session to identify opportunities to expand engagement in the Latino community.

Panelists:
Mark Madrid, Associate Administrator, SBA Office of Entrepreneurial (moderator & panelist)
Frances Padilla, District Director, SBA Colorado District Office
Alfred Ortiz, CEO, CSD Cyber and Cyber Consultant at the Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Ernest Campos, Program CISO for the USSF MOSSAIC program, L3Harris Technologies

White House Initiative + OPM: “Education Equity, Workforce Development and Federal Jobs”

This roundtable will highlight the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics and the Office of Personal Management. It will serve as an opportunity to connect Latinos to key resources made available through the Initiative, education and workforce development resources, and careers in federal service.

Panelists:
Melody Gonzales, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
Emmanuel Caudillo
Lauren Foreman, Engagement Analyst, USAJOBS
Tim DeRamus, Education Program Director, OPM Western Management Development Center
Amie Baca-Ohelelert, President, Colorado Education Association
Anna Jo Haynes, President Emeritus, Mile High Early Learning
Antonio Soto, Minority Business Office Director, OEDIT
Araceli Calderon, Federal Programs Coordinator, Centennial BOCES
Corina Hierro, Founding Team Member, Chamba App
Eliana Colunga, University of Colorado - Communities Code
Joe Barela, Director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)
Mike Ferrufino, President & CEO, Colorado Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Ray Gonzales, Executive V. President, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Rudy Gonzales, Executive Director, Servicios De La Raza
Closing Remarks
Ernie Apreza, Senior Advisor, Office of Public Engagement, The White House
Melody Gonzales, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics
Dr. Marielena DeSanctics, President, Community College of Denver
Joe Garcia, Chancellor, Colorado Community College System
Biographies

Dr. Marielena DeSanctis
President
Community College of Denver

Dr. Marielena DeSanctis currently serves as the President of the Community College of Denver. Dr. DeSanctis has more than 22 years of experience in education, including classroom teaching, curriculum development, instructional design, learning assessment, and progressive leadership roles in both K-12 and higher education.

Dr. DeSanctis is a member of the 2019-2020 class of the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence and a member of Leadership Florida Class XXXV. Previously, she served as Provost & Senior Vice-President, Academic Affairs and Student Services of Broward College. Additionally, Dr. DeSanctis served almost six years of experience as an engineer in the manufacturing and construction sector. Her education includes a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, a master’s degree in Math Education from Nova Southeastern University, and an Ed.S. and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Florida Atlantic University.

Among her accomplishments, she is most proud of her two children - Conner (26) and Allie (23). She currently resides in Palm Beach County, Florida, with her husband Lance DeSanctis.

Dr. Jill Biden, Ed.D.
First Lady of the United States
Educator, Northern Virginia Community College

Dr. Jill Biden is the First Lady of the United States and an educator. Dr. Biden served as Second Lady of the United States from 2009-2017. As First Lady, she has championed the causes that have defined her public life: supporting military families, advocating for increased educational opportunities, and working to end cancer as we know it. She has also served as a leading messenger for the White House’s most urgent priorities, including safely reopening schools, supporting the President’s economic agenda, and urging adults and children to protect themselves and their communities by getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

As a classroom teacher for over 30 years, advocating for increased educational opportunities for all students, of all ages, is close to her heart. From championing universal pre-school, free community college, increased access for students to broadband, and more affordable options for higher education, Dr. Biden continues her work promoting accessible, quality education for everyone. While serving as First Lady, Dr. Biden has continued teaching English and writing at Northern Virginia Community College, where she has been a professor since 2009. She is the first presidential spouse to maintain an independent career outside of the White House.

Dr. Biden was born in New Jersey and grew up in Pennsylvania. She graduated from the University of Delaware and earned her Ed.D. from University of Delaware in 2007.
Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Xavier Becerra is the 25th Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the first Latino to hold the office in the history of the United States.

Secretary Becerra served 12 terms in Congress representing Los Angeles, before becoming the attorney general of his home state in 2017. While in Congress, Secretary Becerra was the first Latino to serve as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, he served as Chairman of his party's caucus, and as the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Health.

Born in Sacramento Secretary Becerra is the son of working-class parents. He was the first in his family to receive a four-year degree, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Stanford University. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School. His mother was born in Jalisco, Mexico and immigrated to the United States after marrying his father, a day laborer turned construction worker. He is married to Dr. Carolina Reyes, and he is proud of his three daughters: Clarisa, Olivia and Natalia, and son-in-law Ivan.

Dianne Primavera
Lt. Governor
State of Colorado

Dianne Primavera is the Lieutenant Governor of Colorado. She is a leading patient advocate and cancer survivor who has spent decades fighting for every Coloradan's access to quality, affordable health care.

As the Lieutenant Governor, Dianne leads six programs including: the Office of Saving People Money on Health Care, the Office of eHealth Innovation, the Colorado Disability Funding Commission and Disability Policy, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, Serve Colorado, and Aerospace and Defense.

Beginning in 2006, Dianne served four terms in the State Legislature, where her bipartisan work promoted Colorado small businesses, lowered prescription drug costs, and expanded access to affordable health care.

She has two adult daughters and three beautiful grandkids.
Michael Bennet  
Senator, State of Colorado  
United States Senate

Michael Bennet has represented Colorado in the United States Senate since 2009. Bennet serves on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Committee on Finance, and on the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Before serving in the Senate, Bennet was superintendent of the Denver Public Schools, where he led extensive reform efforts in the country. He lives in Denver with his wife and three daughters.

Joe Garcia  
Chancellor  
Colorado Community College System

Joe Garcia is the Chancellor of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). Garcia currently serves on the Boards for the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF), and the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI). He is the chair of the Education & Training Committee (E & T) for the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC). He was also appointed by the Governor as the representative of the Department of Education for the Business Experiential Learning (BEL) Commission.

Prior to his role at CCCS, Garcia served two years as President of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education ("WICHE") from June 2016 to June 2018. WICHE is an interstate compact created to provide access to, and improve the quality of, higher education opportunities for residents of the western United States. From 2011 to 2016, he served as the Lt. Governor of Colorado and as the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Garcia’s previous public service positions included serving as a member of the Cabinet of Governor Roy Romer and as a White House appointee under President Bill Clinton. He was the first Hispanic partner in the 100-year history of Denver based Holme Roberts & Owen where he focused on public education law.

Garcia earned his Juris Doctorate (1983) and completed the John F. Kennedy School of Government program at Harvard University, and received his Bachelor of Science in International Business (1979) from University of Colorado at Boulder. Garcia has four children and is married to Dr. Claire Oberon Garcia, the Dean of Faculty at Colorado College.
Alan Davidson
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator
NTIA

Alan Davidson was officially sworn in as Assistant Secretary in January 2022. Alan Davidson is an Internet policy expert with over 20 years of experience as an executive, public interest advocate, technologist, and attorney.

He was most recently a Senior Advisor at the Mozilla Foundation, a global nonprofit that promotes openness, innovation, and participation on the Internet. He was previously Mozilla’s Vice President of Global Policy, Trust and Security, where he led public policy and privacy teams promoting an open Internet and a healthy web.

Alan served in the Obama-Biden Administration as the first Director of Digital Economy at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He started Google’s public policy office in Washington, D.C., leading government relations and policy in North and South America for seven years until 2012.

Alan has been a long-time leader in the Internet nonprofit community, serving as Director of New America’s Open Technology Institute where he worked to promote equitable broadband access and adoption. As Associate Director of the Center for Democracy and Technology, Alan was an advocate for civil liberties and human rights online in some of the earliest Internet policy debates.

He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Yale Law School and is a member of the District of Columbia Bar. Alan currently resides with his family in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Melody Gonzales
Executive Director
White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics

Melody Gonzales serves as the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics.

A public policy specialist for over 20 years, Melody most recently served managed Latino community advocacy, partnerships and grants at the National Education Association -- helping the NEA’s state and local union affiliates advance racial justice in public schools. She previously served in the Obama Administration as Chief of Staff for Mine Safety and Health Administration in the U.S. Department of Labor and as Deputy Chief of Staff for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. She also worked for former-Congressman Xavier Becerra, the U.S. House of Representatives’ Democratic Caucus, Congressman Raul Grijalva, Governor Ralph Northam, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda and the Obama-Biden campaign (which included organizing in Greeley, Colorado).

Melody earned her MPP from Georgetown University and her bachelor’s degree from UC San Diego.
**Domenika Lynch**  
Executive Director  
Latinos in Society Program, Aspen Institute

Domenika Lynch is the Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program (AILAS). Lynch has overseen strategic planning, policy advocacy, and public affairs campaigns for nonprofits and corporations, increasing donor and stakeholder support and raising millions of dollars for organizational endowments.

Lynch currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Congressional Management Foundation and serves on Bank of America’s National Community Advisory Council which advises the bank on community development, environmental and consumer policy issues.

From July 2016 to May 2019, Lynch served as president and CEO of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), the preeminent Latino leadership institute founded by Hispanic members of Congress in Washington, DC.

A graduate of the USC Price School of Public Policy, Lynch holds a master’s degree from the USC Rossier School of Education.

**Ernesto “Ernie” Apreza**  
Senior Advisor  
White House Office of Public Engagement

Ernesto Apreza currently serves as Senior Advisor for Public Engagement at the White House Office of Public Engagement. In his role he oversees outreach and engagement to the Latino community and to the immigration stakeholder community.

He previously served on the Biden-Harris Transition Project where he helped as a coordinator on the confirmations team. During the 2020 general election, he was the Colorado State Director for the Biden campaign and previous to that served as Communications Director for the Mayor of Seattle. Ernesto has worked on a number of campaigns and non-profits in Nevada, Ohio, Texas, and Colorado. He has also worked on the private sector as public relations manager at Amazon.

Ernesto attended the George Washington University.
Andy Berke  
Special Representative for Broadband  
NTIA

Andy Berke joined NTIA as Special Representative for Broadband in January 2022. Prior to joining NTIA, Berke served as Mayor of Chattanooga from 2013 to 2021.

Under Berke’s leadership, Chattanooga took bold steps to further harness the unique advantage of having fast, cheap and pervasive internet service. Following a robust public engagement process, Chattanooga established an Innovation District -- 140 acres in the heart of downtown that houses a catalytic mix of start-up businesses, incubators, and accelerators alongside investors and public amenities.

In addition, the city partnered with various nonprofits, businesses, and county government to launch Tech Goes Home, a program honored for Digital Inclusion Leadership by the National League of Cities and Google. At the end of his term, Berke led a partnership to provide high speed broadband at no cost to every family with a child on free or reduced lunch, making Chattanooga the first community in the country with such a benefit.

Berke was named Municipal Leader of the Year by American City and County magazine and City Executive of the Year by State Scoop. He was given the Digital Inclusion Award from Next Century Cities in 2017 and was named Digital Inclusion Trailblazer by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance in 2020.

Michael B. Hancock  
Mayor  
City of Denver

Michael Hancock is serving his third term as Denver's 45th mayor and is the second African American to hold the position.

Mayor Hancock started of his career at the Denver Housing Authority and the National Civic League, and served eight years on the Denver City Council, including two terms as City Council President.

Mayor Hancock earned a B.A. from Hastings College and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver. He is the proud father of three children and doting grandfather to an adorable granddaughter.
Sarah Bleau
Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA

Sarah joined NTIA’s BroadbandUSA team in early 2021, where she leverages her experience as an industry liaison.

This experience includes new business development for fiber start-up Arcadian Infracom, and before that, managing carrier services at Viasat, a global satellite ISP. Working across geographies and business functions, her primary role was to deploy fiber networks in support of global programs.

Prior to that, Sarah spent time with Level 3 Communications (now Lumen), where she wore hats in leadership, sales, product, sales engineering and project management, specializing in Dark Fiber, Lit Transport, Colocation, Cloud and Internet.

Sarah Bleau has over 20 years in the data networking world, in roles ranging from sales to engineering, management and operations.

Brianna Titone
Representative (D-CO-27)
Colorado House of Representatives

Brianna Titone is a politician and scientist, currently serving as a member of the Colorado House of Representatives from the 27th district.

She serves in the 73rd Colorado General Assembly and is the first openly transgender state legislator elected in Colorado and the 4th elected in the United States. She serves as Chair of the LGBTQ+ Caucus, the Joint Technology Committee, and as a member of the Energy & Environment, Health & Insurance and Agriculture, and Livestock and Water Committees.

She was elected Jefferson County’s LGBTQ+ Caucus’s Secretary and Treasurer in August of 2017 and has served in the nonprofit sector as a member of NecroSearch International.

She was born and raised in Hudson Valley New York.
Sarah Mudge
Commissioner
Lake County

Sarah Mudge is a proud community member and public servant in Lake County, CO where she is in her fifth year serving as County Commissioner. Sarah works with all levels of her local government as well as with many critical partners from strategic planning to implementation.

When not solely focused on County work Sarah takes advantage of any reason to enjoy the outdoors with her family and friends, especially mountain biking and rafting, across Colorado.

Lily Griego
Regional Director
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

Lily Griego is the Regional Director for HHS in Region 8, serving CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, and WY.

Prior to her appointment, Lily served at the U. S. Census Bureau, where she led multiple state teams during the 2020 census as well as leading all congressional affairs for the region, successfully earning additional congressional seats in Montana and Colorado.

She also worked for a U.S. Senator on critical policy issues, including immigration, equality, and healthcare.

Lily earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in history from the University of Colorado at Denver. Griego is a native of Colorado.

Nick Zucconi
Regional Administrator, HRSA,
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Nick Zucconi joined the federal Department of Health & Human Services in Denver in 1989 as a lead regional analyst for Medicaid managed care programs.

Since joining the HRSA regional office in 1997, Nick has served as health center Project Officer, Operations Director leading performance reviews of health centers, and has served in his current position of Regional Administrator since 2015. Nick leads a team within HRSA’s Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs and is also responsible for coordination across all HRSA regional staff.

During the past ten years Nick has led over 75 projects facilitating collaboration between state, local, tribal, private health care organizations, universities, and HRSA grantees.
Haddas Lev  
Director, Ambulatory Care Services Operations  
COO Denver Community Health Services, Denver Health

Haddas Lev is the Associate Chief Operating Officer for Ambulatory Care Services at Denver Health. The focus of her work at Denver Health and Ambulatory Care Services has been on process improvement, facility design and construction, patient access, and growth and expansion strategy.

She began her career in healthcare as an AmeriCorps Health Corps member working with the underserved and underinsured population at a Colorado Community Health Center.

Haddas earned a B.S. in Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, and an M.S. in Operations Management and MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Deep Shah  
Ambulatory Care Operations Coordinator  
Denver Health

Deep is an Operations Coordinator for Ambulatory Care Services at Denver Health. The focus of his work at Denver Health and Ambulatory Care Services is on process improvement, clinic expansions, and virtual care adoption.

Deep began his career in higher education, working on leadership development and increase diversity in outdoor recreation.

He earned a B.S. in Kinesiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a Master of Healthcare Administration from Southern Illinois University.

Ben Wiederholt  
CEO  
STRIDE Community Health Center

Ben started at STRIDE CHC in 2017 with the goal of moving toward a healthcare delivery system that is accessible to the entire community. With seventeen years of executive healthcare experience, Ben has served as the Vice President of Mission Integration in the Kentucky and Colorado markets and Director of Ambulatory Operations at Centura Health.

Ben earned a master’s degree in Health Care Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ben’s joy is found through his wife Jess and their seven children.
Karen Funk  
Chief Medical Officer  
Clinica family Health

Dr. Funk has been a family physician at Clinica’s Lafayette Clinic since 2004 and took on the role of Assistant Medical Director in 2012. Prior to becoming a physician, Dr. Funk served as the Quality Improvement Coordinator for Planned Parenthood of Greater Chicago.

She was an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, working with a Community Health Center in Chicago providing teens with group-based education on obesity prevention, healthy sexuality, and pregnancy prevention.

Dr. Funk received her undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, an MPP from the University of Chicago and M.D. from the University of Illinois.

Mitzi Moran  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sunrise Community Health

Mitzi became Sunrise’s chief executive officer in 2006. Under Mitzi’s leadership, Sunrise has more than tripled in size and today is a recognized state and national leader in HIT adoption, integrated health care services, safety net collaborations, and professional health education.

Born in Colorado, Mitzi was raised as the 4th generation on the family farm in Yuma, CO.

She is a graduate of the Sustainable Transformation Program, University of Northern Colorado; the UCLA Health Care Executive Program, John E. Anderson Graduate School of Management at University of California; and Regional Institute of Health and Environmental Leadership, Universities of Colorado & Denver.

Tillman Farley  
Chief Medical Officer  
Salud Family Health

Tillman Farley, MD is currently the Chief Medical Officer of Salud Family Health Centers, a migrant/community health center with clinics across northern Colorado. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine in the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Dr. Farley graduated from the University of Colorado School of Medicine and completed his residency in Family Medicine at the University of Rochester.

He has won numerous awards, including the Samuel Rodgers Award for Outstanding Clinical Leadership given annually by the National Association of Community Health Centers.
Jim Garcia  
President and CEO  
La Clinica Tepeyac

Mr. Garcia founded Clinica Tepeyac in 1994 and serves as Chief Executive Officer and an ex officio board member. He also serves on numerous boards and committees, including the Regis University School of Health Care Advisory Board and the Board of Environmental Health for the City of Denver.

Mr. Garcia has more than two decades of executive management and leadership experience in community health, education, and human services programs.

He received his undergraduate degree from Regis University and his MPA from the University of Colorado.

John Parvensky  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

John Parvensky has served as President and CEO of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless since 1985. Under his leadership, the Coalition, began as a single health center and grown to serve over 18,000 people experiencing homelessness per year through comprehensive housing and healthcare.

John has been a leader in developing integrated housing for people experiencing homelessness, low-income families, individuals, and developing the state-of-the-art Stout Street Health Center.

Dr. Janina Fariñas Ph.D.  
Founder & CEO  
La Cocina

Dr. Janina E. Fariñas is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the award-winning La Cocina—a nonprofit corporation that has offered culturally relevant mental health services to the Latinx community since 2017. She is a faculty member at Naropa University, and the 2017 winner of the City of Fort Collins’ Human Relations Award.

Trained as a pediatric neuropsychologist and a family therapist, Dr. Fariñas’ areas of clinical and research expertise include pediatric Latinx psychology, Latinx family studies, infancy and early childhood Latinx mental health, and community mental health & wellness participatory design innovations.

In February 2017, Dr. Fariñas founded La Cocina’s for profit arm, L’Ancla, as a way to support dominant systems in their respective journeys and efforts co-designing mental health equity.

Dr. Fariñas holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Naropa University, and an undergraduate degree in Social Sciences from the University of New Orleans. Dr. Fariñas speaks Spanish and French fluently. She is a proud immigrant from San Salvador, El Salvador.
Kristina Daniel  
Chief Behavioral Health Officer  
Valley Wide Health System

Kristina is the Chief Behavioral Health Officer for Valley Wide Health Systems and provides oversight to the entire Valley-Wide Behavioral Health Service Line. Valley-Wide provides integrated behavioral health services across 14 clinics in 12 rural Colorado counties spanning a total of over 15,000 square miles.

Kristina holds a Master’s in Business Administration with an emphasis in Public Administration from Adams State College, a Master of Arts in Community Counseling from Adams State College, and a Bachelor of Arts in English with minors in Philosophy and Political Science from Youngstown State University.

Mark Madrid  
Associate Administrator  
Small Business Administration

As a Presidential Appointee, Mark Madrid leads the Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED) as Associate Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Previously, Mark served as CEO of the Latino Business Action Network, a national 501(c)(3) organization and the Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative, which focus on strengthening America through U.S. Latinx entrepreneurial research and a Latinx business scaling program at Stanford Graduate School of Business. From 2014 to 2017, Mark served as CEO of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the 2015 United States Hispanic Chamber of the Year. Prior to serving in nonprofit executive roles, he enjoyed a corporate executive banking career that began on Wall Street in 1995 with J.P. Morgan.

Mark holds a BBA from the University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business and received a Master in Nonprofit Administration from the University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business. He is an alumnus of the Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative Education-Scaling Program.
Frances A. Padilla  
Colorado District Director  
Small Business Administration

Frances A. Padilla was named the director of the Small Business Administration’s Colorado District Office in January 2017. During her SBA career, Padilla has also served as the District International Trade Officer, Brand Manager, Public Information Officer, District Office Technical Representative, and Women’s Business Ownership Liaison.

Prior to her current position, she led the Entrepreneurial Development and Lender Relations divisions as deputy district director. Before coming to Colorado, Ms. Padilla served as the deputy district director and chief of finance in the New Mexico District Office. Before joining the SBA team in 2007, Padilla worked for USDA Rural Development, the State of New Mexico’s Department of Finance & Administration, and the New Mexico Finance Authority.

A native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Ms. Padilla earned her Bachelor of Arts in business management from the College of Santa Fe.

Alfred Ortiz  
CEO  
CSD Cyber and Cyber Consultant at the Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center

Alfred Ortiz is CEO of CSD Cyber, a provider of cybersecurity solutions. He has over 15 years of information technology experience with companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Infor Global Solutions and DriveLock before starting his own firm.

During his professional career he worked in various areas of sales, marketing, pre-sales and management covering regional territories from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego.

In addition to his professional career, Mr. Ortiz has been involved in higher education as an affiliate professor at the University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio, TX), Regis University and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

He is a doctoral candidate in Information Systems at IE University in Madrid, Spain. In addition, he earned a bachelor's degree from Cal Poly Pomona, an MBA from University of the Incarnate Word, and executive education from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is originally from the Coachella Valley in California and has been in Colorado Springs since 2003.
Ernest Campos
Program CISO for the USSF MOSSAIC program
L3Harris Technologies

Ernest M. Campos is a Corporate Senior Manager, Global Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), and Cybersecurity Scientist. He currently works for L3Harris Technologies as a Program CISO for the USSF MOSSAIC program.

Previously, he co-founded and served as President and COO of Incline Cyber Solutions, LLC (SDVOSB, EDWOSB, and SDB) and was a Public-Sector Practice Principal for the Hewlett-Packard Co. He has spent over thirty (30) years specializing in the design and implementation of complex computing solutions. Throughout his career, Ernest has supported numerous Federal organizations including: The White House, The Central Intelligence Agency, The National Reconnaissance Office, The National Counter-Terrorism Center, The Federal Bureau of Investigation, The Department of Homeland Security, The Department of State, and others.

Prior to joining industry, Ernest served 11-years in the U.S. Air Force as a White House Communications, Senior Information Systems Technology Lead.

Ernest holds a MS in Information Systems Technology with an emphasis on Cybersecurity from George Washington University and a BS in Business Management with an emphasis on Organizational Information Systems from National – Louis University. Certifications amassed include C|CISO, Federal CIO, PMP, CISSP, Security+, ITIL, and others.

Lauren Foreman
Engagement Analyst
USAJOBS, Office of Personnel Management

Lauren currently works as an Engagement Analyst with the USAJOBS program office at OPM. In this role, she is responsible for conducting outreach, supporting change management activities, and identifying strategies to further enhance the customer experience with USAJOBS systems.

Lauren joined the federal workforce in 2014 as an HR Assistant, working in Labor and Employee Relations for the Department of the Navy, eventually taking a job with the Marine Corps as an EEO Counselor. She served in the U.S. Navy from 2008 to 2014.

Lauren holds a bachelor’s in health care administration from Southern Illinois University, a master’s degree in human resources management from Webster University and is currently pursuing a master’s in social and emotional learning. Lauren enjoys music concerts, reading, and spending time with her 9-year-old son Cameron and puppy Miles. She is currently pursuing a master’s in social and emotional learning.
Amie Baca-Oehlert  
President-elect  
Colorado Education Association

Amie Baca-Oehlert, the Vice President of the Colorado Education Association, was elected President, April 27, of the 35,000 member-strong statewide teacher’s union by acclamation. Baca-Oehlert, is a high school counselor from Adams 12 Five Star Schools and CEA Vice President since 2012.