Community Foundation and Boulder Chamber announce 2017-18 Leadership Fellows

Boulder (October 20, 2016) – The 2017-18 Leadership Fellows Program – a joint effort of the Community Foundation and the Boulder Chamber – is underway, engaging 31 participants from across sectors in robust dialogue on Boulder County’s economic, civic and cultural drivers.

“The program instills a broad understanding of Boulder County’s economic, civic, and cultural drivers,” says Elvira Ramos, the Community Foundation’s Vice President of Programs and Inclusive Leadership. “We aim to offer participants a deep appreciation for the social, environmental, and economic interests that our leaders must balance in their decisions.”

Specifically, the Community Foundation and Boulder Chamber of Commerce bring together leaders and experts across sectors to build networks and advance inclusivity countywide. The 11-month curriculum, which began Sept. 12, includes topics such as business and the local economy, collaboration, critical human needs, education funding and systems, Government 101 and roundtable discussions on a range of timely issues – from affordable housing to immigration, criminal justice and the arts. Each session integrates a lens of inclusive and transformational leadership.

“Leadership Fellows Boulder County is one of the primary ways in which we embody our values,” continues Ramos. “In partnership with the Boulder Chamber, we’re committed to dedicating resources that promote inclusive leadership countywide.

“Graduates of the program commit to taking on local leadership roles within six months of completing the program.” Indeed, since Leadership Fellows Boulder County launched in 2009, respondents to a recent survey showed that 81% of Fellows have joined a nonprofit board; 26% have joined a government board or commission; 13% have worked on a local campaign for a candidate or issue; and 32% of participants have been offered a career promotion within a year of graduation.

The current class of Fellows comprises a diversity of backgrounds, professional experiences and affiliations:

Matthew Ackerman, Elevations Credit Union
Allison Bayley, City of Boulder
Caitlin Berube-Smith, City of Boulder Parks and Recreation/PLAY Boulder Foundation
Kyle Blackmer, Otten Johnson Robinson Neff & Ragonetti
Luiz Blanco-Bertolo, University of Colorado
Laura Boldt, Boulder County Fair, Livestock Show & Rodeo
Jennifer Cummins, Sister Carmen Community Center
Hannah Davis, Engage Boulder and Mergelane
Michal Duffy, OUT Boulder County
Asa Firestone, A-Lodge
Scott Firle, Boulder Chamber of Commerce
Shun-Luoi Fong, Boulder County CareConnect
Norma Fuentes, Intercambio Uniting Communities
Lauren Groth, Hutchinson Black and Cook, LLC
Amy Lynn Herman, Boulder POV, LLC/Full Stack Events
Gisela Hernandez, Center for People with Disabilities
Rossana Longo Moscoso, Audio Information Network of Colorado
Ana Lilia Lujan Castillo, University Hill Elementary School
Katherine Malzbender, The Climate Reality Project
Raffi Mercuri, Elect Eric Budd for Boulder City Council
Meira Merz, Autism Society of Boulder County
Silvana Munro, Freelance Translator
Alina Nisenzon, Zayo Enterprise
Argentina Olimon, Engaged Latino Parents Advancing School Outcomes (ELPASO)
Katie Pribyl Dobbins, Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)
Tim Russo, KGNU Radio
Cibonet Salazar, Native American Rights Fund
Cindy Sepucha, Open Studios, Inc.
Janette Taylor, Sockwood Press
Maegan Vallejo, Community Foundation Boulder County
Emily Werner, TestPlant

For more information about Leadership Fellows Boulder County, or to schedule interviews with any of its participants, presenters or organizers, please contact Gretchen Minekime, the Community Foundation’s Vice President of Communications, at Gretchen@commfound.org or 303.442.0436 x107.

The Community Foundation Boulder County
For 26 years, the Community Foundation Boulder County has been a community catalyst, responding to immediate needs and anticipating future challenges. Through informed decision-making, we inspire ideas, ignite action and mobilize resources to improve the quality of life for all. Advancing inclusivity and providing leadership and on key issues, the foundation collaborates with community-minded individuals and organizations that want to make a difference, accomplishing more together than we do alone. Since its founding in 1991, the foundation has granted more than $75M to nonprofits focused on health and human services, basic needs, children and youth, education, civic engagement, arts and culture, and animals and the environment. commfound.org/news-media

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