DU Diversity Summit 2017
workshop presenter biographies

Listed alphabetically by last name.

- For brevity’s sake, some common phrases have been abbreviated, such as University of Denver to DU, United States of America to US, etc.
- Additionally, all submitted biographies were edited to ~100 words, as originally requested in call for workshops. Every effort was made to preserve breadth and depth of expertise shared, within that limitation.

Maram Abdelhamid is the Founder and Director of Liberty and Access for All. She is a Political and Nonprofit Consultant, specializing in strategic program development, government advocacy, campaigns and elections with clients like US Department of State, National Democratic Institute Liberty Coalition, and Brian Moran for Governor and Creigh Deeds for Governor Campaigns. With over 10 years of experience in political organizing government relations and advocacy, she began her career as a Legislative Assistant to Colorado State Rep Renee Sanchez. She then worked as the National Field Organizer for 21st Century Democrats, Deputy Campaign Manager for Representative Jim Moran of Virginia and served as the National Field and Political Director for Arab American Institute. Maram Abdelhamid has a bachelor’s degree from DU in Political Science and Economics.

Bridget Arend is the Director of University Teaching at DU where she consults with faculty members about teaching, runs workshops, and organizes teaching-related initiatives. She also teaches courses related to teaching, training and curriculum design at DU. She earned her PhD in Higher Education and Adult Learning and her research interests include teaching strategies and educational technology, specifically on topics related to encouraging critical thinking in discussions and alternative ways to evaluate teaching. She is co-author of a comprehensive book about instructional practices in higher education, Facilitating Seven Ways of Learning: A Resource for More Purposeful, Effective and Enjoyable College Teaching.

Vicky Atzl, BS, is a first-year student in the Clinical Child Psychology PhD program at DU. Her research focuses on how traumatic experiences in childhood impact development, especially in terms of the transition to parenthood. Her work emphasizes studying these phenomena in diverse populations and incorporating the voices of fathers who are often left out of this line of research.

Anamika Barman-Adhikari is an Assistant Professor of Social Work, whose research interests are broadly centered on understanding the social-contextual determinants of risk and protective behaviors among vulnerable youth populations, such as homeless and minority youth. Utilizing an ecological approach, her work aims to assess how family, peers, community and the society at large define the contexts within which vulnerable youth function and how these contexts help to explicate the patterns of risk and protective behaviors that these youth engage in. The goal of Barman-Adhikari’s research is to create prevention interventions that acknowledge these contextual environments and utilize social network methodology to determine how these new ideas can be disseminated and sustained using a community-based participatory research approach.

Trish Becker-Hafnor: As the Director of Community Engagement at DU’s Graduate School of Social Work, Trish works to engage community partners and support a growing network of social change makers in the Denver area. She earned her MSW from the University of Washington, following a transformative experience working with NGOs on the Thai-Burma border. She has found her passion at the intersection of higher education and social work and is interested in examining power dynamics and intersectionality in various settings.

Ramona Beltrán is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at DU, whose scholarship focuses on the intersections of historical trauma, embodiment, and environmental/social determinants of health as they affect health and risk behaviors in indigenous communities. She is particularly interested in centering cultural protective factors, strengths and resiliencies in indigenous populations as they work to interrupt the intergenerational transmission of historical trauma. With more than 15 years of experience using arts, dance and movement, digital media, and narrative with Latino and indigenous communities, Beltrán also has worked on numerous research projects funded by the National Institutes of Health that examine health, mental health and substance abuse disparities in these same communities. Her intellectual contributions can be found in invited chapters in edited books, journal articles and news media, as well as national and international conferences and symposia.

Karen Bensen, MSW, has been on the faculty at DU’s Graduate School of Social Work since 2009. She is deeply committed to educating tomorrow’s social workers to be passionate about social justice. As a predominately female dominated profession, she believes it is critical that students learn early to stand in their power as women to work toward changes in attitudes, behavior and policy for the benefit of all people but especially marginalized communities.

Marie Berry is an Assistant Professor at DU’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies, where she is also an affiliate of the Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy. She is a political sociologist with a research focus on mass violence, gender, and development. Her first book, War, Women, and Power in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina examines the impact of war and genocide on women’s political mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia. She is currently involved in several collaborative research projects, including on women’s contributions to innovations in peacebuilding in Nepal; the durability of liminal hybrid regimes in Rwanda and South Africa; and, with the Rift Valley Institute, on the influence of women in Kenyan politics following the revised 2010 constitution. She completed her PhD in sociology at UCLA in 2015.
Ciera Blehm is a second year studying Socio-Legal Studies and Business Information and Analytics with a minor in Legal Studies at DU. She serves as a Senator on Undergraduate Student Government, is a Puksta Scholar, and is Co-Chair of the Take Back the Night Taskforce. Ciera plans on pursuing a law degree to work in international human rights with a focus on women’s rights after her undergraduate degree.

Dale Broder did not hear the word evolution or do science until college. Like me, many K-12 students do not have opportunities to experience the scientific process. I am committed to bringing authentic science experiences to classrooms. During my postdoc at DU as an IRISE fellow, I am researching the role that authentic science plays in students’ scientific self-efficacy (self confidence) and interest in pursuing careers in science, particularly for groups of students that are underrepresented in science.

Laura Buhs is the assistant director and international scholar advisor in International Student and Scholar Services at DU. She has nearly 30 years of experience in international education and is always learning something new in her job and from her contact with DU’s international community.

Raymonda L. Burgman, PhD, serves as the Director of HERS Institutes where she leads the organization’s signature program. HERS, an educational non-profit, is dedicated to creating and sustaining a community of diverse women leaders within higher education. She has presented on topics such as mentoring, strategic planning, leadership, financial literacy, storytelling, and women’s advancement. Creating bridges and connections, she assisted colleagues in Uganda and Nigeria with the launch of two new HERS affiliate locations to serve the leadership development needs of women on the African continent. Burgman earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Florida.

Deblina Chakraborty is Director of Digital Media at KMGH (TheDenverChannel 7) at the EW Scripps Company and former Senior Producer at CNN Headline News. She also worked as an Editor and Blogger at Discovery Communications. Deblina also teaches as an instructor in the Media, Film, and Journalism Studies department.

Christina Crow joined DU this year as the Executive Functioning Specialist. Christina has a background in Special Education, Secondary Education, and experience with utilizing individualized education, targeted intervention, and universal design in order to support the knowledge acquisition and executive functioning of neurodiverse learners.

Patience Crowder, Associate Professor of Law, joined the DU faculty in 2010 to create and teach the Community Economic Development Clinic. Prior to joining the faculty, she was the Wellspring Assistant Clinical Professor of Law at Tulsa College of Law, where she formed and taught a transactional legal clinic. Her scholarship examines the impact of contract, corporate, and local government law in transactional advocacy for the public interest, particularly the revitalization of inner-city and underserved communities.

Anne DePrince is Department Chair and Professor of Psychology, as well as the Director of DU’s Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL). My research focuses on the consequences of trauma, particularly violence against women and children. I examine social-emotional and cognitive correlates of interpersonal violence (e.g., sexual assault, intimate partner abuse, child abuse and family violence) in youth and adults with the goal of applying those findings to intervention and prevention efforts. My program of research draws on multiple methodologies as well as theories from diverse psychological perspectives.

Kim Desmond, MS, serves as the Director of the Office on Women & Families for the City and County of Denver. She holds an MS in Community Counseling (Fort Hays State University) and an MA in Education Administration and Policy Studies with a certification in Early Childhood Leadership (DU). She has over a decade of experience addressing systems that promote equity and inclusion through policy development and programmatic initiatives. Her work experiences include advocating for multiple overlapping intersections to eliminate barriers to employment, pay equity, health care, education, housing, and other systemic issues impacting access and quality of life.

Nancy Ehrenreich, DU Professor of Law, is a nationally known scholar in the fields of feminist legal theory and critical race feminism, as well as a leader among progressive law professors working for social justice. Professor Ehrenreich’s scholarship focuses on the intersection of race and gender, highlighting inequalities in the legal treatment of low-income women of color and other marginalized groups. A leading voice in the legal academy for academic freedom and social justice, Ehrenreich has served on many working boards focusing on inequality in both law schools and the broader society.

Dina Fragkedaki is a Grants and Contract Administrator in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and previously worked at DU’s Unmanned Systems Research Institute (DU2SRI) as a Managing Administrator. Dina also serves as the Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Intelligent and Robotic Systems and as a Project Evaluator and Reviewer for the Ministry of Development of Greece. She graduated with a MSc in Industrial Technology from the Technical University of Crete, and also earned an MA in Diplomacy from PANTEIO University.

César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández, is a visiting professor at the DU Sturm College of Law. He publishes crimmigration.com, a blog about the convergence of criminal and immigration law that is a past recipient of the 100 best law blogs honor by the ABA Journal. César’s academic interests also center on crimmigration law, including teaching a seminar on the topic and having published articles about the right to counsel for immigrants in the criminal justice system, immigration imprisonment, and race-based immigration policing. In addition to teaching a
Counselor back at projects to further uplift the students, graduated from Student Co... background to understand the importance and the process of attending college through helping other first generation students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.

TeRay Esquibel: Throughout his four years at DU, TeRay dedicated himself to helping other first generation students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds understand the importance and the process of attending college through his work as a Fellow in the Office of Undergraduate Admission and his role as the Student College Access Liaison with the Volunteers in Partnership program. TeRay graduated from DU in June of 2015 with a degree in Business Management and went on to become a Fellow at El Pomar Foundation where he worked on multiple projects to further uplift the state of Colorado. TeRay is now a full-time Admission Counselor back at DU and will be entering the PMBA program in 2018.

Hava Gordon is associate professor of Sociology, specializes in the social construction of inequalities such as gender, race, class and age; social movements; schooling; and qualitative research methods. Her previous research explored how multiple social inequalities shape youth political movements; and her current research focuses on community struggles over urban school reform. She teaches courses on schooling, gender, globalization, and qualitative methods, as well as service learning courses on social movements and youth cultures. Professor Gordon also teaches in the Gender and Women's Studies Program, which she began directing in 2012.

Tina Griego is Managing Editor and Columnist with The Colorado Independent. She has worked as a journalist for 24 years, working with both the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News. She focuses on Indian Country, Hispanic issues, demographic change, immigration, youth, family life, neighborhoods and profiles.

Kristy Kumar is a MA candidate at DU’s Josef Korbel School in International Human Rights with a specialization in race, gender, and equity. She comes from South India and is a first-generation US immigrant. Kristy earned her BA in Political Science and Global Poverty and Practices from the University of California, Berkeley and served as a Fulbright Scholar in Malaysia. Prior to her studies at DU, Kristy worked as a Case Manager and Youth Leadership Coordinator for survivors of human trafficking and exploitation utilizing trauma-informed and survivor-centered care. At DU she is the Director of Educational Programming at the Human Trafficking Center and an Inclusive Excellence Fellow in Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence. Kristy is passionate about integrating decolonization praxis with social justice activism.

Carolyn Coles is from Delaware and is a first-generation college student. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador before becoming a DU student. Carolyn is a second year MA candidate in the International and Intercultural Communications program in the media, film and journalism department. She also works as program coordinator for two living and learning communities on campus and serves as Vice President of Graduate Student Government.

TeRay Esquibel: Throughout his four years at DU, TeRay dedicated himself to helping other first generation students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds understand the importance and the process of attending college through his work as a Fellow in the Office of Undergraduate Admission and his role as the Student College Access Liaison with the Volunteers in Partnership program. TeRay graduated from DU in June of 2015 with a degree in Business Management and went on to become a Fellow at El Pomar Foundation where he worked on multiple projects to further uplift the state of Colorado. TeRay is now a full-time Admission Counselor back at DU and will be entering the PMBA program in 2018.

Delio Figueroa, PhD, was born in Bayamón, Puerto Rico. He graduated with a BA in Music Education from the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico. He obtained a MA degree in Music Education, from New York University. He earned his PhD in Musicology/ Ethnomusicology from the University of Florida in 2015. His current research interests involve folk music of immigrant communities, the correlations of actively listening to music and mood, and music education/music making as a tool for social justice.

Thania Galvan, BA, is a second-year student in the Clinical Child Psychology PhD program at DU. Her research interests focuses on understanding and eliminating mental health disparities for underserved and underrepresented populations. More specifically, she is interested in understanding the factors that work to promote or inhibit mental health service utilization among Latino youths.

Samantha Garcia is originally from the North Side of Denver but had to move to Thornton, CO where she graduated high school from Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts (Skyview). As a senior at DU, Sam is busy as the College Access and Group Visit Fellow in the Office of Undergraduate Admission, President of the Multicultural Greek Council, Sister of Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority, Inc., and, as always being a big sister to three younger boys. Outside of school, she has been a part of the United Stated Olympic Committee’s FLAME Program and interned with the Denver Nuggets Youth Camps.

Michelle Garcia-Olp taught for six years in the areas of English as a second language, kindergarten, and fifth grade mathematics. Michelle is currently a second year doctoral candidate in Curriculum and Instruction at DU. She is currently working on co-creating an Indigenous mathematics curriculum and has a strong passion for student voice, student choice, and student stories in the classroom as it aligns to social justice pedagogy and equity education.

Ana Caroline Gutierrez is a Latina American, born and raised in Denver, with Mexican and Puerto Rican descent. She has always been an avid activist specifically surrounding issues of poverty and racial inequities/injustices. In 2013 she earned her BA in Public Policy and Spanish from DU. While here, she interned at the immigrant resource center Centro San Juan Diego and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, both of which gave her insight to the struggles of immigrants in receiving basic social services. Following graduation, Ana worked for 2 years at a non-profit clinic in a Latinx community and, after seeing the inequities of the healthcare system, returned to DU for her MA in International Development. She currently works as a legal translator for Spanish speaking non-US citizen who are pro bono clients of the Sturm College of Law’s Wage Theft Clinic.

Badiah Haffejee earned both her PhD and MSW from DU. She spent the last six years conducting research with refugees, specifically, in the areas: refugee resettlement, education, and employment and examines the unique positions of
women, youth, and young adult refugees. As a macro-practitioner, Dr Haffejee continues to work with resettlement agencies serving refugees living at the margins in Denver. Dr Haffejee’s dissertation qualitatively examined the enduring impact of trauma (i.e., war, refugee camp experiences, sexual and gender violence, racism/discrimination, and poverty), resiliency, and the ways that policy, institutional cultures, and individual attitudes combine to negatively impact women refugees from Africa as they meet the demands of economic self-sufficiency while they are integrating into the US. Her work also draws upon anti-oppressive frameworks such as Critical Race Theory (CRT) and womanism.

Ryan Hanschen, MPS, serves as Program Coordinator for the DU Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning, where he directs the DU Public Achievement program. A two-time DU alum, Ryan holds a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology and a Master’s degree in Strategic Innovation & Change. He has served two terms as an AmeriCorps VISTA Member as well as in a Program & Development Coordinator role with the PeaceJam Foundation. Ryan has also focused his energy as a Colorado Area Coordinator with Amnesty International, mountain guide, and Master Composter. He currently serves on the Denver South High School Community Partnership Board and chairs the Colorado Governor’s Commission on Community Service.

Theresa Hernandez is the Associate Director for Library Operations & University Digital Media Services at DU. Theresa has served as Chair of the Women’s Coalition, and is the current President of the Staff Advisory Council. As an advocate for women on campus, she has received numerous honors and awards including the Robin Morgan Award, the Profiles of Excellence Outstanding Staff Award, and the Crimson and Gold Award. Additionally, she co-authored Vulnerable Voices: Acknowledging the Critical Basic Needs of Colorado’s Homeless and the Impact of the AND Program, a study conducted by the Women’s College and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Communications from DU and is a candidate in the Master of Library and Information Science program in the Morgridge College of Education.

Kristina A Hesbol is an Assistant Professor in the DU Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department where she teaches graduate leadership courses. She has taught pre-K through high school students, as well as graduate students at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and at Illinois State University. She served as a building principal and in several school district-level positions before coming to DU. Her teaching, research, presentations and publications converge on the impact of the pivotal role of school/district leaders in building systemic capacity for improvement in guiding inclusive systems of learners, with social and organizational contexts of schools central to this focus. She serves as the Program Chair for the AERA Leadership for School Improvement Special Interest Group, as a mentor to three Barbara L. Jackson Scholars, and is one of the Senior Improvement Research Fellows for the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate.

Patricia Hurrieta is Director Culture and Equity, Denver Public Schools, and will complete her EdD in 2017.

Valentina Iturbe-LaGrave received her PhD in 19th Century Latin American Literature and a Certificate in College Teaching from the University of Colorado Boulder. She is a reviewer for To Improve the Academy: A Journal of Educational Development and serves as co-chair of the communications subcommittee for the Graduate and Professional Student Development committee of the Professional & Organizational Development Network in Higher Education. She is also an active team member of the TED Open Translation Project.

Brianna M Johnson: Born and raised in Edwards, CO, I knew leaving this beautiful state would be very difficult. That’s one reason why I earned my undergraduate degree at DU in international studies. During my time here, I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad in Ecuador for six months. This is my third year as the program coordinator for the DU Environmental Sustainability and Wellness Living and Learning Communities. I recently became a certified yoga teacher and enjoy growing my own food. I am on a constant journey to learn about systems of oppression and use that knowledge to make a positive difference in my communities.

Joint Council is an umbrella organization of the leaders of DU student alliances and unions on campus including but not limited to the Black Student Alliance, the Queer Student Alliance, the Muslim Student Association, the Asian Student Alliance, the Latino/a Student Alliance and more.

José R (Beto) Juárez, Jr, DU’s first Hispanic dean, began his tenure at the Sturm College of Law in July, 2006. An accomplished scholar, lawyer and administrator, Dean Juárez came to DU from St Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas, where he was a law professor and an associate dean for academic and student affairs. His research interests include employment discrimination, language rights, legal history, race, and religion and the law, and he has published extensively, presenting his work throughout the US and Mexico.

Sujie Kim is the Program Manager of the DU Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Richard Kitchen is the Kennedy Endowed Chair in Urban Education and Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning Sciences at DU. Dr Kitchen was the co-Principal Investigator of the Center for the Mathematics Education of Latinos/as that was funded through the National Science Foundation, Center for Learning and Teaching. He is the lead author of one book, co-editor of two books, initiated and served as a co-editor of the TODOS: Mathematics for All Research Monograph, and has worked nationally and internationally with numerous schools.

Kayla Knopp, MA, is a fifth-year student in the Clinical Child Psychology PhD program at DU. Her research and clinical work focus on the science of couples and romantic relationships, and she is an instructor in psychological research methods. A
primary focus of her academic work is to help to cultivate an appreciation of the value of diverse identities and perspectives, both to further social justice and to improve the scientific value of research, clinical work, and teaching in psychology.

Chris Lasch, Associate Professor of Law, has been litigating to protect his clients’ constitutional rights since 1996. After graduating from Yale Law School, Chris worked for three years as a public defender in Louisville, Kentucky, before forming a small private law firm dedicated to criminal defense and civil rights litigation. After serving as a Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor at the Suffolk University Law School during the 2009-10 academic year, Chris came to the Sturm College of Law to teach in the Criminal Defense Clinic. His scholarship focuses on the availability of constitutional remedies in federal habeas and state postconviction litigation, and on the intersection of criminal and immigration law.

Julie Law, MA, has been in the field of disabilities for the last 20 years. She has evaluated students for learning disabilities, tutored students with dyslexia, and provided accommodations for college students. Currently she offers academic support to students with learning disabilities, ADHD, and other learning differences in the Learning Effectiveness Program at DU. Julie’s experience ranges from early childhood to adulthood and includes multiple disabilities. She is passionate about supporting and advocating for individuals with disabilities.

Caroline Lawrie, MA

Moustapha Ly was born and raised in Senegal, and graduated from Université Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar. He came to the US in 2006 to pursue his graduate education at Kansas State University where he earned an AM in Modern Languages and Literatures. In 2008, he moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan where he completed his PhD in Francophone Studies with a particular focus on Francophone Caribbean literatures at the University of Michigan. He has been an Assistant Professor of Francophone Studies at DU since September 2015, after a one-year Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Michigan. He serves as the current faculty advisor for the Muslim Student Association.

E Madarasz is a second-year master’s student in the Higher Education program at DU. She works as a graduate resident director in the Housing and Residential Education department. E is interested in supporting LGBTQIA students through their identity development process as well as working with athletes who hold marginalized identities.

Alejandra Martinez is a Graduate student in Higher Education at DU. She holds a BS in Industrial & Organizational Psychology and a BS in Human Development & Family Studies from Colorado State University Fort Collins. Alejandra has served as a family resource navigator and advocate through United Way of Larimer County and a local Loveland Non-profit. She is also a graduate from the Family Leadership Training Institute, a civics engagement program. Alejandra serves as the Program Coordinator for DU's Public Achievement program.

Tara Meister is a third-year PhD candidate in the Curriculum and Instruction program. Tara earned her BA degree in English and Education from Colgate University and a Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Urban Education through the Boettcher Teachers’ Program. She taught secondary English teacher in Denver-area public schools for seven years. Her teaching focused on culturally responsive pedagogies and curriculum and the role of her and her students’ identities. Tara's passions involve qualitative and aesthetic methods, educational equity, narrative, and the role of race and power in education at both the individual and system levels.

Monica Mendoza

Brianna Mestas is a second-year PhD student in the Curriculum and Instruction program. Brianna earned her BA in Ethnic Studies from CU Boulder and her MA in Instruction and Curriculum with a focus in Urban Education with the Boettcher Teacher Program at DU. She taught ESL, Kindergarten, 1st, and 4th grade for five years in the Denver Metro area, and spent two years teaching 3rd grade overseas at the International School of Panama. Brianna is passionate about working with linguistically and culturally diverse students and families. She is interested in the intersections between social justice and curriculum.

Sarah Hart Micke is the Writing Center Assistant Director and a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Writing Program.

Ellen Miller-Brown is a Professor of Practice in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department. After 38 years in public education as a teacher, principal and district leader, she now supports the learning of future school- and district-based leaders, especially in the areas of turnaround schools, the challenges and opportunities of rural educational systems and equity and inclusive leadership.

Audrey Mooradian is a second-year master’s student in the Higher Education program at DU. Audrey currently works as a graduate resident director in the Housing and Residential Education (HRE) department. Audrey is interested in supporting students that may hold marginalized identities, and advocating for these students with the study abroad process, along with the reintegration process. Audrey is also passionate in working within HRE and gaining more knowledge around social justice and inclusive practices.

Angie Natoli is a Master’s Candidate in Higher Education in the Morgridge College of Education with a concentration in Student Affairs Administration. She earned her Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology and certificate in LGBT Studies at the University of Maryland in College Park. Angie works in the Office of Student Engagement as a Program Administrator working primarily with the DU
Programming Board. She also serves as the Social Committee Chair for the Graduate Student Government. Angie’s research interests focus on queer students, utilizing queer theory and discourse-analysis to gain a deeper understanding of student experiences and identities.

Danielle Nelson is a News Producer at KRDO Radio, TV, and Telemundo who has worked as a writer/producer for KCNC (CBSlocal News 4), KUSA (9News), KEPC (radio), KXRM (Fox 21), and in marketing and public relations.

Nicole Nicotera is an Associate Professor of Social Work, whose research and scholarship focus on: promoting health and well-being across the life span, civic engagement and mindfulness practices as pathways to well-being, measuring civic development and civic engagement, interventions to enhance civic leadership and positive youth development, the role of risk, protection, and resilience in health, and the issues of unearned privilege and oppression in social work practice, education and research. Dr. Nicotera has over 14 years of expertise in conducting and publishing quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research.

Julie M. Olomi is interested in understanding the effects of trauma on cognitive, social-emotional, and behavioral development; particularly, the long term effects of childhood maltreatment and subsequent risks for youth revictimization. She graduated with a BA in psychology from UC Davis, and has worked as a research assistant examining the adverse effects of childhood maltreatment, as well as a counselor for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Deb Ortega serves as director of DU’s Latino Center for Community Engagement and Scholarship, an interdisciplinary group of faculty members who engage in scholarship, research and service for the benefit of the Latino community. She also conducts research and teaches multicultural social work courses at GSSW. Ortega has authored and co-authored numerous journals articles, book chapters and grant reports, and she has given presentations at state, regional, national and international conferences. Her many grant-funded projects include private provider training, programs to assist youth transitioning from foster care, evaluation of a juvenile mediation project and a three-year effort to develop models of effective child welfare with Hispanic families.

Ping Qiu is a Teaching Assistant Professor of Chinese. She teaches Chinese language and literature and cultural studies courses at DU. Her research interests are in Chinese and Chinese diaspora literary and cultural studies.

Juli Parrish is the Writing Center Director and a Teaching Associate Professor in the Writing Program. She is in her seventh year at DU. Her research includes work on Writing Across the Curriculum, writing tutor education, archival research, and the extracurricular writing of women’s college students. She has an MA in English from Temple University and a PhD in English, with a concentration on Literacy and Pedagogy, from the University of Pittsburgh.

Raúl Pérez is Assistant Professor in the DU Department of Sociology and Criminology. His research and teaching interests span several areas, including race/ethnicity and racisms, social inequality, social problems, law and society, culture, theory, and humor/comedy studies. His current research examines how racial discourse shifted in the US from the pre-civil rights era to the present, with an eye on how racist humor evolved as a result of the civil rights movement. His research has been featured in Time magazine, The Grio, and Latina Rebels.

Sarah Pessin is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Center for Judaic Studies. Her scholarship focuses on Jewish philosophy; neoplatonisms; comparative Jewish, Islamic and Christian medieval philosophy; and modern Jewish philosophy (Buber, Rosenzweig, Levinas). Sarah also annually co-organizes the Week of Jewish Philosophy and the Philosophy in the Abrahamic Traditions conference. At DU, she continues to be active in campus inclusivity and diversity efforts, including co-chairing a new working group on Race, Inequality, and Social Change (RISC), serving on the board of IRISE, and serving on the Chancellor’s Diversity and Equity Advisory Committee.

Virgina Pitts: I was born in Denver, but lived several different places between then and now, from rural Oklahoma (where I grew up) to urban/suburban Evanston, IL (where I earned my PhD from Northwestern University in Learning Sciences). I am in my fourth year as Associate Director in DU’s Office of Teaching and Learning; before that, I consulted with National Geographic Education Programs, and taught at CU-Denver and Regis. I love being outside, spending time with my husband and our four-year-old rescue dog, and learning through my interactions with others what it means to be a more fully-aware, present, compassionate human being.

Guillermo Ramírez (pronouns: he/him/his) is a masters student in the Higher Education program at DU. Guillermo was born and raised in Colorado and received his bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University where he found his passion in giving back to Undocumented Students and the Latinx community. Guillermo is currently serving as a Program Administrator in the Office of Student Engagement specifically working with the Fraternity and Sorority Life community. Guillermo hopes to help students in the Latinx community in their journey through college.

Tom I Romero, II, is an Associate Professor of Law and is affiliated faculty with the Department of History. He teaches and researches in the areas of the legal history of the American West, Latinos and the law, school desegregation in multiracial contexts, property, land use, water law, and urban development and local government in the United States and Latin America. As Assistant Provost for IE Research and Curriculum Initiatives for the larger university, Tom works to make DU one of the premier institutions in the country for the rigorous study of social and institutional inequality through the University’s IRISE initiative.

Diana Romero-Campbell, Director, Early Success, Mile High United Way
Julia Roncoroni, PhD, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In her country, Julia was a preschool and first grade teacher for several years. In 2007, she moved to the US. In 2010, she graduated as a BA in psychology, with a minor in counseling and social change, from San Diego State University. Julia obtained her MA degree in psychology (2012) and PhD in psychology (2016) from University of Florida. Dr Roncoroni's research primarily concentrates on addressing health disparities. She is particularly interested in empowering minorities in the US to access the resources they need to live fuller lives.

Aisha Rousseau, CRC, serves as the Director of the Office of Disability Rights for the City and County of Denver. Aisha comes to this position most recently after serving as a tenure track professor at the University of Arizona. She holds an earned PhD in Health Related Sciences from the School of Allied Health Professions at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr Rousseau continues to write and conduct research pertaining to the intersection of disability, gender and multicultural issues, as well as minority women living with HIV/AIDS and has a number of published peer-reviewed publications and book chapters.

Alicia Saxe is a PhD candidate in Curriculum and Instruction at DU, with a passion for research, holistic education, activism, and human flourishing. I grew up in Colorado, but I love the ocean just as much as the mountains. Hence, I did a double Bachelor’s in Psychology and Spanish at the University of Hawaii and then spent eight years traveling, teaching, and studying in various parts of the world. Chile, Venezuela, Portugal, and Australia have all been home to me and they all have great mountains or beaches, or both! I am an enthusiastic teacher and life-long learner who thrives in the classroom and in the outdoors.

Aaron Schneider is Associate Professor in the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, and Leo Block Chair of International Studies, Director, Latin America Center and Co-Director, International Development Degree Program. Dr Schneider’s work focuses on the intersection of wealth and power, and he has conducted research in Latin America, India, and sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, he emphasizes the study of public finance as a window into the political economy of development and democracy. The way governments secure contributions from key social groups, and how they decide what to do with the money tells a story about the nature of national political communities – who is in, who is out, and who will enjoy what benefits of membership.

Lynn Schofield Clark is Professor and Chair of the Department of Media, Film and Journalism Studies and Director of the Estlow International Center for Journalism and New Media at DU. She currently oversees three research projects: the Teens & The New Media @ Home Project, which explores the introduction of digital and mobile media into US family life (see the book, The Parent App: Understanding Families in a Digital Age); the Young MediaMakers Project, which is studying how young people across various walks of life get and share the news that is important to them in relation to their communities of concern; and the Global Students Online Project, which is studying the possibilities for enhanced intercultural understanding through media-making and online interactions.

Lori Scott: Undergraduate Student; Co-President, Feminist Student Alliance; co-founder of original Sexual Assault Awareness Summit

Jimmie Smith, Med, has been the Director of LEP since the fall of 2009. Education is her career of choice and helping students be successful is her passion. Jimmie has worked in the field of education for over 35 years. She earned a BS degree in Psychology and a Master’s in Education as well as additional graduation credits in Educational Leadership and a specialization in Learning Disabilities. The majority of her career has been working with student with diverse learning needs.

Denise Soler Cox is an indie filmmaker, national speaker, and award-winning entrepreneur. She is a sought-after speaker in academic, business and community circles inspiring everyday people to better tomorrow’s world by becoming better versions of themselves today. In 2012, talent intersected with passion and Soler Cox co-founded Project Enye with Oscar-nominated documentary veteran Henry Ansbacher. Project Enye is a cultural movement focused on creating new conversations that reinvent the way we view culture and interpret diversity in our lives. Through film and live community engagements, Project Enye bridges the gap between culture and place and facilitates Radical Cultural Self-Awareness, a present-moment introspection of culture, identity and self.

Alisha Stanton is a doctoral candidate at DU, where she also completed a Masters in Higher Education. She entered the field of education after spending many years in broadcast sports and music entertainment. Following the completion of an internship in Lancaster England, and traveling throughout Latin America with secondary students, she developed a passion for global and international education. Her current research initiatives focus on creating global experience opportunities for students of all economic and cultural backgrounds, and the inclusion of global and international understanding in graduate education preparation programs - specifically in colleges of education. The lack of diversity in fields of global and international study inspires her research, and the need to increase access to global knowledge.

Barbara Stuart: Long time researcher into conflict resolution with papers published at the US Institute of Peace, a Fulbright to Russia on “confictology” and multiple international professional development sessions for business people, government officials, students and other educators.

Ethel Swartley is a teaching assistant professor in DU’s English Language Center, where she works daily with international students from around the globe. As an English language teacher, she has had opportunities to teach, travel, and train teachers in 14 different countries, and she loves learning from the diversity her students bring to the classroom.
Kimberly Ta is the executive director of Project Ava 501(c)(3) where her missions is to promote underrepresented communities, expand social inequality awareness, and sustain a platform that empowers minority voices. Kimberly was an active member of the Vietnamese Student Association during her undergrad at Georgetown University, where she advocated for visibility of SE Asians on campus. She has published viral essays on Project Ava and LinkedIn and has been published on The Huffington Post as a contributor.

Armond Towns is an Assistant Professor of Culture and Communication. He is increasingly interested in “Man’s” representation in both science and philosophy. This leads Professor Towns to examine the intersections between race, gender, sexuality, class, time, and space. Thus, his areas of study include, but are not limited to, black radicalism, media and cultural studies, post- and decolonial studies, the philosophy and science of race, feminist and queer geography, and political economy. His research can be found in Social Identities: Journal for the Study of Race, Nation and Culture, Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies, and Women's Studies in Communication.

Meagan Traver is a DU student in fine arts and business, particular research and interest in Hamilton as well as storytelling expertise and methods for orientation.

Shannon Valerio has served on several campus committees, including the Chancellor’s Committee on Diversity and Equity, the Center for Multicultural Excellence Advisory Board, the Status of Faculty and Staff of Color Study Committee, the Native American Scholarship and Advocacy Committee and the Phi Beta Kappa Gamma Chapter of Colorado. She was a founding member of the Staff of Color Association and served as one of the first Co-Chairs. She was both a traditional undergraduate and graduate student at DU, earning her BA in 1992 and her MA in 1995, both in Anthropology. As a graduate student she founded the first Native American Student Alliance at the University. She began her career at DU in 1996, first in the then Office of Minority Affairs, and moving to UTS in 1998. In 2001, she took over the UTS Help Center, eventually becoming the Director of IT Support Services.

Sam Valliere is Executive Assistant to the Chair, Department of Management, Daniels College of Business. Staff and Student with particular interest and experience in Latin America.

Doug Van Dine received his PhD in 2014 from University at Buffalo, State University of New York / in Mathematics Education. After 15 years of classroom experience teaching middle and high school mathematics, as well as three years of experience as a school administrator, Doug is now conducting research in children's developing understanding of measurement and supporting professional development for teachers and administrators across the country as the Research Project Director of the James C. Kennedy Institute for Educational Success at DU.

Jacklyn VanOoyik is a Doctorate of Education candidate in the DU Morgridge College of Education. She is focusing her research on developing stronger leadership in mathematics education. This is Jacklyn’s seventh year of teaching middle school math and she is currently teaching 8th grade at Denver Discovery School.

Alicia Vasquez is a doctoral student in the DU department of Curriculum and Instruction. Her research interests include dropout prevention programs, academic support interventions, and advocacy-based teacher education programs.

Vanessa Vasquez (pronouns: she/her/hers) was raised in Mexico and in Los Angeles. She obtained her Associates Degree at Santa Monica Community College and transferred to California State University of Chico where she obtained her Bachelors in Psychology. Currently, Vanessa is a Master’s student in DU’s Higher Education program. She is passionate about supporting first generation undocumented students in education. As an academic achievement coach at the Community College of Aurora, she supports students in navigating the educational system and being successful in their educational goals.

Darsella Vigil is a doctoral student in the Higher Education program at DU. Darsella earned her Masters degree in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Advocacy at New York University, where she worked for the Higher Education Opportunity Programs, providing academic support to historically underrepresented students. As a first-generation college student herself, Darsella’s research interests include examining post-secondary access and attainment for various underrepresented populations, such as Black, Latino, first-generation, immigrant, and undocumented students. She continues to mentor and support Latino and Black young adults, of all statuses, in both Denver and New York public schools.

Robin Walker Sterling, Associate Professor of Law, is a graduate of Yale College and NYU School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar, and Georgetown University Law Center, where she earned an LLM in Clinical Advocacy. For the last three years, Professor Walker Sterling has worked as the Special Counsel with the National Juvenile Defender Center, a juvenile defense policy advocacy organization in Washington, DC. Professor Walker Sterling’s research and teaching interests include clinical advocacy, criminal law, and juvenile justice. Professor Walker Sterling’s current work in progress explores extending the right to a jury trial to juveniles facing delinquency proceedings.

Ellen Winiarczyk, EdD, CEO Win-ar-zic & Associates. For approximately 10 years, Ellen was the Director for Education at the Washington Service Corps, one of the nation largest, and most established, youth development programs. She pioneered collaborative training and technical assistance across 4 states, project-based and service-learning practices, and managed grants to school districts and nonprofits. Most recently Ellen has led leadership development, instructional/executive coaching, and inclusive excellence initiatives as a consultant for K-12/higher
education, corporations, government agencies, and nonprofits. Ellen teaches masters level leadership development at the DU University College.

**Olivia Grace Wolfe** graduated from Butler University in 2015 with a BA in International Studies and Spanish. She is currently a Master’s student in International and Intercultural Communications at DU. Her research primarily focuses on Human Mobility, especially concerning immigration and expatriation. She recently traveled to Tucson, Arizona for a class specifically on Immigration at the US-Mexico border through DU which inspired this workshop. Since this trip, she has been actively trying to create conversations about immigration with friends and family to help others understand the importance of this issue.

**Eanice Wong, BS,** recently graduated from DU with a degree in Psychology. During her undergraduate career, she worked in the Child Health and Development lab, where, in completing her thesis, she explored the impact of caregivers’ positive and negative life experiences on parent and child outcomes. Currently, she works in the LEARN Lab, in which research is largely focused on examining the risk factors associated with the comorbidity of learning disabilities, ADHD, and anxiety.

**Naomi Wright** is interested in how contextual factors mediate differences in trauma-related responses, likelihood of treatment seeking, and healing and resilience. She graduated with a BA in Psychology in 2015 from University of Oregon where she served as a trauma psychology research assistant. Naomi also worked with justice-system-involved youth in Eugene, and hospitalized adults with substance use needs in Portland.

**Joseph Zhang** is the co-founder of Project Ava, an advocacy-based multimedia website dedicated to sharing meaningful stories. In addition, he has produced short films and organized social campaigns for multiple causes and partners, including the Jubilee Project, MADD, and the Cunningham Foundation. He studied business, legal studies, and leadership at DU and King’s College London.

**Xiaoyi Zhu** is a Master’s students in the DU International and Intercultural Communication program.