

# CO-LEADS

COLORADO LEADERSHIP FOR EQUITY, ADVOCACY AND  
DISCOVERING SOCIAL JUSTICE

**OUR SPACE OUR PLACE**

**EVERYDAY ACTIVISM**

**IN OUR COMMUNITIES**



Keynote Speaker from "The Brown Boi Project"

**STUDENT SUMMIT** Friday, November 1st 2013  
9:00AM-4:00PM, Auraria Campus

Registration Opens August 30th

[http://www.du.edu/  
cme/colleads.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/colleads.html)



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DENVER



COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF AURORA

# OUR SPACE OUR PLACE EVERYDAY ACTIVISM IN OUR COMMUNITIES

This year, we'll be exploring the theme, Our Space, Our Place: Everyday Activism in Our Communities. Our keynote and breakout sessions will engage self-awareness, social systems, personal skills and collaborative action through this lens. This conference strives to challenge participants to reflect on their commitment to social justice so they can learn how to effect change through everyday activism in their communities.

The Co-LEADS conference was established in 2009 by a group of individuals on the Auraria and DU campuses as a way to bridge discussions of leadership and social justice in a meaningful way. The Summit invites college students from across Colorado to join in discussions of social justice, activism, advocacy, and social change. Throughout the day students participate in a number of workshops that challenge, grow, and inspire them to make change in their own lives and their communities. The Summit is co-sponsored by the Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, the University of Colorado Denver, Iliff School of Theology, the University of Denver, and Community College of Aurora.

## SPECIAL THANKS

### **2013 CO-LEADS Planning Committee**

Steve Willich - Chair, Carissa Weaver, Erika Church, Buffy Jamison, Danny Sandoval, Deserae Sarabia, Ed Garton, Elizabeth Mendoza, Erin Christensen, Gretta Mincer, Jaime Ingrisano, Kathryn Mahoney, Koreena Montoya, Sarah Berg, Thomas Walker

### **2013 Sponsors**

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Student Life, University of Colorado Denver

The Phoenix Center at Auraria

Urban Leadership Program at Metropolitan State University of Denver

Women's Resource Center, University of Colorado Denver

### **Poster Design:**

Shawn Sulehria



# BROWN BOI PROJECT

## KEYNOTE & CLOSING SESSION

The Brown Boi Project is a community of masculine of center womyn, men, two-spirit people, transmen, and our allies committed to transforming our privilege of masculinity, gender, and race into tools for achieving Racial and Gender Justice.

We work for **Gender Justice** by re-envisioning the power imbalance between traditional notions of masculinity and femininity. We hold institutional systems, other masculine people, and ourselves accountable for its accompanying privileges. We draw on a gender inclusive framework that shapes non-oppressive masculinity rooted in honor, community, and empowerment of feminine identified people, especially women and girls.



**We value Justice:** We are a broad, diverse community of activists, philanthropists, rebels, and leaders who are driven by a commitment to racial justice, gender justice, and transforming our privilege of masculinity into a tool for social change. We prioritize support that improves the lives of masculine of center womyn; queer and trans people, and people of color—work that transforms the lives of women and girls and introduces new alliances and tools for challenging racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia across our communities.

**We value critical inquiry:** We recognize that building community requires time, effort, and sacrifice. We see questions as essentials to growth, renewal, and the overturning of ideas that harm our communities. We support innovative organizations that provide places to share and grow collectively and individually, those that align social justice movements and open new dialogues at the margins.

**We value tenacity:** we are bold, daring, fearless, and steadfast in challenging assumptions and conventions in ways that resonate and connect with grassroots communities of color. We think critically and strategically in search of the best answers and approaches. We live at the intersections, transgressing boundaries and bringing about new dialogues.

**We value innovation:** we approach our work with optimism, think boldly, and see new ideas as opportunities for transformation, forward growth, and social change.

For more information go to [www.brownboiproject.org](http://www.brownboiproject.org)

# WORKSHOP 1

All CO-LEADS attendees are participating in the same workshop this round, to further explore some concepts of identity in personal terms.

Our goal is to give everyone a little more time with a common language around the step beyond “just” diversity, to social justice. Specifically, we are going to explore our privilege around various identities.

This is not meant to make anyone feel guilty or ashamed around having or not having particular privileges, but rather explore how we ALL have SOME privilege, and therefore how to engage that aspect of our part in our societies. We believe it is critical for everyone to “sit in” this understanding in order to work and lead individually and collectively for social justice.

Room numbers for this session were provided during check-in.

# WORKSHOP 2—CHOOSE ONE

## **Tools for Change: the LARA Method and Nonviolent Communication**

PLAZA 112

Foula Dimopoulos

Perhaps you have been in a situation where you experienced a derogatory comment or overheard one. Or, you wanted to share your opinion, and you found that there was not way to “win”. Perhaps, you could just feel your heart race as you experienced an act of injustice, and you had no idea to respond. this workshop focuses on identification of triggers, and the LARA method — a nonviolent communication skill that started in Oregon and focuses on the preservation of human dignity.

We use this tool with speakers bureau and educational outreach. If you have ever wanted to engage in dialogue and didn't know how, or if you want additional tools, this will be a great workshop!

## **Examining the Micro**

PLAZA 114

Bobbi Capps

Microbehaviors refer to actions and behaviors we are not always aware of that make other feel included or excluded, valued or unvalued. In this session students will learn about microaggressions, microinequities, and microaffirmations. After engaging in activities and discussions regarding these behaviors participants will better be able to identify the behaviors in themselves and others. Additionally, they will be better prepared to openly discuss the profound effects of microbehavior, leading to personal awareness and great social change.

## **The Dynamic of Equitable Leadership**

PLAZA 116

Gordon Hamby

Through presentation, conversation and interactive activity, this workshop will explore methods by which social, campus and community based leaders can provide an equitable platform of progression to guide their organizations. The model for this work shop revolves around the nurturing of organization members by the leader, to encourage personal and professional growth, thus creating a socially just organizational environment, that will in turn lead each member to share this equitable model within their school, work and home networks.

## **Building Statewide Student Power—The Colorado Student Power Alliance**

PLAZA 130

Colorado Student Power Alliance

This workshop will cover how students have recently been leading campus reform and shaping the climate and culture of their universities through political activism, specifically focusing on how students have worked across campuses in order to make state-wide/system-wide changes in their cities and states. We will lead group discussion about how campaign efforts led by students can be used to shape our own campus communities. The workshop will also cover currently initiatives to launch a Colorado statewide student association. The presentation will be interactive and encourage group participation and discussion. The goal of the workshop would be to empower students to make change within their own communities and provide motivational examples of students advocating for themselves and members of their communities.

## **Explicit Content: Media Literacy, Social Justice and the Role of Leaders**

PLAZA 132

Jennifer Doe

The Phoenix Center at Auraria would like the opportunity to present our newly created Media Literacy curriculum at CO Leads this year. This interactive workshop provokes discussion about what interpersonal violence is and how media and pop culture messages contribute to the normalization of it in our culture. Activities, images and video clips about media messaging and message delivery will illustrate concepts of sexual objectification, gender construction, and the intersections of race, class, and power as they relate to interpersonal violence. These discussions are intended to help participants think critically about how media and interpersonal violence relate and what their role as leaders is in challenging it as a means to create social change.

## **Urban Street Codes Prepared Me for Leadership in Higher Education**

PLAZA 136

Omar Montgomery

Many college students from urban backgrounds have natural leadership capabilities but they also have to navigate the internal conflict between their urban life styles and higher education culture. Students who may have been exposed to different elements of urban street cultures may have had both positive and negative experiences such as: generational poverty, able to adapt to extreme situations, minimum number of role models, self motivators/ or adopt virtual role models, lack of accessibility to health care, create ways to survive with minimum resources, illegal activities, ability to makes life changing decisions, living with or by “Urban” street codes, or a unique understanding of trust and loyalty . These elements of urban street culture could have a dual effect on an individual going into higher education. This workshop will explain how students being exposed to urban street cultures in many cases are very innovative with the capability of handling very stressful situations. These talents of students coming from urban backgrounds are sometimes ignored or overshadowed by traditional practices of student leadership. This honest dialogue will also include how hip-hop has empowered urban youth and how it transitions to student leaders in higher education. Lastly, this workshop will conclude with best practices on how students, staff, faculty and administrators can work with student leaders from urban backgrounds to increase campus wide diversity and awareness for social justice issues.

**Please be sure to complete and return your pre-survey and post-evaluations to help us understand and improve CO-LEADS**

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Want to take what you learned today and be active in your community?  
Here are just *some* volunteer opportunities you may be interested in:**

## **SafeHouse Denver**

Contact <http://www.safehouse-denver.org> or 303-302-6112

Safehouse Denver operates the only shelter in the City and County of Denver that exclusively serves victims of domestic violence. Long-term and episodic volunteer opportunities are available.

## **The Rape Assistance and Awareness Program**

contact [nfo@raap.org](mailto:nfo@raap.org)

The Rape Assistance and Awareness Program (RAAP) vision is a world where all people are free from sexual violence. Our mission is to work towards the elimination of sexual violence by assisting victims through their healing and educating the public about sexual violence and its prevention. Multiple opportunities and volunteer types available including 24-hour crisis hotline advocate, hospital advocate, special project volunteer, or office volunteer. Hours and commitment vary.

## **The Phoenix Center at Auraria**

Contact [www.thepca.org/volunteer](http://www.thepca.org/volunteer) or 303-556-6011

The Phoenix Center at Auraria (PCA) is an on-campus victim advocacy program serving the Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and the University of Colorado Denver and the Auraria Higher Education Center. It serves students, staff, and faculty experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence or stalking. All services are free and confidential. Various volunteer opportunities available.

## **Colorado AIDS Project**

Contact [www.coloradoaidsproject.org](http://www.coloradoaidsproject.org) or 303-837-0166

The mission of the Colorado AIDS Project (CAP) is to prevent HIV infection and improve lives affected by HIV and AIDS. Colorado AIDS Project is a 30 year old community-based organization that helps those living with HIV/AIDS and those at risk to make healthy choices for a self-sufficient, enhanced quality of life. CAP provides innovative, individualized services to those most in need, educates high risk populations, and advocates for social and health care equity. Multiple volunteer opportunities available.

## **Planned Parenthood**

Contact [www.plannedparenthood.org/rocky-mountains](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/rocky-mountains) or 303-321-PLAN

PPRM has been helping women, men and teens make responsible choices for over 90 years. Since 1916 we have been committed to delivering the highest quality reproductive health care, teaching responsible and age-appropriate sexuality education and have been working diligently to protect a woman's right to choose. Multiple volunteer opportunities available.

## **GLBT Center of Colorado**

Contact <http://www.glbtcOLORADO.org> or 303-733-7743

The Center at 1301 E Colfax is the only state-wide, non-profit community center dedicated to providing support and advocacy for Colorado's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender population. We serve as a catalyst for community organizing, support services, social activities, and cultural events. Multiple volunteer opportunities are available.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## **Gender Identity Center**

Contact <http://www.gicofcolo.org> or 303-202-6466

The Gender Identity Center of Colorado was formed to provide support to anyone gender variant in their gender identity and expression. The Gender Identity Center of Colorado is also an informational and educational resource to the community at large. The Gender Identity Center of Colorado is available to anyone, male/female/other who can benefit from its services or resources, including spouses, significant others, parents, and siblings. Multiple volunteer opportunities are available.

## **It Takes a Village**

Contact <http://www.ittakesavillagecolorado.org> or 303-367-4747

It Takes a Village is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose mission is to reduce health and social disparities among people of color in the Denver/Aurora, Colorado metropolitan area.

## **Matthew Sheppard Foundation**

Contact <http://www.matthewsheppard.org> or 303-830-7400

The Matthew Sheppard Foundation was founded by Dennis and Judy Sheppard in memory of their 21-year old son, Matthew, who was murdered in an anti-gay hate crime in Wyoming in October 1998. The Foundation seeks to "Replace Hate with Understanding, Compassion, and Acceptance" through its varied educational, outreach, and advocacy programs and by continuing to tell Matthew's Story. Multiple volunteer opportunities are available.

## **Project Angel Heart**

Contact <http://www.projectangelheart.org> or 303-830-0202

Project Angel Heart is a non-profit organization that delivers nutritious meals to improve quality of life, at no cost, for those coping with life-threatening illness in the Denver metro and Colorado Springs areas. Project Angel Heart is unique in that it delivers meals without age or income restrictions, at absolutely no charge to our clients. Moreover, our food is freshly prepared and modified based on the dietary need. Multiple volunteer opportunities available.

## **National Gay & Lesbian Task Force**

Contact <http://www.thetaskforce.org> or 202-393-5177

The mission of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force is to build the grassroots power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. As part of a broader social justice movement, we work to create a nation that respects the diversity of human expression and identity and creates opportunity for all. Multiple volunteer opportunities are available.

## **Colorado Anti-Violence Program**

Contact <http://www.coavp.org> or 303-839-5204

Since 1986 the Colorado Anti-Violence Program has been dedicated to eliminating violence within and against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities in Colorado, and providing the highest quality services to survivors. Multiple volunteer types available.





# SCHEDULE

**9:00-9:45 AM**

**Registration and Breakfast—Tivoli Center Turnhalle**

**9:45-10:45 AM**

**Opening Session: The Brown Boi Project—Tivoli Center Turnhalle**

**11:00-12:30 PM**

**Workshop Session 1—See your check-in materials for location**

**12:30-1:15 PM**

**Lunch—Tivoli Center Turnhalle**

**1:15-2:45**

**Workshop Session 2—See descriptions for location**

**3:00-4:00 PM**

**Closing Session: Brown Boi Project— Tivoli Center Turnhalle**

\*Students sponsored by DU will gather in Tivoli 442 immediately following the closing session, to explore ways to apply today's learning on our campus

## DENVER FAITH & JUSTICE CONFERENCE



The Denver Faith & Justice Conference offers training on how to actively respond to local injustices. Diverse churches and non-profits, through the DFJC, equip and empower individuals and communities to identify and respond to the most pressing issues in our city.

During this year's Pre-conference we will discuss our theme, Sustainable Justice, with organizations from across the city. During our Main Conference event, we will explore our topics through the lens of our theme, Sustainable Justice with the direction of our Main Speakers Chris and Phileena Heuertz.

The Denver Faith & Justice Conference is being held tomorrow, November 2. Student Registration is \$15. Please go to [www.dfjc.org](http://www.dfjc.org) for more information