

# 4D Symposium 2026 – "A World of Purpose"

## Day 2 Schedule

### 4D Coffeehouse | 9:30-10:20 am

#### CCOM 1700

Historically, coffeehouses have been the sites for the robust exchange of ideas and information, providing the opportunity to explore and engage the big questions of the moment from diverse perspectives.

The 4D Coffeehouse welcomes faculty, staff, and students to come together over coffee for facilitated, rotational discussions on issues of importance, institutionally and nationally. In an era questioning higher education's value and purpose, this 4D Coffeehouse at the 4D Symposium explores the question "what if purpose were the purpose of higher education?"

Join us for facilitated, rotational conversations that invite dialogue on how we would reimagine structures, partnerships, and learning experiences to center purpose and meaning-making.

### Morning Sessions | 10:30-11:50am

#### Contemplative Conversations on Meaning in This Moment

CCOM Gallery

*Workshop (80 min)*

Presenter(s):

Shannon Sliva, MSW, PhD, Associate Professor, GSSW

Kristen Parker, Doctoral Student, GSSW

Kimberly Bender, PhD, Philip D. and Eleanor G. Winn Endowed Professor for Children and Youth, GSSW (contributor in absentia)

Amid sociopolitical and institutional uncertainty, many in higher education – people positioned to help others make sense of the world – are themselves struggling with a sense of meaning. Situated in contemplative science and dialogic inquiry, this facilitated session invites faculty and staff to participate in a brief intervention designed to increase compassion, connection, and sense of purpose. During contemplative conversations, participants will share stories of meaning, listen deeply to one another, and reflect back threads of importance. Together, we will acknowledge challenges to our sense of meaning in this moment and uplift ways we might navigate toward sources of personal and collective purpose.

## **The Photography and Memory Project: Bridging the Gap Between Generations** CCOM 1600

*Innovation Session*

Presenter(s):

Anne Walker, PhD, Adjunct Professor

Roddy MacInnes, PhD, Professor, Art - Photography

The Photography and Memory Project connected generations through the power of photography. DU students met with a group of older adults through the Denver Public Library, sharing their most significant photographs with one another. This simple approach initiated an exchange of life stories, illustrating the intimate relationship between photography and memory, creating a meaningful bridge between generations. Subsequent projects included partnerships with the Denver Art Museum as well as the Denver Housing Authority, connecting community members with DU students through the love of photography and storytelling.

## **Co-Curricular Education With an Edge: 4D Zine Library**

**CCOM 1600**

*Innovation Session*

Presenter(s):

Krystoff Kissoon, DA, 4D Assistant Director of Co-Curricular Innovation

Come learn about the new 4D Zine Library, which hosts self-guided digital workbooks for students to foster reflection, exploration, and meaningful connection between learning and lived experiences, framed through a media and pop culture lens. And in the process, explore and brainstorm ways you can use our zine workbooks to support students' learning and development in your networks.

## **Mentoring in the Moment: Using Reflection Cards in Peer Mentoring**

**CCOM 1600**

*Innovation Session*

Presenter(s):

Brie Jutte, Director, New Student and Family Programs

Sydney Chossek '27

Join New Student and Family Programs to learn more about how 4D Reflection Cards are being integrated into 4D Peer Mentoring to support reflective conversations and mentoring of a moment with new students. Attendees will also have the opportunity to explore how to use the cards in their own work.

## **"Stars in Our Constellation" Plenary Lunch | 12-1:20 pm**

**CCOM 1700**

During this lunch, we will gather to celebrate outstanding work being done across the DU community, highlighting those who serve as “stars in our constellation” through their outstanding commitment to advancing a holistic student experience and culture of care. The 2026 4D Yeti Award recipients will be recognized at this lunch.

## **Story Mosaic: Unscripted | 1:30-3 pm**

**CCOM 1700**

At this storytelling event, listen to powerful stories of breaking free from social scripts, stepping outside societal expectations, charting one's own course, and redefining purpose with intention and authenticity. Presented by the 4D Experience, Human Resources & Inclusive Community, Division of Community Support & Engagement, and Health Promotion.