



# IGNITE

**SOCIAL JUSTICE + LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**October 21, 2023**

Kittredge Multipurpose Room



Center for Inclusion and Social Change  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

## Land Acknowledgment

The University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado's flagship university, honors and recognizes the many contributions of Indigenous peoples in our state. CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts. While the University of Colorado Boulder can never undo or rectify the devastation wrought on Indigenous peoples, we commit to improving and enhancing engagement with Indigenous peoples and issues locally and globally.

### We will do this by:

- Recognizing and amplifying the voices of Indigenous CU Boulder students, staff and faculty and their work.
- Educating, conducting research, supporting student success and integrating Indigenous knowledge.
- Consulting, engaging and working collaboratively with tribal nations to enhance our ability to provide access and culturally sensitive support and to recruit, retain and graduate Native American students in a climate that is inclusive and respectful.

## Schedule at a glance

**Registration and breakfast** / 9-9:30 am

**Opening Remarks** / 9:30-9:45 am

**Session 1 breakouts** / 9:45-10:30 am

**Session 2 breakouts** / 10:35-11:20 am

**Session 3 breakouts** / 11:35 am-12:20 pm

**Lunch** / 12:30-1 pm

**Keynote speaker** / 1-2 pm



## Conference Schedule

9:30 am - 9:45 am Session

### Opening Remarks

Emcees: Caroline Horn (she/her/hers) and Erica Carlos Perez (she/her/hers)

**Speaker Bios:** Caroline is a junior majoring in Business Administration emphasizing in information management with a minor in computer science. She's from Rancho Palos Verdes, California. She enjoys cross-stitching, hiking, and going to concerts. She joined PEEPs because she wanted to grow as an individual and engage in critical conversations with others.

Erica is a senior majoring in Information Management and Business Analytics with a minor in Information Science. She is a first-gen Filipino student from Aurora, Colorado. She enjoys being in nature and collecting plushies. As a PEEP, she strives to bring awareness and reflection on campus, starting dialogue. She also stands as a resource for her peers from campus resources to a listening friend.



Erica Carlos Perez  
(she/her/hers)



Caroline Horn  
(she/her/hers)

9:45 am - 10:30 am Sessions

### Authentically Me: The Best-Self Developmental Course

Location: Kitt Central MPR A

Speaker: Fred Hodges Jr. (he/him/his)

**Description:** As leaders, we must find the message in the mess. We were not created to be average. Once the test comes, it's confirmation that we are on the right path. There will be seasons where things are not going according to our plans, remember, the broken are who are primarily used! Pain develops purpose. Being a leader, you must fall in love with your imperfect self. A shark never stops moving, or it dies. This development course will teach us to keep moving because there is no pain that's bigger than our purpose! We grow from the dirt life throws at us, and in times of discouragement, we must keep in mind that broken crayons still color.

**Speaker Bio:** Fred Hodges, a native of Pittsburgh, holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in college counseling from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Having served as the director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services at Robert Morris University outside of Pittsburgh, Pa., Fred's passion lies in programs that impact diverse populations and promote student development. Throughout his career, Fred has demonstrated a commitment to being a servant leader while making a positive difference in people's lives. His passion and motivational energy exemplify the concept of authentic leadership! Undoubtedly, Fred's vision of impacting one person at a time touches the hearts of others. Having moved to Denver, Colorado, on Aug. 7, 2021, Fred has been eager to make the most of his experiences there, and he is looking forward to the new chapters in his story.



Fred Hodges Jr.  
(he, him, his)



## Revolution is Not a One Time Event: Seven Stages of Conocimiento

Location: Kitt Central N101 (overflow Kitt Central S161)

Speaker: Sonja Benton (they/them/theirs/elle)

**Description:** I often get the question of where to start in activism. There is so much internal work that comes before that. The process begins “with the earth, la tierra, and with losing the ground beneath us or our placement.” The next step is “the experience of feeling out of place in every place, of being between two differing and competing spaces and worldviews.” What have these moments can or have looked like for students? Then comes the big shift into the external. This is where the seeable work begins, since it is where we begin to reshape our present.

**Speaker Bio:** Sonja comes to the Pride Office from Bozeman, MT, where they taught LGBTQ+ studies and ran diversity trainings for universities, health care facilities and K-12 schools. They have degrees in astrophysics, English and scrapbooking (yes, really), which lends them a unique perspective on undergraduate and graduate scholarship and student life. They continue to present LGBTQ+ focused work at conferences around the U.S., including with NWSA and Rainbows Over the Rockies. Their current focus is on collective grief and radical hope. Sonja identifies as disabled, queer, intersex and Latine. They’ve been involved in environmental and social justice programs since their teens and are eager to continue this important work at CU Boulder and beyond. Sonja currently lives with their two partners and cat, Zuzu. Sonja is currently working through their long to-read list, playing too much Animal Crossing and watching horror movies.



Sonja Benton  
(they/them/theirs/elle)



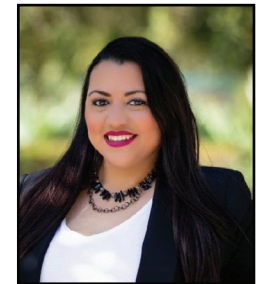
## True Colors: Leading Beyond the Classroom

Location: Kitt Central N252 (overflow Kitt Central S163)

Speakers: Ysatis Piñero (she/her/hers/ella)

**Description:** As student leaders, we aren’t just leaders in the classroom - we are leaders everywhere we go. This session will utilize the True Colors activity to guide participants as they learn about their leadership style, learn strategies to lead from any seat in the room and how to incorporate more inclusive practices into all aspects of their daily lives.

**Speaker Bio:** Ysatis Piñero is a proud first-generation college student, she is cultivating her life’s mantra “aspire to inspire change every day” by earning three degrees and pursuing her fourth. She is a certified Restorative Justice Facilitator, Search Advocate, and Professional Mediator. In her current role, Ysatis serves as the Director for Education and Social Change in the Center for Inclusion and Social Change. As a champion for change and lifelong advocate for marginalized communities, she embodies the words of Mahatma Gandhi: “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” When she has free time, she enjoys cooking and trying new recipes, binge watching tv shows like Love is Blind, Criminal Minds and Law and Order: SVU, cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs as well as any Miami sports team, and never traveling to the same place twice. ¡DALÉ!



Ysatis Piñero  
(she/her/hers/ella)

10:35 am - 11:20 am Sessions

## Social Identities and Conflict Management Styles

Location: Kitt Central MPR A

Speakers: Jessica Gutierrez (she/her/ella), Austin Lujan (he/him/his)

**Description:** In this session you will be able to better understand your conflict management style and be given tools to address difficult situations as student leaders. We will also be engaging in critical conversations regarding how social identities and socialization can impact different styles of conflict resolution.

**Speaker Bios:** Austin Lujan serves as the Assistant Director for Student Orgs/Leadership in the Center for Student Involvement. His pronouns are he/him/his and is originally from Guam. He has a bachelors in Engineering Management as well as a masters in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership.

Jessica Gutierrez is the Coordinator for Student Organizations/Leadership in the Center for Student Involvement. She just moved back to Colorado after completing her masters program in San Francisco. Jess is very passionate about leadership development and is always looking to continue growing in her leadership journey. She's also a big fan of music so please share all your best recommendations!



Austin Lujan  
(he/him/his)



Jessica Gutierrez  
(she/her/ella)

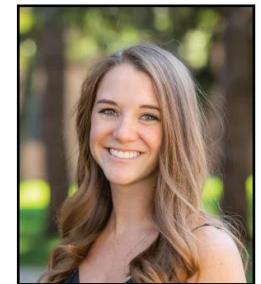
## Learn to Lead Today for A Better Future

Location: Kitt Central N101 (overflow Kitt Central S163)

Speaker: Jessi Follet (she/her/hers)

**Description:** In this presentation, we will explain why college is the ideal time to start one's journey as a leader and provide insights into what aspects of one's leadership can be developed during this pivotal time. We will review data on CU Boulder students' leadership beliefs based on the New Student Survey and the Senior Exit Survey and challenge students to engage in the many leadership opportunities on campus by explaining what they are and how to get involved. Finally, we will challenge students to start thinking about themselves as leaders by exploring their leader identity in an interactive, impactful experiential exercise.

**Speaker Bio:** Jessi was born and raised in Colorado and earned her bachelor's degree in communication studies from Colorado State University. Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in organizational leadership at CU Boulder. Throughout her career, Jessi has held various positions, primarily in higher education institutions such as Colorado State University, University of Northern Colorado, and CU Boulder. Presently, she is the Program Coordinator for the Center for Leadership and the Presidents Leadership Class. Jessi is passionate about utilizing her skills and expertise in student and leadership development to make a meaningful and creative impact on the world.



Jessi Follet  
(she/her/hers)



## Getting Ready for Liberation: Empowering Yourself to Start Your Healing

Location: Kitt Central N252 (overflow Kitt Central S161)

Speaker: Shane Guinan (he/him/his)

**Description:** During this session, we are going to explore Bobbie Harro's Cycle of Liberation with a focus on the Waking Up and Getting Ready stages of the cycle when we experience a critical incident and begin to work through the cycle of liberation. Participants will identify one or more common triggers in their life to use as an illustration of a critical incident. We will then use Sam Killermann and Meg Bolger's Triggering Event Traffic Circle (adapted from Dr. Kathy Obear's Triggering Event Cycle) to understand how to work through our own healing one trigger at a time.

**Speaker Bio:** Shane Guinan serves as the Assistant Director for Student Engagement in the Center for Student Involvement here at the University of Colorado Boulder. In his role, Shane oversees the student engagement events and programs from the Center for Student Involvement focused on increasing sense of belonging and mattering on campus. He is passionate about helping students and staff feel like they belong here at CU through hosting engaging events, creating campus traditions and facilitating JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion) initiatives.



Shane Guinan  
(he/him/his)

11:35 am - 12:20 pm Sessions

## Building Community, Coalescing, and Creating Change: A workshop on student leadership and activism

Location: Kitt Central N101 (overflow Kitt Central S163)

Speakers: Jerry Nguyen (she/her/hers), Rebecca Dizon (she/her/hers)

**Description:** In this workshop, participants will apply Harro's (2000) Cycle of Liberation to their experiences as student leaders on campus. Participants will engage in individual reflections on their motivation, values, and strengths and how those inform their approach to DEI work. Focusing on the "building community", "coalescing", and "creating change" parts of the model, participants will work with one another to identify change they want to see on campus and generate action items to enact that change.

**Speaker Bios:** Jerry Nguyen is the Program Manager for the Office of First-generation Programs and Enrichment, under the Center for Inclusions and Social Change. She obtained a B.A. in public relations and marketing from Columbia College of Missouri and an M.S. in student affairs and higher education at Colorado State University. As an immigrant and a woman of color, Jerry is committed to advancing equity and social justice on campus through advocacy and activism.

Rebecca Dizon has worked in higher education for the past six years and is committed to cultivating campus environments which provide holistic and equitable support to students. Rebecca is currently an Academic Advisor for the CU Boulder Mechanical Engineering Department. She has an M.S. in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Colorado State University with a concentration in Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access and a B.A. in Cognitive Science from the University of California, Berkeley.



Jerry Nguyen  
(she/her/hers)



Rebecca Dizon  
(she/her/hers)





## Disagreeing to Agree: Conflict & Climate Justice

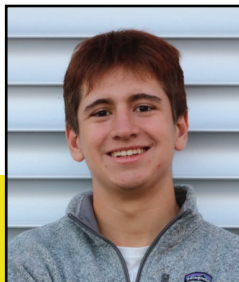
Location: Kitt Central N252 (overflow Kitt Central S161)

Speakers: Jacob Baca (he/him/his), Natalie Tigerino (she/her/hers)

**Description:** Grounding in the relationship between climate justice and conflict, the Climate Justice team will explore the history of climate justice. Then we will consider the different levels in which conflict can arise: Institutional, movement-wide, local, and interpersonal. These four lenses will help to guide our understanding of conflict and the different approaches at each level. We will then dive deep into the internal conflict in the broader environmentalism movement to understand the divide between traditional environmentalists and climate justice-oriented efforts.

**Speaker Bios:** Jacob is a senior studying environmental engineering with a minor in leadership studies. He has been a part of the Climate Justice team for 2 years. His passion for climate justice stems from his love of the outdoors and the intrinsic connection between the health of all people and the care of the environment. Outside of school and work, Jacob loves swimming, running, collaging, and reading.

Natalie's passion for ecological education and conservation is the driving force behind her academic career. She aspires to continue her education by pursuing a graduate degree in ecology and evolutionary biology, aiming to conduct field research that contributes to our understanding of unique ecosystem interactions. Natalie is determined to make a positive impact on the field of biology and be intersectional in her pursuit of climate justice, bridging the gap between social and environmental issues.



Jacob Baca  
(he/him/his)



Natalie Tigerino  
(she/her/hers)



## Setting the Example: How to Be a Positive Influence on Others

Location: Kitt Central MPR A

Speakers: Matthew Miranda (he/him/his), Sydney Armstrong (she/her/hers),  
Ben O'Meara (he/him/his)

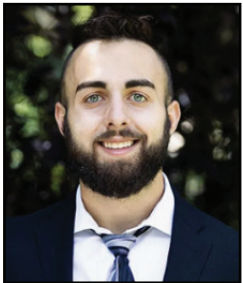
**Description:** Think back to someone you have considered a role model in your life. What was their attitude like? In what ways did they influence you? How can you follow in their footsteps? To answer these questions and learn how you can be a role model to those around you, join CU GOLD in "Setting the Example: How to Be a Positive Influence on Others."

**Speaker Bios:** Matthew is a first generational non-traditional student who is double majoring in Political Science & Communication with a minor in leadership studies. Matthew has been the program director for the leadership development program CU GOLD for three semesters. In that time, Matthew made it a priority to bring leadership development to students on campus. Matthew plans to pursue his masters in public administration and afterwards Matthew aims to run for public office.

Sydney is a Senior at CU Boulder studying Integrative Physiology, hoping to become a doctor. She is especially interested in neurodevelopmental diseases like Parkinson's' and is currently researching the benefits of yoga/meditation in reversing the effects of these diseases on the brain. Outside of science, Sydney spends her free time weightlifting/fitness, doing/teaching yoga, rock climbing, and so much more. Currently, she is the Assistant Program Director of CU GOLD and is a member of Leading Edge within the Center for Leadership. Through these Leadership positions, she has developed a passion for teaching and developing young leaders in the community. She's dedicated to helping others reach their full potential by pushing the boundaries past what they thought they were capable of to create the life they dream of.

*(Continued on next page)*

Ben O'Meara is a senior studying Psychology and Neuroscience and loves being involved in clubs, teaching, research, and more. Ben is particularly passionate about teaching the value and practices of leadership through his position on the executive board for CU GOLD. Leadership is a skill that anyone from any field can practice to make the world a better place. Ben particularly focuses on the benefits of empathy and inclusivity in effective leadership. Additionally, Ben believes that learning is best achieved through activities and meaningful conversations where we can actively engage and process what we are learning. In the future, Ben is on track to teach in Denver through the Teach for America Program and then will continue to pursue opportunities where science is applied to helping people. Outside of academics, Ben loves to go on adventures rock climbing and hiking and enjoys playing board games.



Matthew Miranda  
(he/him/his)



Sydney Armstrong  
(she/her/hers)



Ben O'Meara  
(he/him/his)



## Keynote Speaker

### Timothy F. Bryson (he/him)

Keynote Title: You Can't Impeach Vision

**Description:** In November 2014, I was the first Black U.S. American and member of NPHC to be elected Fraternity Council President at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. Ten months later, I was impeached for “doing the right thing, but not following the rules.” Despite annual philanthropic and academic success, fraternities and sororities are publicly condemned for allegations regarding risk management and recruitment, often the result of only a few members. How do we practice accountability and self-governance while preserving our cherished traditions? How do we translate moments into movements? This presentation will examine what it means to courageously lead with purpose, integrity, and vision.

**Speaker Bio:** Tim Bryson is a Black millennial educator committed to helping all people identify their passion, inspire vision, and walk in purpose.

Tim has traveled around the world working with students, athletes, and faculty but his most powerful experience was being elected the first Black Fraternity Council President at the University of South Carolina, Columbia. While in this role, he led the Fraternity Council to unparalleled heights before being impeached for “doing the right thing, but not following the rules.” This moment awakened Tim’s purpose in life and he has not looked back.

Tim is a former Division I NCAA athlete, former NCAA postgraduate intern, and social entrepreneur. He has been featured in USA Today, served as a Sport Diplomat with the U.S. Department of State, and has been endorsed by the Biden-Harris Administration for his work with international college athletes. A Cincinnati native, he enjoys listening to Drake, visiting craft breweries, and practicing TikTok dances that never make it out the drafts.



Timothy F. Bryson  
(he/him)

**IG/Twitter:** @TimothyFBryson

**LinkedIn:** Timothy F. Bryson

**Email:** WalkWithTFB@gmail.com



