

PRESIDENTS LEADERSHIP CLASS

FALL 2015 • ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Director's Letter

Give Me 23 for PLC!

No, I am not talking about pushups - read along to find out!

Greetings from the University of Colorado Boulder where the beautiful fall colors are still with us. This is the second consecutive year we have committed to providing our alumni and supporters with a printed newsletter. This year's effort has more content than the previous edition as you will see in the Alumni Spotlight pieces, which are the result of input from the PLC Alumni Club and those alumni on our PLC Board of Advocates. I encourage you to visit our website, the PLC Facebook page, and the PLC LinkedIn group to get even more information on your program and fellow alumni.

I would like to focus my comments this fall on fundraising. Yes, that is certainly very direct of me! However, I have received valuable recommendations from many of you, and a consistent theme was to be forward and explicit when it comes to fundraising for the PLC Gift Fund. I know more than a few of you are concerned that your donations are being spent appropriately, so I will provide here some insights into our business rules to show that your donations to the PLC Gift Fund are applied directly to student support efforts with a little also going to alumni outreach and engagement. I also want to stress that your donations stay here at Boulder for PLC, and do not support other leadership programs across the state, as may have been the case in the past.

First, here are the areas that fundraising for the Gift Fund, as well as endowment building, **does not support**:

- Faculty and Staff Salaries - CU paid employees
- Operating Funds - CU operating agreement
- \$100,000 in CU Boulder Merit Scholarship Funds

Note, we do have a strategic plan to change our scholarship funding that I hope to tell you about in the spring.

For the PLC Gift Fund, our goal is to generate \$46,000 in donations per year to support the average expenditures and to add to a modest reserve. This is where the **Give Me 23 for PLC** comes to play.

We are sending this newsletter to over 2100 alumni and other supporters. *If each alumnus and alumna donates \$23, reaching that \$46,000 goal will be easy.* I will provide that our generous



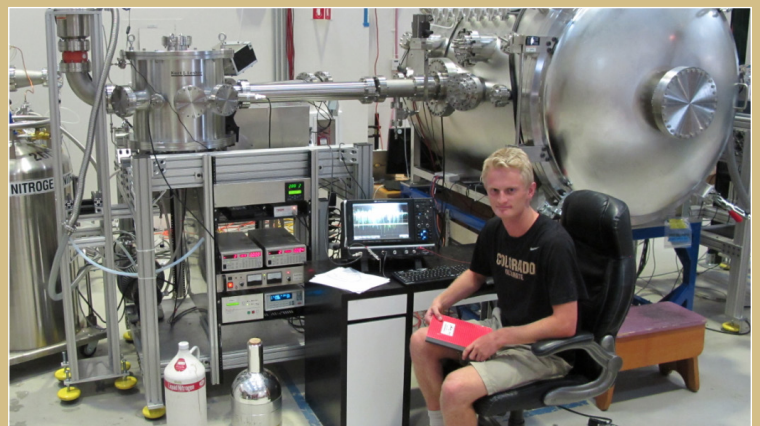
Class of 2012 - Senior Class BBQ

COMMUNITY



Avra Saslow (PLC '15) - CU Mountain Bike Racing Team

EXCELLENCE



Oak Nelson (PLC '12) - Nuclear Fusion

Board of Advocates does give a significant amount to the Gift Fund, but I know that the larger alumni community has the capacity to achieve this target on its own. Our historical giving rate is at best 10%, so I know there is untapped potential!

As you consider your gift for this year, here are some of the more prominent events supported by the Gift Fund. If you see something that you'd like to underwrite completely as an individual or a group (say your PLC class) please contact me soonest.

- PLC Welcome BBQ for students and parents: \$3000
- PLC First Year Orientation Weekend: \$6000
- PLC Second Year Re-Orientation Day: \$400
- PLC Student Staff Training: \$2000 annually
- Experiential Weekends: \$4750 annually
- Parents Lecture Reception: \$450
- Taste of PLC Lecture & Reception: \$550
- PLC Fall Newsletter production and mailing: \$2,750
- PLC Admitted Students Luncheon- Be A PLCer: \$800
- PLC Selection Interview Days: \$3200
- PLC Summit: \$850
- First Year Class Guest Speaker Receptions: \$800
- Global Issues Class Guest Speaker Luncheons: \$1000
- PLC December Graduates Farewell Dinner: \$300
- PLC Spring Senior Sendoff: \$1750

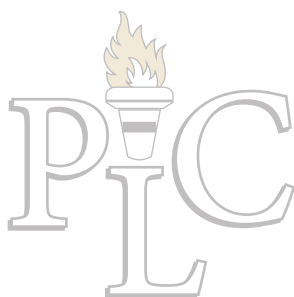
The Gift Fund supports myriad other areas such as conference fees for students, additional enrichment scholarships and other direct student support when warranted.

OK, that's it (for now!) on fundraising. Please see the enclosed remittance envelope, which also has information on how to give on-line via the CU Foundation. If sending your donation by mail, please ensure you write Presidents Leadership Class Fund in the memo field on the check.

Finally, if you are in Boulder this fall and over the holidays, please look in on us as we'd love to see you. Also, if classes are in session, please consider taking a PLC student or two out for lunch or dinner and/or attending class!

Now **Give Me 23 for PLC!**

Steve Dinauer
PLC Director
303-492-7181
stephen.dinauer@colorado.edu



Alumni Spotlights

Reginald Valdez, D.V.M, M.S., Ph.D.
Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research
PLC Board of Advocates

Reginald Valdez is an alumnus of the Presidents Leadership Class (PLC 1982) and a current member of the PLC Board of Advocates. As a member of the PLC Board, Dr. Valdez welcomes the opportunity to contribute and give back to a program which had a profound positive influence and sustained impact on his personal and professional development as a student at the University of Colorado Boulder.

"As an undergraduate student on the CU Boulder campus, the PLC program provided me with the opportunity to be part of an inclusive, supportive community of highly motivated peers, faculty, staff, alumni and extended advocates which greatly facilitated my leadership development both within and outside of the classroom. As a former student and alumnus of PLC, I'm extremely proud to be part of a dynamic academic and experiential leadership program which has done such an incredible job of developing extraordinary leaders for over 40 years."

Born and raised in the San Luis Valley of rural south central Colorado, Dr. Valdez is a fourth generation Coloradan and first generation college graduate; his family has deep roots in the San Luis Valley where they have farmed and ranched for over a century. For nearly 70 years, the family farms have provided high-altitude premium Moravian beer barley to the Coors Brewing Company as part of their Grower Direct program. After graduating from Centauri High School in La Jara, CO, he attended the University of Colorado Boulder as an undergraduate where he participated in the PLC program as a student and as a second year class advisor.

"After undergraduate school, I was interested in pursuing a career which would enable me to combine a keen interest in the biological sciences - which I gained as an undergraduate at CU Boulder - with my agricultural roots and work with animals."

He subsequently earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine (D.V.M.) from the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University, a master's degree (M.S.) in parasitology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a doctorate (Ph.D.) in immunology from Washington State University where he received a National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases K08 Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award. He achieved specialty board certification, by examination, in comparative anatomic pathology and is a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Valdez is currently a Senior

Veterinary Pathologist / Senior Investigator at the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research (NIBR), Novartis' global pharmaceutical research headquarters based in Cambridge, MA. In his current role, Dr. Valdez provides strategic scientific leadership and pathology-related research support to global teams involved in drug discovery and drug development functions at Novartis research sites worldwide.



"I'm personally motivated on a daily basis by the work that I do, knowing that my contributions as a scientist and member of drug discovery and development teams have the potential to improve and change the lives of patients and their families. The research which I'm involved in provides the opportunity to help develop potential therapeutics for diseases, for which there are currently no cures; the work is interesting and exciting scientifically, intellectually stimulating and personally rewarding."

Dr. Valdez is a currently a member of a research and development team which, in 2014, received one of six NIBR Team Awards given to teams worldwide; the award recognizes and honors a global network of talented scientists and teams who have distinguished themselves as high performing teams that have had a significant impact on drug discovery efforts at Novartis.

Ryan Findley (PLC '02) African Leadership Academy

"In a moment of intrigue, my CEO asked me 'What past experiences have made you successful here at African Leadership Academy?' I clumsily responded, 'Well, I was in a small leadership program at CU...'. The conversation unfolded as most do for PLCers: vague programmatic highpoints, enthusiastically-shared-anti-climactic stories, and a conversation that leaves both parties intrigued but unsalted. Later, I reflected on the conversation and how the Presidents Leadership Class had shaped me, preparing me to help drive the leadership curriculum, teaching, & culture at a pan-African institution built to 'develop the next generation of African leaders.'"

When I entered PLC in 2002, I had a vague notion that I liked "leadership stuff," but I was really passionate about sports business. Thanks to two hallmark experiences of PLC—the Walkabout and being a Class Advisor (CA), respectively—PLC helped me see that while I could not stomach the sports industry, I had a passion for this "leadership stuff." When I was fortunate enough to be chosen as a CA my junior year, I expected that I'd

spend the year as all CAs do: helping others come into their own, discover their strengths & passions, and encounter new ways of seeing the world. Two semesters later, I had done those things, but more than that, I had found my calling.

Finished with my stint as a CA, I traveled to Lake Tahoe for my final year as a counselor at the National Leadership Camp. Impassioned by PLC and camp, I sat by the lake thinking, *"I wish I could just do this 'leadership stuff' for a career."* Months later, the camp would be shuttered, but (inspired & supported by PLCers) I decided to resurrect the camp with the help of fellow alumni like Katie Kramer and Brock McKinley, and PLC friends Denise Delgado and David French. Using the PLC – sponsored Colorado Leadership Conference as a personal pilot, I prepared to assume the Directorship of the Tahoe-based leadership program and re-launch it just days after graduation. I was on the track to doing "leadership stuff." Hired shortly after camp by Leader's Challenge, a local, youth-focused NPO, I gained greater exposure to local and global leadership development, as well soon-to-be PLCers like Amy Austin, Derek Kissinger, and Caitlin Davis. Seeing that my work with Leader's Challenge amounted to mere drops in a bucket, I felt compelled by the need to scale & democratize leadership development.

After a brief foray into start-up life (African Apparel, a vertically integrated, all-African social business venture that I cofounded), I found myself looking internationally for possibilities. Providentially, African Apparel prompted my discovery of African Leadership Academy (ALA), an upstart, two-year magnet school in Johannesburg, South Africa. The school, built to attract the "best and brightest" rising stars from across the African continent and develop them into the next generation of African leaders, could have been dubbed "PLC on a continental scale."

After a brief stint with the Boettcher Foundation, I earned an offer to join ALA as an Entrepreneurial Leadership faculty member and Curriculum Development Lead. (Fun fact: Wisdom Amouzou (PLC '09) has recently joined ALA in a similar role, bringing



much-needed strength & leadership insight to the school's Humanities program). Effectively working as a "Professional C l a s s Advisor" I was able to



copy and paste significant chunks of curriculum, activities, and pedagogies from my years in PLC, establishing the school's first leadership curriculum and setting a new culture of inclusive, strengths-focused, values-based leadership at the Academy.

After receiving high marks from the likes of the MasterCard Foundation and the Center for Creative Leadership, we decided to scale our leadership model & curriculum beyond the school's walls, prompting a new role for me that allows me to serve as a consultant to other institutions and educator trainer. None of this would be possible without the Presidents Leadership Class, to which I am grateful for giving me the skills, opportunities, and networks that have enabled me to follow the calling that it helped me find. I firmly believe that African Leadership Academy will be a catalyst for progress & change across Africa, and I am heartened to know that it was PLC that incepted much of the "leadership stuff" that ALA is democratizing across the continent.

Katie Kramer (PLC '93) Vice President & Assistant Executive Director Boettcher Foundation

"Incredible!" That is how PLC Alumna, Katie Kramer would describe her experience as a PLC Scholar. *"PLC gave me the skills, confidence and connections that have influenced who I am today."*

In her current role as Vice President & Assistant Executive Director of the Boettcher Foundation, Katie Kramer has come full-circle with the Boettcher Foundation, one of Colorado's oldest private philanthropic organizations. A fourth-generation Colorado native, Katie was selected as a Boettcher Scholar in 1993 and since 1997, has served the Foundation in various roles from Fellowship to Program Director to Executive. In her current role, she is responsible for all operational aspects of Boettcher's \$300M endowed foundation, including the administration of over \$15M annually awarded in grants and scholarships throughout the State of Colorado.

Katie's passion for service while at CU has continued since she left PLC. Her extensive community involvement has included leadership positions on national and local boards including her current roles as President of the National Scholarship Providers Association and Board Chair of the Denver Metro Chamber

Leadership Foundation. In 2006, PLC nominated Katie and she was named the Colorado Leadership Alliance Alumni of the Year by the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation. She was a 2014 winner of the Denver Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award and will be recognized in 2016 as one of the Top 25 Most Powerful Women by the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce.



Since completing the PLC program, Katie has continued to pursue additional leadership studies coursework. She is a graduate of several leadership development programs including the Colorado Institute for Leadership Training (2002) and Leadership Denver (2006) and the Harvard Kennedy School's Art & Practice of Leadership (2015).

Aside from Katie's commitment to Colorado and deep passion for leadership and service, she is a harmonica-playing, polka-listening, trout-catching, Star Wars-watching, country-dancing, scuba-diving, elk-hunting, Grand Canyon-rafting, mountain-hiking, family-loving, outdoor enthusiast. From Dinosaur to Walsh, Ovid to Mancos, Kramer has been to every county in the State of Colorado and has also traveled extensively on an international level. Katie lives in Arvada with Joe Kramer, her husband of nineteen years (who she met in PLC!), and two young sons, Connor (age 9) and Kyle (age 4).

"Without a doubt, the best part of my experience at CU Boulder was my involvement in PLC. In addition to benefitting from the excellent leadership coursework, I served on student staff for two and a half years. Beyond the knowledge I gained and the personal growth I experienced while in the program, I know that my PLC relationships will continue to last a lifetime."

Katie and her husband Joe, have both hired, worked with and mentored other PLCers and continue to financially support the program that has been so impactful in their lives.



Student Spotlights

Avra Saslow (PLC '15)
Art & Sciences - Undeclared
CU Mountain Bike Team



I was born with everlasting discontentedness; both a blessing and a curse. My mind and heart have always been dissatisfied, but in turn, that restlessness has constantly challenged me to find my passions, and pursue them with ferocity and curiosity. Growing up with a love for the outdoors inspired my commitment and passion for Nordic skiing. A racer since the age of 6 years-old, I always dreamed of qualifying for Junior Olympics; a national race in which the top 9 skiers qualify. The first year I was old enough to go, I injured my foot. The following year I was still recovering from my injury, and didn't qualify again. My junior year, I fully and completely gave my mind, heart, and body to skiing. Completing two practices a day, giving up my weekends for 6 hour skis, and pushing myself to the absolute limit, my hard work paid off, and I was named to the team at the end of the season.

I have also been discontent with some of the inner workings of society. Growing up in southwestern Colorado, I am surrounded by many different Native American cultures, but I never knew much about them. I was curious, and frustrated with my limited knowledge, and therefore set out to do an extra, independent project at school to learn more about modern-day Native Americans. I interviewed Native American senators, impoverished patients at reservations, and college students, and published a book of their stories. This was the most inspiring and life-changing project I have done thus far.

I will always progress with curiosity and passion. I'm undecided in my major, and I'm undecided in my true passion for life, but I'm excited to be a part of PLC because of the opportunity to inquire about the truths of society and explore my curiosities of the world around me. I am mostly excited for PLC to be the catalyst for my discovery of my dreams and goals. Once I find those, I will have gained the skills from this program to go out in the world and achieve what I set out to accomplish. As Thomas Edison famously said, "Discontent is the first necessity of progress. Show me a thoroughly satisfied man and I will show you a failure." I truly believe that by living by this saying, I will live an accomplished and happy life, and make an impact on others.

FRESHMAN

Andrew "Oak" Nelson (PLC'12)
Engineering Physics
Goldwater & Astronaut Scholarship Winner



It is no secret that the world needs a new form of energy. While many viable, emerging technologies are being implemented around the world, nuclear fusion is arguably the most theoretically promising energy source known. Fusion is almost ideal as an energy source – it is (in theory) clean, safe, and incredibly efficient. But due to the immense scientific and engineering complexities behind the development of this technology, progress towards a sustainable commercial energy source has been slow. Over the course of my undergraduate education, I've developed a passion for the pursuit of these technologies and now plan to dedicate my career to these efforts. For my work regarding fusion energy technologies, I was selected as CU's only Goldwater Scholarship recipient last year, and was awarded the Astronaut Scholarship this past summer.

My engagement with the Presidents Leadership Class has been fundamental in the development of my commitment to fusion energy research. Through personal discussions ranging from racism and poverty to leadership and global politics, PLC opened my eyes to the complex needs of global society and assisted my development of critical skills that will help me fight the biggest challenges in our world. Most importantly, my time with PLC has taught me that my duties as a physicist do not end in the scientific community. PLC showed me that I could, and that I must, integrate my core values as a human being into my professional aspirations. And equally important, PLC helped me develop the skills and find the resources that I needed to spend a semester abroad in Germany participating directly in this research. In a typical undergraduate Physics education, we are not given much exposure to the larger outside world – poverty and human rights cannot be easily derived from Maxwell's Equations. Luckily, PLC was there to encourage me to pursue a deeper connection with global society. Now, as I sit writing applications to graduate schools, the time I have spent volunteering in areas outside of my discipline seem to shine as the most valuable aspects of my education. Whether working with ESL students at Casey Middle School or opening a fourth international development project as the president of CU's Engineers Without Borders program, the experiences that a one-of-a-kind leadership program like PLC create are beyond comparison. This community has been a cherished source of motivation and inspiration for me throughout a pivotal moment in my education, and I'm sure that it will continue to be so throughout my career.

SENIOR



PLC Alumni Club Update

The PLC Alumni Club has continued to gain strength during its second year in existence. Over the past year, many dedicated alumni worked together to organize more fun and noteworthy alumni activities, events, and initiatives.

In coordination with the program's annual March interviews for the incoming class, the PLC Alumni Club hosted a happy hour event at the Sink in Boulder and organized simultaneous happy hours in cities all around the country. This first time "Have a Beer for PLC" event was a great success, with PLCers getting together in Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York. Look for this event to take place again March 11th, and please let us know if you can spearhead a gathering in your home city, near or far.

We also saw the PLC Alumni Club's signature event, the Spring Alumni Lecture, surpass our greatest expectations. Entitled "Denver's Urban Boom," the second annual Alumni Lecture was attended by more than 70 PLC alumni, friends, and members of the community. A special thank you to Cait McHugh and Sharon Read for organizing and hitting it out of the park. Our third annual Spring Alumni Lecture, to be held somewhere in or around Denver, will be upon us soon, so please let us know if you have any ideas or would like to be involved in planning.

This fall, the Class of 2001 showed its prowess and put together a spontaneous gathering of more than 10 old friends in downtown Denver. Homecoming weekend also brought together many PLC alumni both at a Friday night social hour at the St. Julien Hotel and a fun pregame tailgate on a beautiful fall day in Boulder. Special thanks to Kerry Masock for his efforts in organizing the whole weekend.

Our next and final event of the year is coming up soon with our Annual Meeting (more carousing than business) on Saturday, November 14, from 2-5 PM, at the Denver Press Club. We hope you'll join us for food and refreshments, as well as some education from a local brewer. We will recap and celebrate the past year, and prepare to roll into 2016. Look for info from our organizer, David Davenport, in your email inbox soon. The PLC Alumni Club was formed in 2014 with a mission to continue to develop and support extraordinary leaders through an active alumni network. We encourage PLC Alumni to support the group and each other through active personal involvement in the group and its activities, events and initiatives, and through personal support of the group and PLC through investment of time, energy, or money.

PLC LINKEDIN

One of the most critical aspects of the PLC mission is 'supporting our students with mentors, community, alumni' – however, this component of PLC could be stronger. The PLC LinkedIn group has grown to over 600 members. In an effort to strengthen the professional networking ties amongst alumni and current students, we will be launching a new PLC LinkedIn initiative aimed at bringing PLCers of similar professional interests together. Keep an eye out for more information and be sure that you are a part of the PLC LinkedIn group by searching "Presidents Leadership Class" and requesting membership today. For more information on this initiative contact the PLC Alumni Engagement Coordinator, Nolan Smith: nolan.smith@colorado.edu

PLC SUMMIT

Following the success of the first PLC Summit last year – we are very pleased to announce the theme to our second annual PLC Summit: "The Road Less Traveled - Unexpected Paths to Leadership." We hope to draw PLC alumni and current students who will present on the uncommon paths towards leadership in their lives. If you are interested in speaking at this event, applications will be released in December and submissions will be due by February 5th.

Interested in the PLC Alumni Club?

Contact Ashley Elmlad or Tommy George:

ashley.elmlad@gmail.com or thomasngeorge@gmail.com

Annual Meeting

November 14, 2015 - Denver Press Club : 2-5PM

Contact David Davenport with questions
720-985-5327 / buppieshop@gmail.com

Networking Night - Alumni & Seniors Mixer

February 10, 2016 - TBA

2nd Annual PLC Summit - The Road Less Traveled

April 9, 2016 - Fiske Planetarium

Contact Ryan Friedman - ryan.j.friedman@colorado.edu

2016 PLC Interview Days

March 10-11, 2016 (followed by alumni happy hour)

University Memorial Center - Old Main

Experiential Learning

Once or twice a month, our students venture out into the Colorado community to learn from industry experts. So far this year, PLC students have explored the industries of energy and natural resources, sustainable businesses, and sports tourism & outdoor recreation.

Our most recent weekend, Sports Tourism & Outdoor Recreation, started on the local scale with a visit to Cliff Bosley and the Bolder Boulder headquarters to learn about the economic impact of the largest 10K race in the nation.

Our students then enjoyed the brand new athletic facility at Folsom Field to explore the sports tourism impact in our own backyard. The last stop on Friday brought them to our major league baseball team, The Colorado Rockies. The students spent the day hearing about the tremendous effects seen through sports tourism from the local level to the national scene.

To explore outdoor recreation, an industry for which Colorado is defined, our students went to Vail, CO where they were hosted by the Vail Centre (formerly the Vail Leadership Institute). PLC was pampered with rooms at The Antlers Resort in Lionshead, Colorado. Working with the Vail Centre, students learned the inner workings of Vail Resorts such as the complexities of maintaining a business in the constantly changing sports industry. The speakers at Vail Resorts told our students of the challenges of competing with other sports businesses, while simultaneously helping each other to grow and expand. PLC students learned the importance of cohesive and integrated leadership in the Vail valley.

We are very excited about these learning opportunities and would like to especially thanks the PLC alumni who support these unique, program distinguishing experiences.

If you, or someone you know, may be interested in providing a speaking opportunity, hosting a site visit, or sponsoring one of our upcoming Experiential Weekends, please contact our Manager of Operations and Experiential Learning, Silas Binkley: silas.binkley@colorado.edu.

- Transportation & Logistics: November 13th & 14th
- Immigration: December 4th & 5th
- News & Media: February 12th & 13th
- Bioscience: March 4th & 5th
- Defense & Homeland Security: April 1st & 2nd
- Real Estate & Development: April 15th & 16th



Bolder Boulder Headquarters



Champion Center - Folsom Field



Coors Field - Rockies Dugout

The New Class **PLC 2015**

Aaron Aguero – Faith Christian Academy
 Christopher Arehart – Fairview High School
 Amber Arline – Pueblo West High School
 Trevor Bonner – Longmont High School
 Jenna Bradford – Columbine High School
 Sydney Burckhardt – George Washington High School
 Rachel Carollo – Ralston Valley High School
 Sean Chapel – Mead Senior High School
 Abigail Clark – Notre Dame Academy
 Anne Cox – Nederland Senior High School
 Pierce Davis – Sand Creek High School
 Julia Debell – Boulder High School
 Krish Desai – Cherokee Trail High School
 Matthew Dillon – Lyons Senior High School
 Nicholas Essek – Bennett High School
 Leigh Francia – Poudre High School
 Soren Fuchs – East High School
 Leighanne Gray – Arvada Senior High School
 Scott Gringauz – North Broward Prep
 Madeline Haimes – Fairview High School
 Rebekah Haysley – Arapahoe High School
 Shane Henderson – Edward C Reed High School
 Hazel Hill – Roosevelt High School
 Ameen Hosain – Rampart High School
 Bailey Huffman – Las Animas High School
 Ibrahim Karoussa – Arapahoe High School
 Eileen Klawitter – Denver School of the Arts

Isaiah Koolstra – Arickaree High School
 Cameron Krasovich – Arvada West High School
 Claire Lamman – Canyon City High School
 Vito Leccese – Boulder High School
 Erik Ledezma – Brighton High School
 Hana Maaliki – Smoky Hill High School
 Kaitlin Masar – Florence High School
 Rylee McCone – Discovery Canyon High School
 Julia McCue – Fairview High School
 Dylan McNally – Loveland High School
 Elizabeth McNichols – Silver Creek High School
 Jacob Melonis – Highlands Ranch High School
 Bailee Mulholland – Boulder High School
 Lucas Oliveira – Rocky Mountain High School
 Selena Quintanilla – Harrison High School
 Sophia Raji – International, Morocco
 Rebecca Randolph – Westmoore High School
 Serene Singh – Rampart High School
 Avra Saslow – Animas High School
 Carly Smith – Cherokee Trail High School
 Henock Solomon – Bishop Machebeuf High School
 Evan Tucker – Cherry Hill High School East
 Jacob Vendl – Pine Creek High School



Presidents Leadership Class

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**