

First-Generation Student Leadership Program Overview 2017



Erin McClarty

Principal

Erin McClarty, PLLC



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President & Founder

Zion Management Group



Rocío Pérez MBA

President & Founder

Inventiva Consulting, LLC



Melinda L. Cain Ph.D

Managing Director

Real World Solutions, LLC



Doug Messe

Co-Founder & CEO

University Beyond

WEDNESDAY SESSION A

Intercultural Training: From Awareness to Competence— the RWS Tool Kit for Intercultural Competence and Personal and Professional Development

- with Melinda Cain

The Real World Solutions tool kit teaches more than “what” to do (or not do) in cultural situations; it provides the “why” behind cultural behavior so one can respond appropriately in any situation. The training will help students learn to build bridges among cultures in order to enhance personal and professional productivity and improve outcomes. Students will be able to address cultural challenges with real world solutions and “live and work better together.”

Part 1: Impact of Culture on Behavior

This part of the session provides an awareness of the importance and impact of culture on behavior, and tips on how to manage the complexity of cultural behavior. Students will gain an enhanced understanding of their own cultural identities and build a foundation for understanding how to interact effectively with other cultures.

Part II Key Intercultural Communication Skills: Self-Assessment (Cross-Cultural Adaptability Inventory – CCAI) The CCAI is a practical self-assessment of key intercultural skills that allows individual reflection on the key components of effective interaction with and in other cultures. Students will understand the importance of the skills, take the assessment and interpret their scores, and develop a personal action plan for improvement in key skill areas. Students will also become aware of individual preferences and how they impact cultural awareness and competence.

Part III: Enhancement of Cultural Knowledge

This part of the session provides information on key cultural value orientations as a framework for understanding difference among cultures. Students will become more knowledgeable about values and behavioral differences between/among cultural identities and gain practice in effectively communicating and bridging cultural differences.

Part IV: Summary and Application

In the final part of the training, students will have the opportunity to develop an action plan and commitment to enhancing their skills in working “better together” with other cultural identities. This commitment will be important to future personal and professional development.

WEDNESDAY SESSION B

First Gen Professional and Life Skills: Making Impressions, Personal Branding, Telling Your Story

- with Adrian Rosado; Rocio Perez; & Erin McClarty

Three First Gen rock stars will arm students with critical techniques for personal and professional development.

Adrian Rosado: *You Rarely Get a Second Chance to Make a First Impression*

Adrian's part of the session will focus on the qualities needed to become a successful networker. Students will identify strategies for communicating with purpose and keying in on opportunities for synergy between individuals. Participants will practice approaching multiple individuals and identifying positive characteristics that not only reflect themselves, but also the people they are interacting with. As the exercise is in process, participants will also be asked to communicate specific adjectives that describe their networking experience and the leadership traits of the people with whom they are speaking.

Throughout this part of the session, students will develop skills for effective networking by understanding how to be active and engaged in a conversation; utilizing their unique abilities as communicators and strengthening them through practice and implementation; recognizing how to approach people who can be beneficial to career and personal growth, bypassing 'surface' conversation; and strengthening the use of positive adjectives that stimulate a receptive conversation.

Rocio Perez: *The Power of Communication and Personal Branding*

The Power of Communication and Personal Branding goes beyond words. In most cases, it is the unseen that makes the difference in successful communication. Participants will gain essential knowledge about exuding an executive presence, the importance of appearance, connecting more effectively with others, and making a first and lasting impression that inspires others energetically. Students will also understand the correlation between personal energy and career success, experience the unspoken assets of body language, and learn how to create a stronger personal brand that leads them to even greater success.

Erin McClarty: *Tapping In to Your Superpowers*




First Gen Students have superpowers all their own. The key to leveraging those powers is learning how to frame and communicate them.





In this part of the session, students will break down, organize and learn how to tell their unique story, framing all of their experiences into a complete and authentic narrative and re-framing past hurdles into the heroic feats that they are. Participants will leave with a summary of what makes them stand out: A story they can tell their universities, scholarship foundations, employers and communities; a story that highlights their triumphs, as well as the value they bring to each environment.



Entrepreneurship for First Gen Students



- Doug Messer
(description tbc)

Student2017 GlobalMinded First-Gen Student Class

Name	Short Bio	Image
<p>Mario Aguirre</p> <p>Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez (Mexico)</p>	<p>My name is Mario Aguirre and I am a student from Mexico. My field of study is Computer Systems in my local university (Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez). English is my second language, and I am studying German and Italian. I think learning a new language opens up a lot of doors for opportunity. By attending this conference, I truly believe that I can acquire skills to become a good leader and help others to achieve their goals. I am a quiet person, so this can also mean a good opportunity to improve my interpersonal skills.</p> <p>“Große dinge, fangen immer klein an.”</p>	
<p>Leisha Albert-Tulene</p> <p>Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute</p>	<p>My name is Leisha Albert-Tulene. I am from the White Mountain Apache Tribe located in eastern Arizona. I am currently attending Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque. I am aiming for a degree in Liberal Arts and a minor in American Indian Studies. I am excited to be attending the conference that is coming up and I am also excited to engage with other people.</p>	
<p>Lorraine Alire</p> <p>Northern New Mexico College</p>	<p>My name is Lorraine Alire, and I'm originally from San Luis Valley, Colorado. When I was fifteen years old, I quit school to help my sick mother and help raise my siblings. In 2002, I moved to Vallecitos, New Mexico to help my brother raise his six children. In 2015, I was encouraged to go and receive my G.E.D from Northern New Mexico College. Never thinking I would attend college, I enjoyed learning so I decided to keep going with my education. I now attend Northern New Mexico College in Espanola, New Mexico. My goal is to receive my B.A (Bachelor Associates) in Early Childhood Development.</p>	

<p>Christina Allen</p> <p>Red Rocks Community College</p>	<p>My name is Christina Allen and I'm currently a student at Red Rocks Community College and looking to transfer to UC Denver for the Fall 2017 semester. My interests lie in environmentally sustainable practices, agriculture and creative writing. I'm also looking into creating my own non-profit sometime in the future. At this conference, I hope to improve my networking, share ideas as well as learn about what other people are doing in the world. I'm eager to see what this conference has to offer!</p>	
<p>Dianna Almanza</p> <p>University of Denver</p>	<p>Dianna E. Almanza is a first-generation Mexican American born and raised in Colorado. As a former 2016 Humanitarian Action Fellow for the 2016 Duke Global Policy and Governance Program in Geneva, and a former 2016 intern for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, Ms. Almanza seeks to advance Human Rights through the empowerment of local communities worldwide. She is graduating with a Master of Arts in International Human Rights, and specializing in Conflict Resolution.</p>	
<p>Yamilex Avitia</p> <p>University of Denver</p>	<p>My name is Yamilex Avitia Valdez (Yams) and I am a first generation incoming sophomore at the University of Denver. By attending this conference I hope to make more connections and be a part of a bigger conversation with students like myself. I hope to bring new skills and ways of thinking when I return to school in the fall and make an impactful change within the programs I am a part of.</p>	
<p>Jericho Batista</p> <p>University of North Texas</p>	<p>Jericho Batista was the 2017 Class Valedictorian at Eastside Memorial High School in Austin, Texas, with a GPA of 4.1. He will be attending the University of North Texas in Denton in the fall of 2017. He will be pursuing a degree in Engineering with additional focuses in Physics and Biochemistry. He was a four-year member of the Eastside Memorial Panther Band and he participated in the Robotics Club while a student at Eastside Memorial High School. He was a participant in the 2016 EMHS Summer Leadership</p>	

	Institute and STEP Up Challenge program.	
Madison Brim Pikes Peak Community College	My name is Madison Brim and I am a graduating senior from The Classical Academy in Colorado Springs. I am attending Pikes Peak Community College in the Fall and plan to transfer to University of Colorado, Colorado Springs or Colorado State University, Ft. Collins after two years to obtain my degree in Business Administration or Environmental Sciences. Participating in Student Government has helped me to realize the importance of having strong leadership skills and I am excited to learn more about the application of leadership in a professional setting from those attending this conference. Through attending the GlobalMinded Conference, I want to polish my organizational skills and become a more persuasive and articulate speaker so that whatever path I choose, I can use these skills to make a positive contribution to the people and world around me.	
Erica Brooks University of Denver	My name is Erica Brooks and I am a first-generation student in my first year at the University of Denver. I am a Colorado native, have lived in Denver my whole life, and love it so much that I decided to stay. I am majoring in Sociology and Psychology with a minor in Spanish and hope to eventually earn a dual degree with a J.D. and Masters of Social Work. My goal is to work with kids possibly as a Guardian ad Litem and help them to realize their full potential because everyone deserves their chance.	

<p>Ashley Castro</p> <p>Texas State University</p>	<p>Ashley Castro is a 2017 graduate of Eastside Memorial High School in Austin, Texas. She will attend Texas State University in San Marcos; pursuing a degree in Biology. Her long-term goal is to become a Cardiologist; specializing in Pediatrics. While attending Eastside Memorial High, she was an honor student the entire high school career; graduating 8th in her class of 132. She won the Medical Scholars Award as the top student in the Health Science program. She was a four year student in the program; earning certifications as a Nursing Assistant, OSHA and CPR. She was selected to the UT Dell Medical School Summer Scholars program and she attended Sam Houston State University in the summer of 2016 as a fellow in the Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP) program. She was also selected for the Austin Community College Nursing Academy program. She participated in the EMHS Summer Leadership program and the STEP Up Challenge. She was the recipient of scholarships from SMART Kids, Austin Rotary Club and the Jim Kester Scholarship Foundation.</p>	
<p>Daisy Cordova</p>	<p>My name is Daisy Cordova Torres, I am 21 years old born in Denver, CO. I am currently a paraprofessional at a preschool, studying to be an elementary teacher. I am also married with no children at the moment but with hopes to be a mom one day. I love children, which is why I decided to be in the education field. I am very happy to be on this journey to become a teacher and be able to change a child's life one day!</p>	

Cristine de la Luna
Metropolitan State
University of
Denver



Cristine de la Luna is a first-generation college graduate and earned her B.A. in Africana Studies and Intersectional Sectional Studies: Social Justice & Advocacy from Metropolitan State University of Denver. Her scholarly interests lie primarily in conducting research with an intersectional focus of gender, sexuality studies, race, region, African American and American literary and cultural production; black feminist theory and criticism; and critical race studies. Ms. de la Luna has also received grants and fellowships that have facilitated the continued support of her intersectional research scholarship from the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA), the Women of Color Leadership Project (NWSA), and has completed a three year Puksta Foundation Fellows program. As a member of the (NWSA) and Iota, Iota, Iota Women’s Studies Honor society, she has designed academic panels to provide undergraduate students with cohort experience in conducting research; and, as an interdisciplinary researcher has presented at both national and international venues of the National Women’s Studies Association.


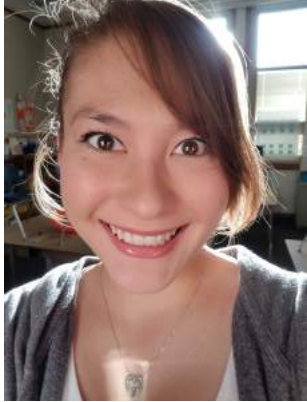





Matthew De Loa
Front Range
Community College


My name is Matthew De Loa, I am working towards making myself into a person with the necessary skills to make as much of a positive impact in the world. I want to be a lawyer, politician, and an orator to accomplish these goals (thus far), and am constantly learning from everyone I meet and everything I experience. Or at least, I try to. I have lived in Colorado since August 2015, and the only family with me is my little sister whom I have legal guardianship of.







<p>Michelle Dominguez</p> <p>University of Colorado Denver</p>	<p>My name is Michelle Dominguez. I am currently a student at CU Denver majoring in Elementary Education. I have my Associate of Arts in Teaching from a community college in Texas. My dream job is to become an elementary school teacher and eventually obtain my Masters in Library Science to be a librarian at an elementary school.</p>	
<p>Aidin Esparza</p> <p>Point Loma Nazarene University</p>	<p>Aidin Esparza attended San Diego State University for her undergraduate degrees in Spanish and Communicative Disorders, an Education Specialist Credential in Mild-Moderate Disabilities, a Bilingual, Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) credential, an Autism Authorization and a Masters of Education with an emphasis in Special Education. After serving as a high school special education classroom teacher for over ten years, she has recently transitioned to a Special Education Resource Teacher in local elementary charter schools where she serves students with special needs. She decided that she wanted to be able to make a greater impact not only by working with students, but also supporting the teachers that work directly with them. She is currently enrolled as a student at Point Loma Nazarene University and will be completing her Masters in Educational Leadership and an Administrative Credential Program by the end of this year. She plans to continue with higher education and pursue a Doctorate Degree of Education that will allow her to make an even greater impact on the lives of others. She leads by being the best person that she can be, as an example and role model to others in that no matter where you come from there is hope for creating a better you. Her purpose is to love, serve and add value to the lives of youth and adults that she comes in contact with.</p>	




<p>Yadira Esparza Regis University</p>	<p>I am 20 years old, and I am a Colorado native. I attend Regis University, and I am the first one in my family to attend college. I am majoring in Health Care Administration, with a minor in Spanish. With this degree I plan to work in long-term care, as either the administrator or the Director of Activities. I have always been fascinated by the health care industry, but after working at a nursing home for 2 years, I have found my passion towards the elderly. With my bilingual status, I hope to accomplish more in this field.</p>	
<p>Summer Fahrenbrink University of Colorado Denver</p>	<p>My name is Summer Fahrenbrink. My father was born in the Philippines and my mother here in Colorado, which is also where I was born. I have two siblings; both younger and they have helped shape me to become the teacher I want to someday be. I have a fiancé and a ten-year old daughter and spend most of my free time with them. I am currently working towards a degree in Elementary Education through CU Denver. Through the NxtGEN program offered there I am a para-educator at Beach Court Elementary and after the summer I move into the Student Teacher Residency (STR) Program where I will finish gaining my degree.</p>	
<p>Shawn Fernandez University of New Mexico</p>	<p>Hello I am Shawn Fernandez from Peñasco, New Mexico. In Fall of 2017 I will be a sophomore at The University of New Mexico where I am majoring in Biology and Economics and minor in Health, Medicine, and Human Values. My goal is to become a physician that returns to my rural community and improves both its physical and social health. Until then, my contributions to my community have been to mentor students and be a positive role model. In my attempts to aid my community have received several major scholarships, which fuel my attempts to help others. Someday my goals will be achieved like others at the GlobalMindED Conference.</p>	




<p>Sergey Fouks Regis University</p>	<p>My name is Sergey Fouks and I am a second year Doctor of Pharmacy student at Regis University. I am an immigrant from Ukraine and I am the first in my family to seek higher education. I have been in Colorado for 24 years. I aspire to one day either own a chain of pharmacies or be the Director of Pharmacy at a hospital. My hobbies include skiing, camping, brewing beer, making cheese, cooking, working out, and many more.</p>	
<p>Elizabet Garcia University of Denver</p>	<p>My name is Elizabet Garcia and I will be a sophomore at the University of Denver this fall. I am studying political science with minors in Spanish and International Studies. I plan to attend law school at some point in the future. I have been really involved on my campus this year and by attending GlobalMindED Conference I hope to gain the skills necessary to continue to show my leadership skills on campus. More importantly, being a first generation student in college myself I would like to see what I can do for future first generation students.</p>	
<p>Isaiah Gurulé New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology</p>	<p>Isaiah Gurulé is a graduating senior from Escalante High School. He will receive his Associate's of Arts this summer from the University of New Mexico Taos, and study at New Mexico Tech in the fall. While attending high school, Isaiah was part of Honors Society, Student Senate, and service learning. He also volunteered in his community in clean-up days, and as a prayer leader in our local church. Interest in math and the sciences led to his attendance of a conference in the summer of 2015 in Boston, Massachusetts. Isaiah Gurulé currently lives in Canjilon, New Mexico. His hobbies include running, reading, and enjoying time with his little sister.</p>	



<p>Claudia Vanessa Hernandez</p> <p>University of Wyoming</p>	<p>My name is Claudia Vanessa Hernandez Marquez. I am the sixth in a family of seven. I grew up in a low-income household where education was not a priority, but my involvement in the federal GEAR UP program taught me otherwise. I am the first in my family to receive my high school diploma and associate's degree, and I will graduate with my bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming in spring 2018. I am involved in my community and tirelessly encourage others to pursue higher education opportunities.</p>	
<p>Jorge Hernandez</p> <p>Utah State University</p>	<p>My name is Jorge Hernandez. I am a graduating senior from Madison High School. I love to watch, read, and play sports. I am attending Utah State University in the fall. I plan on majoring in Math/Stats-Comp teaching. I hope to gain knowledge at the conference so that I can spread wisdom throughout my future university and community. I am excited to attend USU and get involved as much as I can.</p>	
<p>Evelyn Juarez</p> <p>University of New Mexico – Los Alamos Branch</p>	<p>My name is Evelyn Juarez. I am a 2016 LAESF Silver Scholar, and a proud first-generation student from the valley. I graduated from Española Valley High School in 2016 as Co-Valedictorian and am currently attending The University of New Mexico – Los Alamos Branch where I am majoring in Biology. In a year, I plan on moving up to UNM Main Campus in Albuquerque where I will make an impact by promoting the physical, mental, and social health of children as I pursue a career as a Pediatrician. Being a first generation student has not only revealed to me my own perseverance, strengths, and determination, but it has pushed me out of my comfort zone, and shown me that anything is possible, no matter how hard the obstacle may be. Always, dream big.</p>	



<p>Anit Koirala</p> <p>University of Colorado Boulder</p>	<p>I am a first generation Bhutanese refugee immigrant from Nepal. I migrated to the United States with my family in 2012. After graduating high school in just two years, I received the opportunity to attend the University of Colorado Boulder on a full ride scholarship. I'm currently a Junior pursuing my major in Civil Engineering. While working hard to obtain a good education, I'm also actively involved in many student organizations, one of which is Student Success Centre. I am a peer mentor at Student Success Centre and my role is to help my mentees, who are first generation minority students, to succeed by showing them the available resources on campus. My role also involves providing guidance on time management skills, study skills, and overcoming the feeling of unbelonging. I hope to share the knowledge I gain from attending the Global Mind Conference with my peers, mentors and different organizations I work with.</p>	
<p>Hayley Kwasniewski</p> <p>Indiana University Bloomington</p>	<p>My name is Hayley Kwasniewski and I am a Junior at Indiana University Bloomington. I am pursuing a double major in Biochemistry and Geology with minors in Gender Studies and Law and Public Policy. From this conference, I hope to gain a better understanding of my career options. I have trouble narrowing down my future goals and aspirations, since I lack knowledge of all possible options. I look forward to hearing from successful individuals and how they overcome structural obstacles.</p>	
<p>Valeria Licon</p> <p>Regis University</p>	<p>Valeria Licon, usually goes by Val, is 19 years old currently attending Regis University majoring in nursing. She was born in Virginia but was raised in Denver since she was two years old. At the young age of 5, she cared for an elderly woman named 'Peaches' and she knew right away she wanted to care for people. Some of her hobbies are reading and painting and she currently works as a certified nurse assistant in a nursing home as well as a funeral home. Valeria is also fluent in Spanish and English.</p>	




<p>Mike Lovato</p> <p>University of Denver</p>	<p>I sprained my spine during a wrestling tournament. I was taken to the hospital after the incident and I was at an "er" for 4 hours before I was seen. I told the doctor about my shoulder pain and he said he was common with this type of injury so it was ignored. I had a few problems when injured, but little did I know it would change my life forever. Aside from the shoulder pain, I was in the neck brace for a little over two months, way longer than I should have been. It caused me more problems with my neck. Also, my shoulder persisted in hurting and I ended up needing a complete cartilage repair in my shoulder. I love playing sports and staying active, but I had to lay off for the school year. It was hard for me watching from the bleachers as my team became state champions for the first time in school history. It was hard, watching my fellow team mates make it to the wrestling state championship, even harder to watch someone I considered my brother to become a state champ twice in one year. I had very little hope for anything my junior year. My grades were dropping, I was doing things I shouldn't be. At the time I wanted to be an engineer, but with all the poor health care it gave me an epiphany. I want to be the change and the results that I never received when I was injured. I want to prevent any injured person from not achieving a dream. My goal is for them to be confident in coming to me on their darkest day and I'll take care of them, no matter what. This is why I want to be physician.</p>	



<p>Todd Bradley Martin</p> <p>Pacific University</p>	<p>My name is Todd Bradley Martin Jr., although I go by Brad. I was born in Everett Washington, but have lived in Oregon City, Oregon since I was three years old. I graduated from Oregon City high school with a 3.8 GPA. In high school I played basketball and was named Second Team all league my senior year. I'm currently attending Pacific university in Forest Grove, Oregon. I played basketball at Pacific for two years, but no longer play. I'm a chemistry major and philosophy minor. I hope to attend graduate school for either computational chemistry or analytical chemistry. My career of choice would be a pharmaceutical research chemist.</p>	
<p>Kevin Martinez</p> <p>University of New Mexico</p>	<p>My name is Kevin Martinez. I was born and raised in Santa Fe, New Mexico. I currently go to the University of New Mexico. I plan to major in Economics and minor in Biology. I am the first person in my family to attend college and am the first in my family who is going to graduate from medical school. My ultimate goal is to attend medical school in order to give back to the community that has helped me grow into a prosperous individual.</p>	
<p>Marcelino Mejia</p> <p>Georgia Highlands College</p>	<p>I am 19 years old. I was born in Rome, Georgia but grew up in Cartersville. At the moment I have not decided on a major. My parents are from Guatemala. Also, I am a fan of hip hop music.</p>	


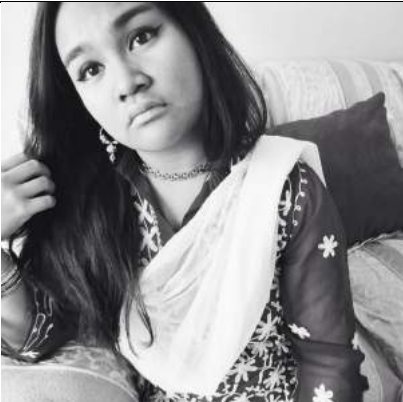

<p>Yeidaly Mejia Bryn Mawr College</p>	<p>My name is Yeidaly Mejia and I am a junior at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. I am a current Sociology major and Education minor interested in researching the inequalities ingrained in the college application system and the lack of support systems at PWI's. By attending this conference, as a first generation student myself, I am hoping to gain skills that will aid the development of a first generation program at my college. My ultimate dream is to become the President of a college/university.</p>	
<p>Jose Meza Regis University</p>	<p>I am attending Regis University and double majoring in Computer Science and Mathematics.</p>	
<p>Ethan Mounts University of Colorado Denver</p>	<p>Hello! I am currently a first-generation sophomore at the University of Colorado Denver who is pursuing an Anthropology degree with aspirations to attend medical school. I am a participant in the TRiO program at CU Denver, which is also where I work. TRiO has been a part of my life for the past 6 years and continues to do so. Some of my hobbies include cooking, hiking, and volunteering in my spare time.</p>	


<p>Victoria Nava-Watson</p> <p>University of Denver</p>	<p>Victoria Nava-Watson is a first generation college student pursuing her M.A. in International and Intercultural Communication at the University of Denver. She is a Latina leader and activist on the national and international scale who has worked on campaigns ranging from women's rights and pay equity to refugee assistance and immigration legislation reform. She is Vice President of the Association of Latino Professionals for America Denver Chapter and a Latinas Learning to Lead alumna. Victoria is a 2017-2018 American Association of University Women Distinguished Fellow, a 2017 Hispanic Scholarship Fund recipient, and the 2016 Philanthropic Education Organization Scholar. Currently, Victoria's focus is on her research which takes a critical approach to examining the socio-cultural effects of globalization, particularly on women. "My parents were instrumental in my development as a leader. They always made sure I was aware of the disparities that exist in the world and the privileges that have been afforded to me. 'Being aware makes you responsible' they would say to me. As an educated person, I have a responsibility to amplify the voices of those who are oppressed and to contribute to the efforts being made to combat against the marginalization that currently exists in our society." Victoria plans to use her education and skills to pursue a career in public policy to address global disparities in health and human rights.</p>	
<p>Daniel Novak</p> <p>Metropolitan State University of Denver</p>	<p>My name is Daniel Novak, and I just graduated from the Metropolitan State University of Denver with a BFA in Communication Design AKA Graphic Design. I am also an intern at GlobalMinded as their Web Developer and Graphic Designer. What I want to achieve is working with a design firm, not only that, I also want to create designs/artwork that is not for profit and the communities in Denver.</p> <p>My portfolio is https://djunovak8706.myportfolio.com and my LinkedIn is https://www.linkedin.com/in/djunovak8706/.</p>	



<p>Nate Olowo Pacific University</p>	<p>Nate Olowo grew up in Southern California with his twin brother and Nigerian parents. He speaks Yoruba fluently, but has never been to Nigeria to visit. Currently a chemistry major at Pacific University Oregon, and hopes to attend medical school in the future to become an anesthesiologist.</p>	
<p>Emmanuela Oppong Union College</p>	<p>My name is Emmanuela Oppong. I am a Bioengineering major on the pre-med track with a Global Services minor. I was raised in Ghana, West Africa and I am proud of my roots. I am also enthusiastic about learning; I get excited when I am able to pull from different fields and see the connections that begin to form-bioengineering offers the platform to do this. As I grow in knowledge and understanding of how systems and tools work through class projects and research, Union College also offers me the opportunity to delve in other passions about bridging differences that separate groups, service, equity, entrepreneurship and empowerment. Thus, I am very involved with the Society of Women Engineers, the African Students Association, STEP (Science Technology Entry Progra) and EDGE (Educating Girls For Engineering) programs, and the Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital. I am an explorer with a plethora of interests and I work hard and dream big. My goal is finish college and pursue a MD-PhD program and then eventually join the Doctors Without Borders Program.</p>	

<p>Owin Orr</p> <p>University of Denver</p>	<p>Owin Orr grew up in north Denver in the business world. Through Two Roads Charter School, an options program, he had the opportunity to explore untraditional educational measures. Now studying Real Estate and Finance at the University of Denver, Owin hopes to settle into a career in commercial development following graduation.</p>	
<p>Tammy Ortiz</p> <p>University of Northern Colorado</p>	<p>Tammy Ortiz is from Greeley, Colorado and is currently a junior at the University of Northern Colorado. She is majoring in Sociology, with minors in Leadership Studies and Communication. Tammy is also a member of the Student Senate, serving as Election Commissioner / Parliamentarian, a first year Stryker participant, and is active in social justice work on her campus. She hopes to eventually become involved in prison reform on the federal level and possibly serve in a political office. When not in school, Tammy spends time with her husband, her two children, and two beautiful grandchildren.</p>	
<p>RayLee Otero-Bell</p> <p>University of New Mexico</p>	<p>RayLee Otero-Bell is currently completing her senior year at the University of New Mexico with a major in History and minors in Biology and HMMV (Health, Medicine, and Human Values.) Ms. Otero-Bell is part of the prestigious Combined BA/MD Program, in which twenty-eight New Mexico students are awarded a reserved seat in the UNM School of Medicine upon completion of their undergraduate work. She has recently received the nomination of Outstanding Honors Thesis from the History Department for her work, and is awaiting the results. RayLee's passion has always been social justice, and she would like to use her History degree in conjunction with her eventual MD to publish her research investigating connections between medicine, science, and race/gender. She</p>	

	<p>would like to pursue a career as a Chief Medical Officer in order to create a more inclusive and self-aware environment for both physicians and patients. RayLee strongly believes in making higher education, particularly in the medical field, an accessible and attainable goal for all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status or social capital.</p>	
<p>Tanley Ravnaas Turtle Mountain Community College</p>	<p>My name is Tanley Ravnaas and I am a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian Reservation. I am currently a full time student at Turtle Mountain Community College and will be starting my second year at the college; I am majoring in medical lab technology. Outside of college, I volunteer my time at a local animal rescue fostering and rescuing animals in need. I will be graduating in May of 2018 with an associate's degree in applied science and will then further my education in order to receive a master's degree in that field.</p>	
<p>Ruth Rivera Metropolitan State University of Denver</p>	<p>My name is Ruth Rivera. I am a first generation student at Metropolitan State University and have completed my first year. I aspire to become a k-12 teacher and for that I am studying Biology and Art Education. My current job is as an intern working for the Westminster Public Schools Foundation and I volunteer as translator. Over the summer I will be working in my university for the SUSI Program where I will be mentoring international students from all around the Americas. I love working with students and I am interested in helping low-income immigrant communities any way I can..</p>	

<p>Alesi Ruiz</p> <p>Tallinn University (Estonia)</p>	<p>I was the first one in my family to graduate High School, and I was also the first one in my family to go to college, and graduate. As an undergraduate student I pursued a Bachelor's of Science in Management with a concentration in International Management from Menlo College. After graduation, I began a career in the Oil Field, however after the industry experienced a downturn, I transitioned over to the Education sector. This fall, I will be attending Tallinn University in Tallinn, Estonia. I will be pursuing a Master's in International Relations with a core specialization in Globalization and Regional Co-operation.</p>	
<p>Monique Ruiz</p> <p>Miami Dade College</p>	<p>Momo Manalang R. is a freshman at Miami Dade College, where she is majoring in International Relations. She embarked on a Global Citizen Year in 2015, where she acquired a Teach For India apprenticeship and conducted poetry projects in Pune, Maharashtra. Upon returning to Miami in 2016, she competed at Brave New Voices in Washington, D.C. under Tigertail Productions, and was Editor in Chief of WordSpeak's 2016 Anthology. Enlisted as a Finalist for #ITooAmAmerica, she also performed at the Kennedy Center for The Performing Arts. Apart from writing, Momo is often found serenading under mango trees.</p>	
<p>Sheena Saul</p> <p>University of Northern Colorado</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Sheena Saul. I am currently a senior at UNC, (Denver Campus) pursuing my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. I am a proud single mother of twin boys, work as a classroom para-professional through the Adams 12 Five Star School District, as well as work as a server at BWW on the weekends. I am a proud recipient of a scholarship through UNC called the Stryker Institute for Women's Leadership Development. This program focuses on social justice, and requires us to attend workshops once a month to build community and educate us as female leaders in our society. This scholarship is a huge blessing in my life and has been an incredible experience. One of my goals is to pursue my</p>	

	<p>graduate degree in counseling psychology and become a school counselor, as well as obtain a degree in administration/leadership to push for more mental health, and social-emotional awareness into the public school systems and the state-wide curriculum. I very much look forward to attending this conference, meet new people as well as gain new insights in leadership development.</p>	
<p>Alicia Sepulveda University of Northern Colorado</p>	<p>Alicia Sepulveda is a first-generation college student from Bushnell, Florida. She is passionate about helping people gain access to college. She wants to improve student retention, success, and graduation rates for students who have traditionally been underrepresented in higher education. Alicia is working on a PhD in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership at University of Northern Colorado.</p>	
<p>Sean Subulade Georgia Highlands College</p>	<p>I'm Oluwaseun Subulade but you can just call me Sean. My parents are originally from Nigeria and came to America to have a better opportunity at being successful. I am a poet who loves to read, act and listen to music. I'm a psychology major who wants to become a counseling psychologist to help people deal with the issues they struggle with the most. I want to be available to help everyone, but I want to be able to help minority males because they are the individuals who suffer from the concepts of "suck it up" and "be a man". They lose all sense of how to control their emotions and that affects their relationships.</p>	

<p>Ashle' Tate Colorado State University</p>	<p>My name is Ashle' Tate and I am a rising senior at Colorado State University. I am pursuing a degree in English Education and Ethnic Studies. At CSU I have been involved in a variety of activities and organizations. This year I led my third Alternative Spring Break trip to San Francisco where we studied the criminal injustice system. In addition to this I've been involved in Campus Corps, Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, NCTE and Generation Teach. Upon graduating, I hope to be the first in my family to attend graduate school. I am interested in learning more about Restorative Justice and YPAR. My dream is to impact education in a way that makes it more equitable and accessible.</p>	
<p>Adriana Vargas St. Edward's University</p>	<p>My name is Adriana Vargas. I am a senior at Capital High School and in the fall I will be attending St. Edward's University where I will be majoring in Biology. I plan to eventually specialize in pediatrics and I hope to one day achieve my goal of being a pediatric nurse.</p>	
<p>Megan Vigil University of New Mexico</p>	<p>My name is Megan Vigil. I grew up in Cundiyo, New Mexico and graduated from Pojoaque Valley High School in 2016 as an AP scholar with Distinction. At Pojoaque Valley High School I was the Student Body Vice President where I always strived for change in our school. I am currently a Computer Science major at the University of New Mexico and plan to pursue a MBA. At the University of New Mexico, I am a member of the New Mexico Leadership Institute and the First Year Research Experience program. My hobbies include traveling as I have been to Amsterdam, Spain, Italy, France, and Monaco.</p>	