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Fighting to Correct the Narrative—Black History is More Than Enslavement

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 • 1:00 PST, 2:00 MST, 3:00 CST, 4:00 EST

Jenelle Nangah, Dahni Austin, Alana Mitchell, Kaliah Yizar



Jenelle Nangah was born in Aurora and now lives in Denver. She attended Omar D. Blair for middle school, where she played soccer, basketball, and volleyball. During her freshman year, she added track and field. Jenelle also participated in the CU Pre-Health Collegiate Prep Program and served as a math tutor after school for other students. During her sophomore year, Jenelle took advanced coursework in Math, Science, and English and continued with volleyball and track. For her junior year, she took all Concurrent Enrollment College Coursework in each content area, while maintaining her love for sports. She also joined the National Teen Leadership Program (NTLP). She looks forward to finishing senior year as a student athlete, graduating with additional college credits and attending an HBCU.

Alana Mitchell was born in Denver, and has one older and one younger brother. She attended Florida Pitt Waller for elementary and middle school. As a child, she was drawn to theatre and arts, participating in plays and festivals, and drawing and creating new pieces. During middle school, she began playing softball and volleyball. In high school, Alana attended Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College for freshman year, Collegiate Prep Academy for sophomore year, and returned to DMLK for her junior year. Alana has continued playing sports and has been the volleyball team captain for two years. In October 2019, she and 16 students traveled to Washington, D.C., to visit historic monuments, Howard and Georgetown Universities, and the African American History Museum. She completed her junior year with a 3.6 GPA and 15 college credits.

PANEL LEADER



Dr. Ryan Ross

*Assoc. V. Chancellor Student Affairs, Equity, & Inclusion
Colorado Community College System*

An educator, speaker, and actualization coach, Dr. Ross is committed to access, equity, and the development of leaders. Recently, as a Regional Manager for the American Petroleum Institute, Ryan focused on STEM awareness in students and building opportunities in the energy industry for women, minorities, and veterans. In 2018, Dr. Ross returned to Colorado to work as the Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Equity, and Inclusion for the Colorado Community College System.

Dahni Austin was born in Boulder, and has one younger brother. She attended three different schools; Phillips Elementary, Omar D. Blair Charter, and now Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College. As a child, she participated in soccer, ballet, martial arts, cooking classes, and played multiple musical instruments. During middle school, she played soccer and was captain of the volleyball team. Dahni won first place at the science fair in 5th and 8th grade, and has maintained a 3.8 GPA. During her freshman year, Dahni completed two college classes, joined the DMLKJEC Debate team, and coached middle school volleyball. Heading into sophomore year, Dahni is eager to participate in debate tournaments, continue playing volleyball, taking Minds Matter classes, and gaining more college credits.

Kaliah Yizar was born in Wichita and relocated to Denver in 2014. As a child, she was an active piano player and science fair participant. While in middle school, she took advanced coursework including freshman biology and began playing volleyball. She completed middle school as the Salutatorian with a combined grade point average of 3.9. Kaliah finished freshman year with a 4.2 GPA, completed her first college course, became a trained mentor to 6th grade students, and joined the DMLK Debate team. This summer, she completed her Accelerated English and Math courses online, allowing her to advance into junior/11th grade courses as a sophomore. Kaliah is one of the founding members of the Black Student Alliance and co-host of the Know Justice Know Peace podcast. She addressed the Denver Board of Education to demand change in the Black History Curriculum.

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