



COLORADO

Department of Higher Education

Executive Advisory Group members

Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, co-chair



Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia is the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Prior to his appointment by Gov. John Hickenlooper in January 2011, Garcia worked as president of Colorado State University-Pueblo and energized the campus by considering nontraditional solutions to longstanding issues.

Garcia also served as president of the second-largest community college in Colorado, Pikes Peak Community College, overseeing three campuses that serve more than 16,000 students. He earlier worked for the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies as the Executive Director.

Garcia has continuously participated in community and non-profit organizations throughout his professional career. These experiences taught him to find solutions, not by driving a partisan agenda but by working with all stakeholders to reach a common ground. He and his wife, Claire Garcia, a professor at Colorado College, became deeply involved in public education when their own children entered grade school in Colorado Springs. Garcia served in roles as varied as PTO President to Legal Counsel for the District 11 School Board.

Born into a military family with deep roots in northern New Mexico, Garcia has lived in cities ranging from the Western United States to Western Europe. He earned a business degree from the University of Colorado. He returned to Colorado after earning a juris doctorate from Harvard Law School because of the quality of life found here. An avid mountain biker and mountain climber in the summer and snowboarder in the winter, Garcia could not imagine calling anywhere else his home - and hopes to pass that tradition onto his children and grandchildren.

Donna Lynn, co-chair



Donna Lynne is the Executive Vice President of Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Health Plan and a Group President for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and is responsible for its Pacific Northwest and Georgia regions.

In addition, Lynne is the President of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Colorado. There are more than 545,000 Kaiser Permanente members in Colorado and 710,000 in the other two regions she oversees, with a combined total revenue base of more than \$7 billion.

From 1998 to April 2005, Lynne was the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Group Health, a \$2.5 billion managed care organization. In the mid-1990s, she was the Executive Director of the New York Business Group on Health. Lynne spent 20 years in various positions in New York City government, including First Deputy Commissioner, Office of Labor Relations; Director, Mayor's Office of Operations; and Senior Vice President, New York City Health and Hospitals Corp.

Lynne was awarded the Denver Business Journal's 2008 Outstanding Women in Business award and received the 2009 Distinguished Coloradan Award from the University of Colorado Denver School of Pharmacy. She also received the President's Award from Women in Health Management and the Health Care Leadership Award from the New York Business Group on Health.

Lynne is the current chair of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on numerous boards and co-chairs the Denver Education Compact Executive Advisory Board for Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock.

Lynne has a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from the University of New Hampshire, a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University, and a doctorate in public health from Columbia University.

She enjoys skiing, mountaineering, cycling, and reading. She resides in Morrison, Colorado and has three adult children.

Jim Chavez, member



Jim Chavez is the Executive Director of the Latin American Educational Foundation (LAEF). LAEF is a Colorado-based non-profit, providing college assistance and guidance to Colorado's Latino students and their families, including direct scholarship support. Established in 1949, LAEF is Colorado's oldest Latino non-profit. LAEF has awarded over 6,000 scholarships since its inception totaling over \$6 million. Since the year 2000, LAEF has provided scholarships to nearly 3,000 students for close to \$3 million.

Prior to his appointment as Executive Director, Chavez served on the Board of Directors for LAEF for six years. Chavez has dedicated much of his professional life working for education related causes. As a board member and staff member of the Colorado Student Obligation Bond Authority, Chavez was instrumental in creating Colorado's first prepaid college tuition program, which became known as CollegeInvest, and then worked across the country to develop and implement numerous state college savings programs or Section 529 plans. He began his career as a certified public accountant with the firm Ernst & Young.

Chavez is an active member of the community, serving on the boards of many organizations, including as a member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Northern Colorado (Vice Chair), the Board of Commissioners for the Denver Housing Authority (Chair), Trustee for the Clayton Early Learning Center and Board member of Rocky Mountain Public Broadcasting Corporation. He is a graduate of Colorado State University.

He has two high school daughters and lives in Highlands Ranch. Chavez is a Colorado native who enjoys golf and riding his Harley Davidson.

Tim Foster, member



Tim Foster has served as the 10th President of Colorado Mesa University since March 2004, when he was appointed by the Colorado Mesa University Board of Trustees.

A former member of Gov. Bill Owens' cabinet, Foster has served as the Executive Director for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. He was initially appointed to the position by Owens in 1999 and reappointed in 2003. Foster also served as head of the Department of Higher Education, and served on the boards of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, the Denver Chamber of Commerce and its Committee on Science and Technology.

Prior to directing the CCHE, Foster was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1988 and served as the Majority Leader for four sessions, from 1993 to 1996. He received numerous awards from diverse groups such as the Sierra Club, Ducks Unlimited, the Iron Skillet award from the Colorado Restaurant Association, and the Guardian Award from the National Federation of Independent Business. During that time, Foster was also a partner in the general practice law firm of Foster, Larson, Laiche and Griff in Grand Junction.

A Grand Junction native, his numerous community activities include service on the Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association, the Board of Powderhorn Ski Area and as chairman of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce.

Foster earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics with honors from Kenyon College in 1980. He completed graduate coursework for a master's degree in mineral economics at the Colorado School of Mines from 1982 to 1984. Foster also earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver - College of Law in 1984.

The married father of four sons, Foster is an avid bike rider, skier, swimmer, soccer player and coach.

Russ George, member



Russ George was appointed President of Colorado Northwestern Community College by the State Board of Colorado Community Colleges in January 2011. Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) serves the vast northwestern region of Colorado, sharing borders with Utah and Wyoming and serving multiple small communities including Rangely and Craig, where the main campuses are located, and South Routt and Meeker, where satellite offices are maintained.

From 2007 through 2010, George was appointed by Gov. Bill Ritter to serve as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation where he was responsible for the direction and management of the 3,300-employee department with an annual budget of approximately \$1 billion.

George has served as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources having been appointed by Gov. Bill Owens in 2004 and concluding in 2006. From 2000 to 2004 George served as Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

In 1999 George was elected by his peers to be Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. He was first elected to the House in 1992 from District 57 representing Moffat, Rio Blanco, Garfield and Pitkin Counties in western Colorado. As a House member George served on the Judiciary Committee, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Local Government Committee and the Capital Development Committee.

From 1976 until 2000 George practiced law in the Rifle law firm of Stuver and George, P.C., which handled water, real estate, oil and gas, business and other legal matters. He was admitted to the Colorado bar in 1972 and the Montana bar in 1975. George is a graduate of Rifle High School, Colorado State University, where he was a Boettcher Scholar, and Harvard Law School. He has served as a VISTA volunteer for the Crow Tribe of Indians in Montana, as a municipal judge in Rifle, as general counsel for the Rio Blanco and West Divide Water Conservancy Districts and as a director for the Silt Water Conservancy District.

In 2008 the Colorado State University Institute for Learning and Teaching named a portion of its facility as “The Russell George Great Hall.” George has received the 2014 Rams Juris Doctor CSU Career Distinction in Law Award. He serves as a Trustee of the Boettcher Foundation and a director of each the Colorado Water Conservation Board, TBD Colorado and the Western Colorado Community Foundation. George was recently named a “Distinguished Fiji” by the Phi Gamma Delta International Fraternity.

George and his wife Neal have four grown sons: Russell, Charles, Thomas and Andrew.

Sen. Kent Lambert, member



Kent Lambert represents Senate District 9 in the Colorado General Assembly, which includes northern Colorado Springs, the Air Force Academy, and parts of Black Forest.

Lambert retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2004 as a Colonel. His varied career included tours as a B-52 instructor; a senior scientific analyst in the Pentagon; the air and defense attache in Jordan and Sweden; the Deputy Defense Intelligence Officer for Europe in the Defense Intelligence Agency; and the Deputy Director of the Air

Force Space Command Space Analysis Division.

Lambert demonstrated his leadership skills at the U.S. Air Force Academy by serving on the Cadet Wing Staff in one of only two positions elected by the cadets themselves, the Chairman of the Cadet Professional Ethics Committee. He was commissioned from the Academy in 1974, and has had a diverse career in Air Force operations, scientific analysis, and international affairs, receiving many awards and medals.

Following his retirement from the Air Force, Lambert ran for Colorado State Representative, and served as legislative aide to two state representatives. He also was instrumental in forming and organizing the Republican Study Committee of Colorado, where he served as the Executive Director

until the end of the 2005 session. In that capacity, he provided direct support to a broad range of Republican legislative activities.

Following his election to the Colorado General Assembly in 2006, Lambert was also elected as Chairman of the Republican Study Committee of Colorado. He served on the House State, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee and was the Ranking Republican member of the House Finance Committee. He was also appointed as Commander of the Colorado Legislative Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. In August, 2009, he was appointed as the House Republican member to the Joint Budget Committee, and to the House Appropriations Committee.

After his election to the Colorado Senate in 2010, he was elected by the Senate Republican Caucus to serve on the Joint Budget Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Lambert earned his B.S. in Military History from the U.S. Air Force Academy; his M.A. in International Relations (Strategic Studies) from the University of Southern California; and his M.S. in Strategic and Tactical Sciences (Operations Research) from the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Lambert is married to the former Gretchen Ann Simpich of Colorado Springs. They have three children, and five grandsons.

Rep. Jenise May, member



Jenise May represents the House District 30 in the Colorado General Assembly. Her district stretches from northern Aurora to rural Adams County east of Denver International Airport and back into parts of Thornton.

May is a member of the Joint Budget Committee and Appropriations Committee, as well as a member of the Child Support Commission and a former member of the Joint Select Committee for the Implementation of Amendment 64 Task Force Recommendations.

In the 2014 session, May focused on passing a balanced budget to help all of Colorado. The budget made significant increases in both K-12 and higher education funding, increased the economic security of Coloradans, set aside funding to help communities recover from the floods and fires of 2013 and increased the state's reserve fund by \$130 million. May also sponsored legislation allowing community colleges across the state to offer students degrees in applied sciences.

During the 2013 legislative session, May coauthored two major bills that develop a statewide child abuse reporting hotline and create teams to review child fatalities, making recommendations to prevent future such events. She also coauthored the bill that established the regulatory framework for the legalization of recreational marijuana.

May has more than 25 years in public service. From an entry-level clerk's job at the Adams County Department of Social Services, she worked her way up to become Deputy Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services, overseeing more than 2,000 DHS employees and managing a budget of

more than \$1 billion - and always with an eye for the most efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

May effectively managed DHS programs, including during crisis response to catastrophes such as the tornado that devastated Windsor in 2008.

A fourth-generation Coloradan, May has two daughters, two stepsons and two granddaughters. She and her husband, Eric Busch, live in Northwest Aurora.

Monte Moses, member



Monte Moses is an educational consultant and speaker. Prior to starting his private consulting firm, Moses was the Superintendent of the Cherry Creek School District in Colorado.

Moses also served as a school administrator in Littleton, Colo.; Garland, Texas; and Casper, Wyo.; and he was a professor of education at Murray State University in Kentucky.

Moses is the author of two books, and his articles on subjects pertaining to leadership and organizational improvement have appeared in numerous journals. His articles have been influential in shaping the debate about the federal No Child Left Behind Act and high school reform.

Moses has received numerous awards including the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence, Administrator of the Year from the Association of Office Professionals, and National Superintendent of the Year in 2005 from the American Association of School Administrators. He has served on numerous panels and commissions at the state, national and international level. Some of these include the Colorado Race to the Top committee, the AVID Board of Directors, the Rose Community Foundation, ASCD advisory board on the whole child, Colorado P-20 Council, the Western States Benchmarking Consortium, advisory boards for ACT and the College Board, and consultant to the East Asia Regional Council of Schools.

Moses was appointed to the Commission by Gov. Hickenlooper in 2011 to serve through June 2015 as a Republican resident of the 6th Congressional District.

Pam Shockley-Zalabak, member



Pamela Shockley-Zalabak is Professor of Communication and Chancellor at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Her research and teaching focus on organizational communication and the impact of emerging communications technologies on organizations. The author of eight books and numerous articles, Shockley-Zalabak specializes in large-scale organizational analysis and in assessing relationships among communication, culture, and a variety of evaluative dimensions of organizational life.

Shockley-Zalabak is the recipient of the University of Colorado's Presidential Service Award, the Chancellor's Award, and the Faculty Thomas Jefferson Award. The focus of her funded research has been development of support structures for at-risk students. She earned bachelors and masters degrees from Oklahoma State University and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Born in Texas and raised in Oklahoma, Chancellor Shockley-Zalabak is an active wheat farmer, a grandmother and student advocate.

Sen. Pat Steadman, member



Pat Steadman was selected in May 2009 to fill a vacancy in the Colorado State Senate that occurred when former Sen. Jennifer Veiga announced her resignation from office due to her planned relocation to Australia.

Steadman has been a long-time resident of Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood. He grew up in Westminster, and graduated from Westminster High School, Regis College and the University of Colorado School of Law.

In 2010 Steadman was elected to finish Sen. Veiga's term, and in 2012 he was reelected to a full four-year term. He currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Joint Budget Committee.

Steadman got started in politics during law school by working to fight ballot issues that targeted the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. After finishing law school, Steadman worked to oppose Amendment 2 on the 1992 general election ballot. When the anti-gay amendment was approved by voters, Steadman co-founded the non-profit organization that led the successful lawsuit challenging its constitutionality all the way to the United States Supreme Court. The landmark case of *Romer v. Evans* declared Amendment 2 unconstitutional and established the first significant court precedent protecting the equal rights of LGBT Americans.

After law school, Steadman worked for AFSCME Council 76, a labor union representing public employees. But his career soon turned to politics as ballot issue campaigns and lobbying work became his passion. Steadman joined a lobbying firm in 1994, and in 2001 he became a partner in that firm with Fofi Mendez. Together they built a well-respected business that was known for taking on progressive causes, working with the Joint Budget Committee and waging successful ballot initiative campaigns.

As a lobbyist, Steadman worked extensively to support public education, advance civil rights and civil liberties, protect a woman's right to choose, expand worker's rights, and defeat censorship and other far-right assaults on cherished freedoms. Over the course of 15 years of lobbying his accomplishments were many and included several significant pieces of legislation protecting the LGBT community that were sponsored by his predecessor, Sen. Veiga.

Steadman has always been actively engaged in his community. He was appointed by Mayor Webb to the Denver Women's Commission and by then-Mayor Hickenlooper to the Denver GLBT Commission, and was the first person to chair the Advisory Board for Denver's Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations.

In 2013 he was honored at the White House with the Harvey Milk Champion of Change Award for more than two decades of advocacy for equal rights.

Greg Stevinson, member



President of Denver West Realty, Stevinson is in partnership with Mills Corp, and designed and built the Denver West Village retail center. He is actively involved in community and organization activities including Jefferson County Open Space Advisory Committee, and is a former Chairman of the Board of Craig Hospital, a former member of the board of Red Rocks Community College Foundation and the West Chamber of Commerce.

Stevinson graduated from Regis College.

Rep. Jim Wilson, member



James (Jim) Wilson, a state representative in the Colorado General Assembly, grew up on a wheat and cattle farm 9 miles east of Kiowa, Kansas. He attended a two-room country school in Corwin, Kansas through eighth grade. He graduated from Kiowa High School.

While in high school and college, Wilson rented a little land of his own, and he and his brother operated a custom hay hauling business.

Wilson chose to attend Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, to pursue his college education. He graduated in 1967 with a BA degree in Social Studies/History and PE. He was the first member of his family to earn a college degree.

Wilson's career as an educator has spanned four decades and two states. His first position was a government and history teacher and coach. His career grew to include Athletic Director, Secondary Counselor, a Junior/Senior High School Principal and Superintendent. He also officiated football and basketball.

After moving back to Kiowa from Kansas, Wilson took over the 1,120 acre family farm in addition to his educational duties. After 24 years in education, Wilson moved to Colorado where he served as a Superintendent of Schools for 16 years in three school districts.

Highlights of his years in Colorado include: the Colbert Cushing Award for outstanding service to his professional organization, President of the Colorado Association of School Executives, President of the Colorado School Superintendent's group for two terms, 11 years on the CASE Coordinating Council, Who's Who Among Outstanding Americans, Colorado High School Activities Association Executive Board, and State of Colorado's Educational Technology Plan Task Force.

Wilson also created and developed an award in honor of his father called the Demont Award Recognition Program (recognizing Rural and Small School administrators who leave it better than they found it).

Wilson has also traveled extensively as a speaker and entertainer. He has been a featured presenter at the AASA National Conference on multiple occasions. His entertaining persona of The Colorado Cowboy has taken him to 20 states and the District of Columbia.

Wilson is an elder in their church and teaches the adult Bible class. He continues to serve education as the President and Co-Founder of The Rural Educational Administrative Development Group “a nonprofit organization assisting Colorado school districts find ways to save dollars.”

In his spare time, Wilson enjoys hunting with both gun and bow. He also enjoys fishing and vegetable gardening.

Wilson and his wife Kristi (also a retired educator and administrator) continue to reside in Salida. They have four beautiful daughters, a great son-in-law and four grandkids.

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