

Jennifer Briggs

Jennifer Briggs works as a corporate reconstructionist proving that business can be done different – purpose centered, mission driven, and values powered using tenants of inclusive capitalism to attain success. She is chairperson of the board for GISinc., serves as an outside independent director for PFSbrands and Engineering Economics, and is a founding partner of GRITT Business Coaching. She is a Rutgers University Institute for the Study of Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing Executive Fellow focusing on corporate governance and performance. She also contributes to the Beyster Institute with the University of California San Diego and the Democracy at Work Institute. She holds a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership, graduate studies in Enterprise Project Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education. She was a member of the New Belgium Brewing executive leadership team for over a decade as VP of Human Resources and Organizational Development.



James Coleman, State Representative & House Majority Co-Whip

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James Coleman is a native of Denver—having grown up in the Park Hill neighborhood, currently living in Green Valley Ranch—and is currently serving his second term representing the citizens, families, and communities of District 7 in Colorado’s House of Representatives. In 2016, James was elected to serve his first term as the youngest of the 100 Colorado representatives and senators. James serves in leadership as the Colorado House Majority Co-Whip, and serves as Vice Chair of the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee, and sits on both the House Education Committee, and House Appropriations Committee. James is one of 8 African American legislators, the most African American legislators to serve at the same time in the Colorado legislature in Colorado history.

His professional career has been dedicated to empowering families and engaging the community to improve the quality of life for Colorado residents.

He serves as CEO at FaithBridge, a local nonprofit mobilizing faith communities to improve K-12 education in the State of Colorado. James’ passion for faith based community service began when he was licensed and ordained as a minister at the age of 13, preaching in churches and doing street ministry across the Metro Denver area.

James is a passionate champion for excellent education and quality options. It’s driven by his formative years growing up in the Park Hill neighborhood and experiencing the full range of educational options.

He attended Smiley Middle School, a traditional Denver Public School. Later, through a need-based scholarship, he attended a private high school. And as a parent, he sends his own young children to a public charter school in Northeast Denver. He understands that different students and families have different needs, and every parent deserves the opportunity to choose the school that works best for their child.

James serves as a Board of Director member at Highline Academy, a tuition-free public charter school with a custom liberal arts curriculum and rigorous academic program. His civic engagement also includes the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Tony Grampsas Youth Services Board, Education Commission of the States, and several other organizations.



James earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology, with a minor in Business Administration, from Oral Roberts University. He and his wife, Shayna, have been together since the 8th grade, and have two amazing children (twins), James Jr. and Naomi who are 8 years old in the 2nd grade.

Douglas Dell, MBA, CPA (Inactive), ABV (Inactive)

Senior Vice President, Manager, Colorado Commercial Banking Group
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Doug has over 30 years of experience as a financial manager in commercial banking, investment banking and private industry. In addition to managing KeyBank's Commercial Banking team in Colorado, he specializes in lending to employee owned companies. Doug initially developed his knowledge of ESOPs while serving as the CFO of a \$40MM die-cast die manufacturer, a partial ESOP company located in Muncie, IN. He continued his ESOP involvement as a Vice President with Goelzer Investment Banking, performing ESOP valuations, feasibility studies and other corporate advisory services. While at Goelzer, he received the American Institute of CPA's Accredited in Business Valuation designation (ABV). Doug graduated cum laude with a BA degree from DePauw University in 1985, and an MBA from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business in 1994. He is a member of The ESOP Association, a past member of the Advisory Cabinet of the Indiana ESOP Association, and a member of the National Center for Employee Ownership.



Stephanie Gripne, Ph.D.

Founder and CEO, Impact Finance Center and Impact Finance Group, Inc.

As Founder and CEO of Impact Finance Center (IFC), Stephanie is the creative force behind several social enterprises to accelerate the impact investing movement and move \$1T in investment capital into social ventures doing well by doing good including the following: CO Impact Days, Impact Investing Institute, and Rocky Mountain Who's Who & Impact Investing. Lauded by Forbes as “the Steve Jobs of impact investing”, Stephanie is continuously innovating IFC’s model, which serves as an accelerator for asset owners, by identifying, educating, and activating early adopter philanthropists and investors who want to become impact investors. In just five years, Stephanie has positioned the State of Colorado as the leader in impact investing and the successful pilot for a National Impact Investing Marketplace. Early evaluation efforts of IFC’s work indicate that 260 direct impact investments of \$260 M have been completed. A successful entrepreneur, academic, investment advisor, and impact investor, Stephanie’s vision is driven by 20 years of combined experience at the EcoProducts Fund \$100 Ecosystem Service private equity fund, the Nature Conservancy, the USDA Forest Service, DOE Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Journal of Wildlife Management, and several universities. She received her Ph.D. from the Boone and Crockett Wildlife Conservation Program at the University of Montana, and has a B.S. in Biology & Wildlife Management from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point and a M.S. in Ecology from Utah State University. Stephanie is an Aspen Institute Environment Forum Scholar, Environmental Leadership Senior Fellow, Property Environment Research Center Fellow, Ford Foundation Community Forestry Fellow, and Boone and Crockett Professional Member.



Dan Hobbs

Dan Hobbs is the lead cooperative development specialist with the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union Cooperative and Economic Development Center. He has over twenty years agricultural and rural development experience in the United States and South America and formerly served as executive director of Organic Seed Alliance, NewFarms and Nuestras Raices, all 501(c)(3) organizations. Dan is a fifth generation Coloradan, holds a B.A. in Latin American Studies and owns and operates a 43 acres of diversified certified organic crops with his wife, Nanna Meyer, in Pueblo County, Colorado.



Minsun Ji, Ph.D.

Minsun Ji (Ph.D.) is the Director of the Center for New Directions in Politics and Public Policy program in the political science department at the University of Colorado Denver. This program focuses on developing public, non-profit and community leadership, with program tracks in local government, labor-community organizing and social economy innovations. As Director of one of the few social economy M.A. programs in the U.S, Minsun has focused on developing a foundation of university-community partnerships to develop Colorado's leaders working in the social economy sector.

Before her current university position, Minsun was the founder and the Executive Director of a Denver immigrant day laborer center, El Centro Humanitario para los Trabajadores (Humanitarian Center for Workers), and she also helped to organize Denver's immigrant worker cooperative with domestic workers. She has published various articles regarding worker cooperatives and union-cooperatives, and her research focuses on worker cooperatives, social economy, labor movements and union-cooperative relations in different countries. Currently, she is a research fellow at the New School of Social Science, working on platform cooperative movements, and is a J. Robert Beyster Employee Ownership Fellow with Rutgers University, School of Management and Labor Relations. Minsun also works on a group research project of the Korean national government (under the Planning and Budget Department) investigating strategies to grow the Korean social economy at the national level. Her role is to share case studies of worker cooperatives and business conversion to worker cooperatives in the U.S.



Steve Johnson

Steve Johnson is CHFA's director of Community Development. He leads CHFA's multifamily lending, LIHTC allocation, and small business lending teams. In his previous role at CHFA, Johnson was the manager of the Commercial Lending Division. He currently serves as Treasurer and former Chair of the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA). Prior to joining CHFA in 1996, Steve worked as a commercial lender for National City Bank in Ohio. Steve is a graduate of Hillsdale College.



Sandy Shoemaker, CPA

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AUDIT PARTNER

Sandy has more than 27 years of public accounting experience and leads the ESOP industry practice for the firm, as well as services for various franchising companies. Sandy has extensive experience with both privately held and public companies, including work on initial public offerings, secondaries, and reverse mergers. She works with companies on transition planning and focuses on educating executives on ESOP opportunities. Her expertise ranges from feasibility studies, initial ESOP transactions, structuring, and consultation on various accounting issues and audits of ESOPs and ESOP companies. Her clients are small to medium-size companies that are growing and are in need of a higher level of service from a seasoned finance professional.



Kerry Siggins

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Kerry Siggins is the CEO of StoneAge, Inc., a global leader in the design and manufacturing of high pressure waterblasting and sewer cleaning tools and equipment used in the industrial cleaning industry. StoneAge sells and supports its products throughout the world and has over 170 dealers in 45 countries.

Kerry joined StoneAge in January of 2007 as the Director of Operations. In 2009, she was named CEO by StoneAge's Board of Directors and has since led the company in building a strong global presence resulting in double digit growth year over year. Most recently, she led the acquisition of a distributor in the United Kingdom and opened StoneAge Europe, a wholly-owned subsidiary.

Her passion lies in organizational and leadership development and she is focused on helping StoneAge employees grow both personally and professionally. Under Kerry's leadership, StoneAge became an ESOP Company in 2015 and her employees enjoy a strong culture of ownership and engagement. She is proud that StoneAge shares a significant amount of its success with its employees and believes that ESOPs are a viable model for founders looking to exit their companies.

Kerry is also the Vice President of the Waterjet Technology Association and chairs its Hydroblasting Global Standards Committee whose goal is to develop standardized waterblasting practices around the world. Kerry is responsible for bringing global thought leaders, safety associations, and leadership from refineries and chemical plants together to promote safety and technology advancement in industrial cleaning. Kerry was named one of Colorado's Top 25 Most Influential Young Professionals and was a finalist for Colorado's CEO of the Year in 2017. StoneAge is recognized as a top 100 company to work for by Outside Magazine. Kerry sits on several other boards including Chinook Medical Gear, E.P.I.C. Magazine, and the Fort Lewis College School of Business Advisory Board. In addition, she is an avid supporter and volunteer for multiple organizations including Fort Lewis College, Trails 2000, La Plata County Economic Development Alliance, and the Women's Resource Center.

Kerry is a dynamic, sought-after speaker who has presented at universities, seminars, and conferences around the world. She is an author and blogger; her articles have been published in a variety of industry magazines and her blog readership continues to gain popularity each month.



Senator Jack Tate

A career businessman, Senator Tate has been a Member of the Colorado General Assembly since 2015, serving as both Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Business, Labor, and Technology. He also serves on several other committees related to commerce and finance. The bulk of his legislation relates to economic development, finance, modernizing business regulations, and job creation.

Tate hails from Nashville, TN and now lives in Centennial, CO. He attended Duke University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. He continued his education at the University of Colorado attaining both a Master of Science in Finance as well as an MBA in Marketing. He has spent his 25-year business career in both sales and marketing management and corporate finance. He also has extensive experience in developing and evaluating projects related to capital investment and financial decision making.



Halisi Vinson

Formerly the executive director of RMEOC, Halisi brings a wealth of knowledge and a strong skill set developed through her work in business development, marketing, consulting and over half of a decade in the venture capital industry. Halisi spent over seven years as a strategic consultant and has worked extensively in and with large and small companies, non-profits, and faith-based organizations. Her pioneering ideas have led to the creation of innovative strategic plans, effective crisis communications messaging, and dynamic process optimization plans. More recently, Halisi was chosen to be a part of the Gubernatorial transition team for economic development. Halisi earned her Bachelors degree from Loyola Marymount University and her MBA from FW Olin School of Business at Babson College.

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Jason is the Principal of a boutique law and business consulting practice and co-founder of “Colorado Cooperative Developers”. Jason's specialty is in cooperative law, shared ownership models, cooperative finance, regenerative capital and financing strategies, sustainable economies law, teal lawyering, virtual outside general counsel, and worker-ownership. Jason has advised on more than a dozen worker-cooperative conversions, several multi-stakeholder ownership conversions, and more than a dozen platform cooperatives. Jason has also advised numerous clients through socially responsible financings, including through membership capital campaigns, private offerings, and qualified intrastate public offerings. Jason holds a B.S. from Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations and a J.D. cum laude from Suffolk University Law School, where he received honors with a concentration in international law.

Jason has served on the Boards of several worker-owned businesses around the country, including Stocksy United, Equal Exchange and Colorado Recovery.

Jason has published more than 6 scholarly law review articles on international, human rights and fair trade, open sourcing renewable energy technology topics and speaks regularly about socially responsible alternative financing and capitalization strategies, cooperatives and social enterprise business models. Jason has been an adjunct professor in CSU’s Global Sustainability and Social Enterprise program, where he taught an MBA course on business law and ethics. He has also been a guest lecturer at C.U. Law’s Entrepreneurial Law Clinic.

