

SYNERGY

**The Colorado Charter Schools
Annual Conference
February 27-28, 2025
Denver Marriott Tech Center**

PRESENTED BY



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SYNERGY: The interaction or cooperation of two or more entities to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects



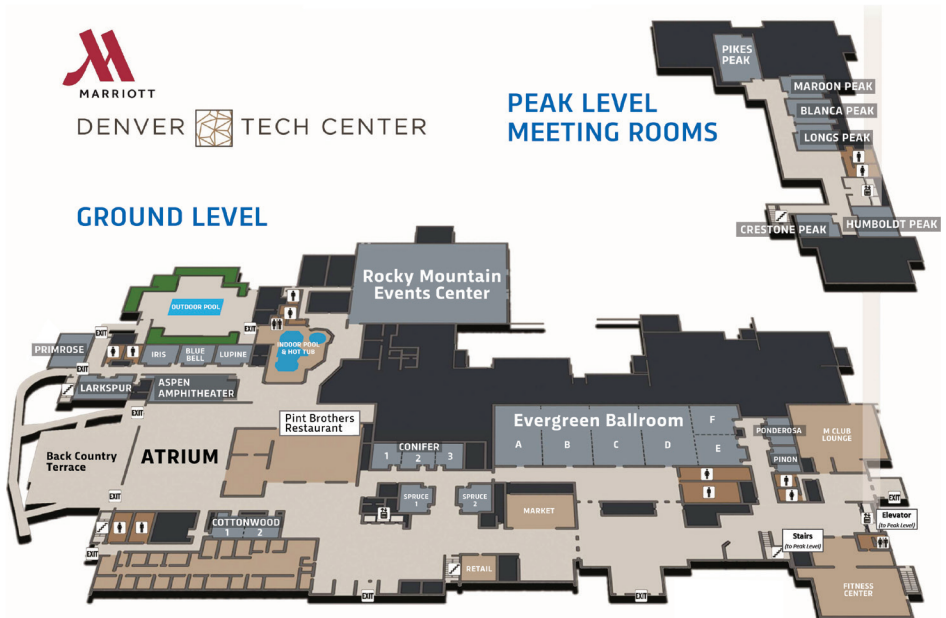
COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS

WELCOME

We're so glad you've joined us for the 2025 Colorado Charter Schools Conference. We chose this year's theme, **synergy**, with great intention. It is defined as the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.

As we gather over these next few days, let's do what we do best — interact cooperatively to empower the whole.

Many of you already embrace this approach daily at your schools and organizations. In these next few days, we have the privilege and opportunity to expand that practice, maximizing both our individual and collective growth.





We are incredibly proud of all you do to serve over 136,000 public school students and their families at 262 schools across 70 communities in Colorado. Our students' success is your success.

If there's anything that we can do to enhance your conference experience, please don't hesitate to ask and we'll do our best. The League booth is located near registration where a member of our team — wearing an **orange lanyard** — will be happy to assist you. Thank you for joining us, and please enjoy the synergy.

Sincerely,
The Colorado League of Charter Schools Staff and Board



SYN- ERGY



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:00 AM - 8:30 AM EXHIBITORS SET UP

7:45 AM - 9:15 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM WORKSHOPS BLOCK

9:00 AM ATRIUM, EDTECH, ESPORTS OPEN

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM KEYNOTE 1 (Rocky Mountain Ballroom)

10:45 AM - 4:00 PM SOLUTION SESSIONS (Larkspur)

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM WORKSHOPS BLOCK

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM Lunch

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM ATRIUM, ESPORTS, Drone Soccer

1:15 PM PRIZE DRAWING in the Atrium

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM WORKSHOPS BLOCK

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM ATRIUM DEDICATED TIME
& Drone Soccer Finale (Evergreen D)

2:45 PM - 2:50 PM PRIZE DRAWINGS in the Atrium

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM PANEL (Rocky Mountain Ballroom)

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM HAPPY HOUR & Drone Soccer Demo

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:45 AM - 9:15 AM Breakfast

8:30 AM - 1:30 PM ATRIUM, EDTECH, ESPORTS OPEN

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM WORKSHOPS BLOCK

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM KEYNOTE 2

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM WORKSHOPS BLOCK

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM ATRIUM, EDTECH, ESPORTS TIME

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM Lunch (+ Prize Winners Drawing)

1:15 PM PRIZE DRAWINGS in the Atrium

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM WORKSHOPS BLOCK

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM EDTECH, ESPORTS DEMOS

DOWNLOAD THE APP TO SEE THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE

WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 27

Each year the League calls on its wide array of members, partners and consultants to bring valuable content to the conference. Please join us in thanking all the presenters who are graciously giving their time and expertise to nurture synergy across every Colorado charter school.



Scan to get the app and see all workshop details →

(124) Knowing When and How to Intervene

Presenter: **Elisa Westapher**, Chief Development & Business Officer, NACSA
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Quality: Authorizing** Room/Location: **Conifer**

(114) Strategies for Engaging New and Emerging Authorizers

Presenter: **Mackenzie Khan**, Executive Director, CACSA
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Authorizing** Room/Location: **Longs Peak**

(24) Building Purpose-Driven Pathways: Preparing Colorado Students For the Future of Work

Presenter: **James Cryan**, Founder & CEO, Willow Education
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Quality: Career Readiness** Room/Location: **Iris**

(108) Workforce Development and Partnerships in Charter Schools

Presenter: **Kyle Sanders**, CEO, CrewConcepts
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Ed Tech Stage** Room/Location: **Evergreen C**

(44) Unlocking Leadership Potential: A Comprehensive Evaluation Tool for Board Members to Support School Leaders

Presenter: **Dr. Meryl Faulkner**, Stargate School
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Boards and Governance** Room/Location: **Evergreen E**

(110) High Stakes Investigations

Presenter: **Sally Roller**, Investigator, ILG Denver
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Finance and Funding** Room/Location: **Evergreen F**

(93) From Turnaround to Lasting Performance- Partnerships that Build the Build Capacity for Real Change

Presenter: **Karen Ikegami**, Principal, RiseUp Community School
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Schools & Leadership** Room/Location: **Evergreen A**

(80) What is the State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grant and How Can It Benefit My School?

Presenters: **Bill Kottenstette**, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Education
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Operations, Funding, Facilities** Room/Location: **Evergreen B**

(1) Every Voice: Charter School Board Members and Leaders on the Importance of Advocacy

Presenter: **Anne Keke**, Director of Grassroots Advocacy, CLCS Action
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Advocacy & Policy** Room/Location: **Aspen**

(121) The Grant Recipients' Roundtable: Key Lessons and Highlights from the Great Schools Colorado Grant (CSP)

Presenter: **Bright Homawoo**, Grant and Technical Manager, CLCS
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Hot Topics - Great Schools Colorado** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

(55) Executive Function: The Foundation of it All

Presenter: **Neil Peterson**, Founder, CEO and Chairman, Edge Foundation
Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Hot Topics** Room/Location: **Primrose**

(125) Solving Digital Access and Security Issues in Your Schools

Presenter: **Lee Williams**, Director of Instructional Technology, ClassLink
Time: **11:00 - 11:20 AM** Strand: **Solution Sessions** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

Scan the QR code to get the app and see more details →

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27... continued



(65) The New Why of DEI Presenter: **Alesha Arscott**, CEO, Unleashed
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Human Resources & Staff**
Room/Location: **Evergreen F**

(7) From Insights to Impact: Applying Science to Enhance Tier 1 Practices
Presenter: **Meagan Gillcrist**, Executive Director, AlignED
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Quality: Academics** Room/Location: **Conifer**

(34) Hiding in Plain Sight: Culturally Linguistically Diverse Gifted & Twice Exceptional Learners
Presenter: **Robin Greene**, Executive Director of Academics, Stargate School
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Quality: Special Education** Room/Location: **Iris**

(45) Sustainable Charter Schools: Charter Board Responsibilities
Presenter: **Kia Murray**, Educational Consultant, Propel: School Quality Consulting
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Boards and Governance** Room/Location: **Evergreen E**

(81) From Eligibility to Application: Colorado BEST Grant
Presenter: **Brandon LaChance**, Regional Program Manager, Colorado Department of Education
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Operations, Funding, Facilities** Room/Location: **Evergreen B**

(2) The 2025 Legislative Session: What's Ahead for Colorado's Public Charter Schools
Presenter: **Prateek Dutta**, Vice President, Policy, CLCS Action
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Advocacy & Policy** Room/Location: **Aspen**

(83) Roadmap to Rating: Strategies for Climbing the Credit Ladder
Presenter: **Eric Duran**, Managing Director, D.A. Davidson & Co.
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Operations, Funding, Facilities** Room/Location: **Evergreen A**

(141) Get the Facts on Recent Federal Actions: What Schools Need to Know
Presenter: **Eric Hall**, Attorney, Sparks Willson
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Hot Topics: Legal** Room/Location: **Longs Peak**

(123) State of Charter School Authorizing Presenter: **Heather Wendling**, Vice President of Consulting Services, National Association of Charter School Authorizers
Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Authorizing** Room/Location: **Primrose**

(126) HACKED: Safeguarding K-12 Data Security Against Emerging Cyber Threats
Presenter: **Troy Hale**, General Manager, Executech
Time: **11:40 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Solution Sessions** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

Drone Soccer Tournament Part 1 / Esports
Time: **12:15-1:15** Location: **Evergreen D**

full schedule at
coloradoleague.org/esports.html

(134) You Received a Grant; Now What? Manage, Procure, and Track Grants
Presenter: **Cari Warnock**, Education Ambassador, CDW
Time: **12:30 - 12:50 PM** Strand: **Solution Sessions** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

(132) Winning the Enrollment Game: Data-Driven Strategies for Charters
Presenter: **TBD**, Avela
Time: **1:10 - 1:30 PM** Strand: **Solution Sessions** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

(57) Transforming Your Procurement Operations in Four Phases
Presenter: **Daniel Casselli**, President, BuyQ
Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Hot Topics** Room/Location: **Primrose**

(115) CACSA All Membership Meeting & Authorizer Lunch

Presenter: **Mackenzie Khan**, Executive Director, CACSA

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Authorizing** Room/Location: **Longs Peak**

(3) Teacher Leadership in Action: Driving Policy Solutions for Equity and Student Success

Presenter: **Karen Amidon**, Colorado Charter Teacher Advocacy Manager, Teach Plus

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Advocacy & Policy** Room/Location: **Aspen**

(95) The Power of Small: Teacher-Led, Community-Embedded Montessori Micro-Schools

Presenter: **Kelly Gomes**, Shared Services Partner, Wildflower Montessori Public Schools of Colorado

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Schools & Leadership** Room/Location: **Evergreen A**

(26) How Every Student Could Graduate With In-Demand Career Credentials

Presenter: **Stephen Dalla Betta**, CEO, YaizY

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Quality: Career Readiness** Room/Location: **Iris**

(46) How To Pass the Baton Without Dropping It

Presenter: **Mollie R. Mitchell**, President and Founder, THE K12 SEARCH GROUP, LP

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Boards and Governance** Room/Location: **Evergreen E**

(66) Implementing Professional Learning to Build Capacity for Your Staff

Presenters: **Rebecca Feilmann**, Interim Head of School, Colorado Early Colleges Windsor

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Human Resources & Staff** Room/Location: **Evergreen F**

(8) Rethinking Student Behavior: Therapeutic Reconciliation as a Framework for Healing

Presenter: **Melissa Mouton**, Founder, High 2.0

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Quality: Academics** Room/Location: **Conifer**

(82) Group Health Insurance: Navigating Coming Changes with Confidence

Presenter: **Gary Clark**, HUB Charter Practice Leader, HUB International

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Operations, Funding, Facilities** Room/Location: **Evergreen B**

(130) How St. Vrain Valley School District Transformed Their Employee Health Benefits

Presenter: **Clint Flanagan**, Founder/CMO, Nextera Healthcare

Time: **1:50 - 2:10 PM** Strand: **Solution Sessions** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

(140) Pathways to STEM Careers: Getting Girls in the Game

Presenter: **Danielle Rourke**, Esports Manager, CDW

Time: **2:00 - 3:00 PM** Strand: **Ed Tech Stage** Room/Location: **Evergreen C**

(129) From Burnout to Breakthrough: HR Solutions to Retain Teachers, Reduce Burden, and Revitalize Culture

Presenter: **Jeannine Johnson**, VP of Product Management, Extensis HR

Time: **2:30 - 2:50 PM** Strand: **Solution Sessions** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

Drone Soccer Tournament Finale

Time: **2:30 - 3:00 PM** Room/Location: **Evergreen D**

full schedule at

coloradoleague.org/esports.html

WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 28

(150) Anatomy of PR Crisis Over Coffee *(Yes, this during breakfast)*

Presenter: **Jeremy Story**, Partner, GroundFloor|CenterTable

Time: **7:43 - 8:03 AM** Strand: **Solution Session - PR** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

(135) Esports in Colorado: Research, Mental Health and Wellness

Presenter: **Danielle Rourke**, CDW

Time: **8:30 - 8:50 AM** Strand: **Solution Session** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

Scan the QR code to get the app and see more details →

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28... continued



(146) Colorado Charter School's Preschool Landscape and Universal Pre-K Presenter: **Willyn Webb**, Early Learning & School Support Coordinator, CSI Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Operations, Funding, Facilities** Room/Location: **Evergreen B**

(67) Empowering Talent: Reducing Turnover and Enhancing Employee Performance Presenter: **Michelle Olson**, Director of HR, Minga Education Group Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Human Resources & Staff** Room/Location: **Evergreen F**

(40) The Power of a Positive District Partnership Presenter: **Erin Kane**, Superintendent, Douglas County School District Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Authorizing** Room/Location: **Longs Peak**

(133) Engaging Alumni as Powerful Advocates for Student-Centered Policy Presenters: **Nicholas KuKucka**, Executive Director, The Ganas Network Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Schools & Leadership** Room/Location: **Evergreen A**

(111) Explaining the Increase in Discrimination and Harassment Complaints in Charter Schools Presenters: **Eric Hall**, Attorney, Sparks Willson Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Hot Topics: Legal** Room/Location: **Aspen**

(28) Solving Our Math Achievement Problem = Access To Grade Level Content Even When Students Struggle Presenter: **Juliana Tapper**, Math Intervention Specialist, CollaboratEd Consulting LLC Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Quality: Math and Reading** Room/Location: **Iris**

(9) Collaborate, Create, Conquer: Harnessing OERColorado for Innovative Learning Presenter: **Mallorie Klemm**, Senior Consultant, Colorado Department of Education Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Quality: Academics** Room/Location: **Conifer**

(49) Video Content Made Easy! Presenter: **Lauren Ferrara**, Marketing & Communications Director, Mountain Song Community School Time: **8:30-9:30 AM** Strand: **Enrollment, Community, Communications** Room/Location: **Evergreen E**

(122) Understanding Allowable Costs in the Federal CSP Grant Presenter: **Tanesha Bell**, Grant Director, Colorado League of Charter Schools Time: **8:30 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Hot Topics - Great Schools Colorado** Room/Location: **Primrose**

(128) Innovative Solutions for Education: Connect, Protect, Excel Presenter: **Troy Baranek**, VP of Sales, All Copy Products Time: **9:10 - 9:30 AM** Strand: **Solution Sessions** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

(84) From Dreams to Occupancy: Planning, Financing and Building a School Presenter: **Chris Ferris**, Executive Director, Highline Academy Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Operations, Funding, Facilities** Room/Location: **Evergreen B**

(120) Legal Panel from the Experts: Hall and Bethke Presenter: **Eric Hall & Bill Bethke**, Attorneys at Law Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Hot Topics: Legal** Room/Location: **Aspen**

(33) Enough is Never Too Much: Designing Effective Student Supports through MTSS Presenter: **Morgan E. Ray**, Special Services Administrator, KIPP Colorado Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Quality: Special Education** Room/Location: **Evergreen F**

(56) Innovative Practices for Whole School Wellness - School Leader Panel Presenter: **Betsy Basch**, Mental Health Programs Coordinator, Charter School Institute Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Hot Topics** Room/Location: **Primrose**

(117) Exploring the Role of AI in Charter School Authorizing: Possibilities & Challenges

Presenter: **Alex Medler**, Executive Director, NN4DA

Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Authorizing** Room/Location: **Longs Peak**

(10) How Innovative Schools Are Addressing Social Media, Tech, and Current Events

Presenter: **Alli Lipsher**, Account Executive, The Social Institute

Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Quality: Academics** Room/Location: **Conifer**

(50) Attracting Latino Families to Charter Schools

Presenter: **Malka Borrego**, Executive Director, Latino Educators Advancing Leadership (LEAL)

Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Enrollment, Community, Communications**

Room/Location: **Evergreen E**

(29) Transforming Literacy Outcomes Through the Science of Reading and Systemic Change

Presenter: **Carey Sweet**, Senior Advisor, Lexia Learning

Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Quality: Math and Reading** Room/Location: **Iris**

(127) BuyQ Podcast Taping Presenter: **Daniel Casselli**, President, BuyQ

Time: **11:00 AM - 12:00 PM** Strand: **Interactive Attractions** Room/Location: **Larkspur**

(113) Partners in Communication: Charter Schools and Authorizers Working as One

Presenter: **Kim Daly**, Marketing Team Lead, Colorado League of Charter Schools

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Enrollment, Community, Communications**

Room/Location: **Evergreen E**

(25) Credit-Less Diploma: How Competencies Drive Equity and Access

Presenter: **Sara Kahn**, Principal, New Legacy Charter School

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Quality: Career Readiness** Room/Location: **Iris**

(64) Recruitment Supports and Strategies

Presenter: **Heather Grantham**, Educator Recruitment and Retention Specialist, CDE

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Human Resources & Staff** Room/Location: **Evergreen F**

(109) Fostering Innovation: Flexible Authorizing for Unique Schools and Measures

Presenter: **Janet Dinnen**, Chief of Staff, CSI

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Authorizing** Room/Location: **Longs Peak**

(112) Neuroscience of Learning: Harnessing Data to Evaluate Efficacy for Science Resources

Presenter: **Steve Miller**, CEO & President, Elite Performance Solutions

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Hot Topics** Room/Location: **Aspen**

(58) AI's Impact on Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Path Forward

Presenter: **Robert Newman**, Principal, New America High School Aurora

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Hot Topics** Room/Location: **Primrose**

(85) From Death Grip to Freedom, Shifting the Paradigm of the Traditional Insurance Model

Presenter: **SarahGennie Colazio**, Director of Finance and HR, Windsor Charter Academy

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Operations, Funding, Facilities** Room/Location: **Evergreen B**

(96) Defining your Voice, Values and Vision as an Authentic Leader

Presenter: **Nella Garcia Urban**, CEO, DSST

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Schools & Leadership** Room/Location: **Evergreen A**

(94) Middle School Matters: Are You the Next School to Watch?

Presenter: **Katie Gustafson**, Executive Principal, Colorado Association of Middle Level Education

Time: **1:30 - 2:30 PM** Strand: **Schools & Leadership** Room/Location: **Conifer**

Please check the app for more Ed-Tech Demos, and Interactive sessions in Evergreen C/D.
coloradoleague.org/esports.html

General Session | Rocky Mountain Ballroom
Member Forum and Hall of Fame Ceremony
Wednesday, February 26, 6:00 PM

Join us as we kick off the 2025 conference by celebrating our members and supporters of the charter school movement. Board voting is currently open, closes March 3rd, and we announce winners mid-March.



Current member school leaders may vote through this link (coloradoleague.org/bod-2025.html) or use the QR code to the left); one vote per CDE code.

Topping off the evening is the highly-anticipated announcement of our 2025 Hall of Fame inductees, each chosen for their exemplary work and dedication to the charter community. Celebrate the winners below.

View the winners in our app following the Member Forum conclusion at 7 PM on February 26th.

Charter School Leader of the Year Finalists

- Elin Curry, *DSST Public Schools*
- Adam DiGiacomo, *Prospect Ridge Academy*
- Cameron Gehlen, *Compass Montessori*
- Lisa Gonsalves, *Independence Academy Charter School*
- Kryselda Gorrell, *DSST Public Schools*
- Elias Huerta, *Lotus School for Excellence - Elementary*
- Kathryn Mullins, *Vega Collegiate Academy*
- Chris Novak, *Atlas Preparatory School*
- Keith Ouweneel, *Crown Point Academy*
- Linda Spreitzer, *Knowledge Quest Academy*
- Dan Porter, *Kwiyaqat Community Academy*
- Janet Worley, *SkyView Academy*



Photo: Carol Bowar, GALS, 2024 Charter School Leader of the Year (Co-Winner)

Advocate of the Year Finalists

Sam Adams, *Academy 360 and Monarch Montessori*

Steven Bartholomew, *New Legacy Charter School*

Kim Gilmartin, *Liberty Schools Initiative*

Lorelei Jackson, *Teach Plus*

Lawrence Rugar, *Pagosa Peak Open School*

Agustina Yanez, *Academy 360*

Most Valuable Charter Contributor Finalists

Ilene Agustin, *Colorado Charter School Institute*

Nicole "Niki" Amidei, *Atlas Preparatory School*

Heather Henson, *Georgetown Community School*

Lifetime Achievement Award Finalists

Mary Faith Hall, *Thomas MacLaren School*

Camilla Modesitt, *Denver Language School*

Sherry Price, *Independence Academy Charter School*

Educator of the Year Finalists

Mallory Clasquin, *New Vision Charter School*

Steven Denham, *DSST: Aurora Science & Tech High School*

Camille Herigstad, *Independence Academy Charter School*

Zach Kennelly, *DSST: College View High School*

Tyler Richardson, *Montessori Peaks Academy*

Anna Royal, *Summit Middle School, Boulder*

Amy Sheren, *DSST Public Schools*

Nancy Wickham, *Mountain Middle School*

Rachael Williford, *Challenge to Excellence Charter School*

Special Award for 2025

LIFETIME AMBASSADOR

Kayla Tibbals,

NEXUS POLICY GROUP



General Sessions
Thursday, February 27, 2025

President’s Address: Dan Schaller reflects on where we’ve been and where we’re headed. Then, it’s time to get the **synergy** started.

Keynote 1 | Rocky Mountain Ballroom | 9:45-10:45 AM

MAGGIE JACKSON
The Power of Uncertainty



Maggie’s keynote illuminates the surprising power of uncertainty as a driving force for innovation, collaboration, and resilience within schools. Drawing on insights from her award-winning book *Uncertain*, she will explore how embracing ambiguity can transform fear into motivation and synergy. With scientific evidence and practical strategies, Maggie inspires educators and leaders to harness the discomfort of "not knowing" as a tool for growth,

teamwork, and meaningful change.

Policy, Practice, and Progress: Charter Schools’ Role in
Shaping U.S. Classrooms

Panel Discussion | Rocky Mountain Ballroom | 3:00-4:00 PM

Featuring Derrell Bradford, *President of 50CAN*, Lydia Hoffman, *CEO of Colorado Schools Fund*, Jed Wallace, former *CEO CCSA*, and Rosemary Rodriguez, *Executive Director, Together We Count Colorado*.
Moderated by Dan Schaller, League President.



Our challenge as leaders is to ensure that all children have access to the high-quality education they deserve. Join us for a lively discussion with national and state educational leaders who are illuminating paths forward, planning policy, and holding the dialogue to help us prepare, educate, measure, and celebrate our students wherever they are on their journey.

General Session

Friday, February 28, 2025

Keynote 2 | Rocky Mountain Ballroom | 9:45- 10:45 AM

DR. STEVE PERRY

New Time, Same Problem: A Call for Bold Solutions



One of the most influential and innovative voices in education today, Dr. Perry is a bestselling author, educator, and Founder and Head of Schools at Capital Preparatory Schools. Having dedicated over 30 years to transforming the lives of disadvantaged children and families, his keynote will reveal a hard truth: While we already know how to create great schools, the real battle lies in overcoming the politics that hinder progress. His extraordinary journey — from childhood poverty to Ivy League graduate — will inspire attendees to rise above the status quo, take decisive action and champion proven solutions. Together, we can move beyond barriers and redefine what is possible, creating a future where every student has access to the education they deserve.

GAME ON – Connect, Discover, Win!

Uncover the best and brightest solutions for your charter school with GAME ON! Over 80 vendors and partners throughout the venue are ready for you. Just connect! EITHER:

1. On paper: Collect ten vendor initials on your card. (Presenters Larkspur or Evergreen C/D count too.) Turn in your card by noon Friday to the League booth near registration.
- OR-
2. In the app: Scan ten vendor QR codes at their booth, in a Solution Session, or even while grabbing a coffee and you're entered! Download the app, find a vendor, and GAME ON!

Random winners announced
Thursday 1:15 and 2:45 &
GAME ON Winners Friday
1:15 in the Atrium.
*Must be present
to win certain prizes.*

Download the
app to play
or use the
paper game
sheet in your
conference
bag



THANK YOU SPONSORS

Thank you to the individuals and organizations who support charter schools both here at the conference and throughout the year. This event would not be possible without the partners, donors, program directors, and volunteers who rise to the occasion. Your vision, time, energy and devotion work in **synergy**, helping our leaders, educators, students and families reach their full potential. Each of you contributes in a meaningful way, and we appreciate you.

PRESENTED BY



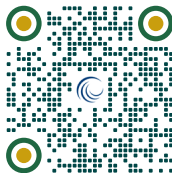
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our work + our direction

The vision of the Colorado League of Charter Schools is for all Colorado students to have access to high-quality, public school options.

The mission of the Colorado League of Charter Schools is to improve student achievement by supporting Colorado's charter schools, positively reshaping the public school landscape, and advancing opportunities for innovation and expanded high-quality public school choice.

colorado charter schools on the rise

262 charter schools in Colorado
represents more than a **40%**
INCREASE in the past decade

**Fifteen percent of all Colorado public
school students attend charters**

15%

**Between 2014 & 2025 the
charter school capital
construction fund grew
from \$7 million to \$44.2 million.
That's an increase of more than**

500%

**School PPR
in Colorado
increased in
the past ten
years by:**

52%

**SUPPORT
SYNERGY IN ACTION**

ACT

ACT for CHARTERS TODAY

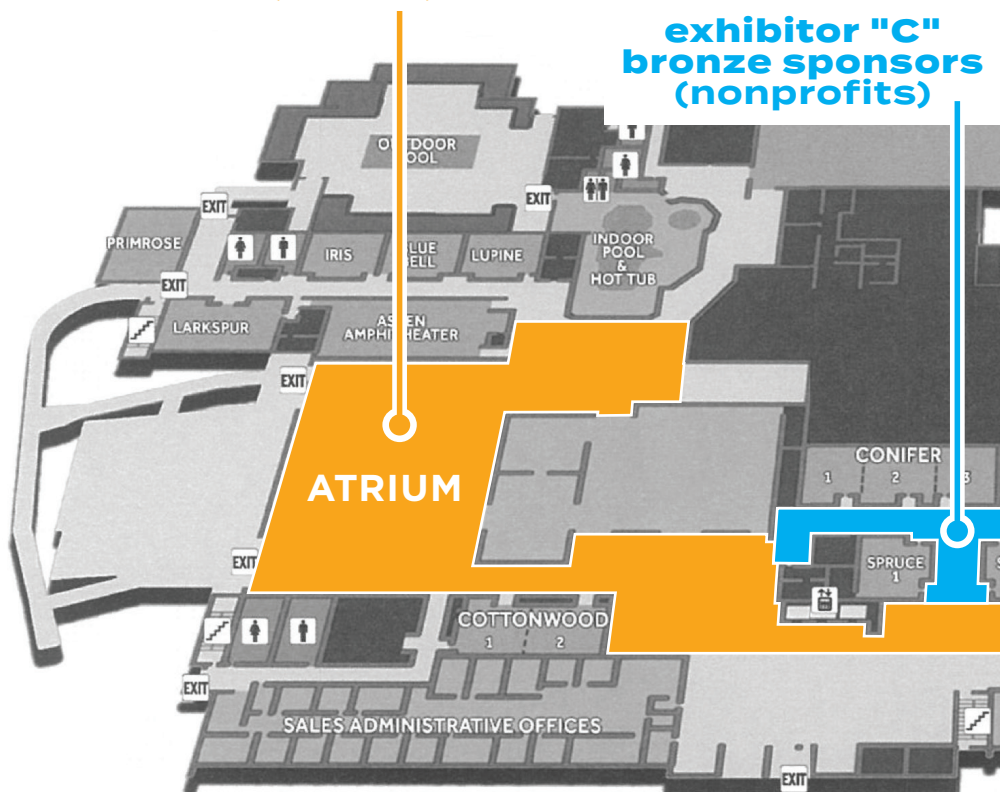
The League's Act for Charters Today (ACT) Advocacy Network activates and engages our public charter school families, parents, students and staff for the common good. Join us today at coloradoleague.org/act.html or scan the QR code.



sponsor areas

**premium annual sponsors
(atrium)**

**exhibitor "C"
bronze sponsors
(nonprofits)**

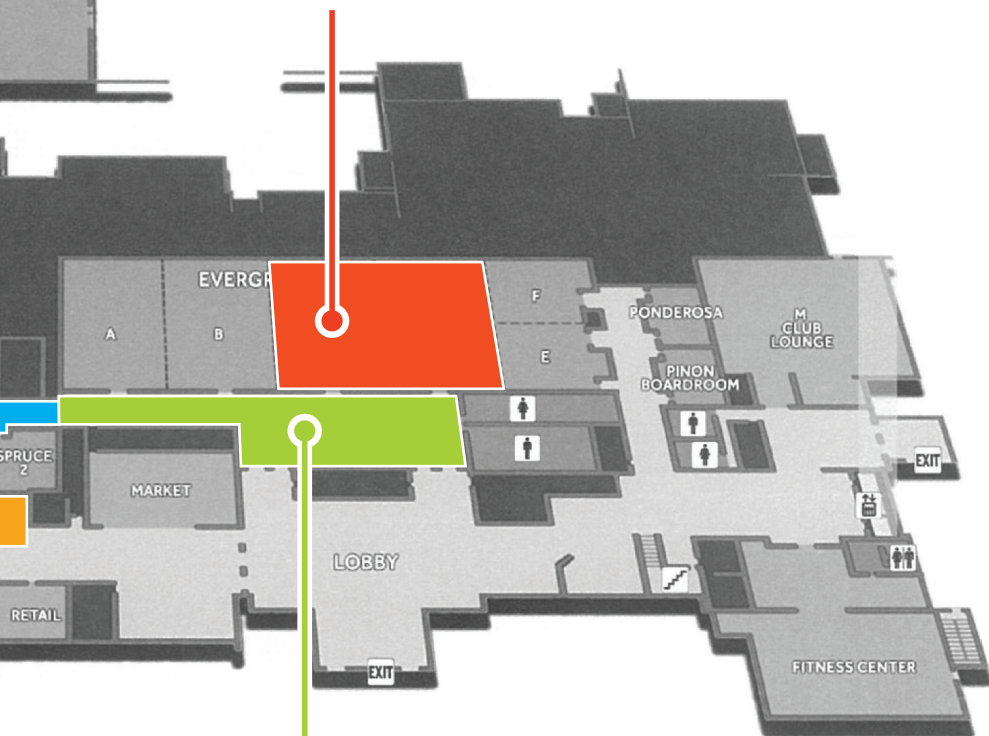


Conference Survey

Like you, we're always seeking to improve. Please take a moment to answer this brief survey. Doing so will enter you into a random drawing to win a cool synergistic prize.



**ed-tech
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sponsors**



**exhibitor "B"
bronze sponsors
(pre-function)**

Very special thanks to our Event Staff: Kim Chetty, Kim Daly, Nora Dooling, Caymin Harper, Igor Nascimento, Allison Nicotera, & Melia Nunez.





see you next year

THE COLORADO
CHARTER SCHOOLS
**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

**FEBRUARY 26 & 27, 2026
DENVER MARRIOTT TECH CENTER**



COLORADO LEAGUE of
CHARTER SCHOOLS