

**Think big. Be bold.**  
**Stay focused. Accomplish more.**

THE WOMEN'S  
 FOUNDATION  
 OF COLORADO

*Join us on June 12!*

## 2013 Statewide Research Summit

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is finalizing our most comprehensive research ever completed on The Status of Women and Girls in Colorado, and we invite you to join us at our June 12 Statewide Research Summit to hear the results.

**The Statewide Research Summit on the Status of Women and Girls will be held from 8 a.m. – Noon on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at the University of Denver Campus in Denver.** We are also offering an optional lunch and interactive afternoon sessions from Noon – 2:30 p.m. following the Summit for those who wish to participate in small-group Community Conversations designed to more closely examine the research findings.



The Research Summit offerings include an overview of our research results and highlights of the current Status of Women and Girls in Colorado, panel discussions and the premiere of a new documentary film on the Cliff Effect in Colorado. All participants will receive a copy of the 160-page research report. We partnered with the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) in Washington, DC to create this comprehensive report. IWPR has produced an ongoing series of reports on the status of women and girls in states and localities throughout the United States which have been used to highlight women's progress and the obstacles they continue to face and to encourage policy and programmatic changes that can improve women's opportunities.

This annual research examines a variety of indicators with a gender lens to keep us informed and ready to find innovative and meaningful ways to advance women in all facets of life across our state. In preparation for this project, we conducted a statewide listening tour in 2012 and worked with research organizations throughout the state of Colorado to assess the extent to which current research initiatives were using a gender lens and covering key issue areas of concern to Colorado's women and girls.

Registration for the Summit is \$30 or \$45 with the optional lunch and afternoon Community Conversations. For more information and to register now, go online to [wfco.org/summit2013](http://wfco.org/summit2013) or contact us at [summit@wfco.org](mailto:summit@wfco.org) with questions. ♪

## Message From Our President and CEO

We're now in our 26th year of making a difference in the lives of women and girls, and I am so excited about the many initiatives already happening this year with The Women's Foundation of Colorado!



Louise Atkinson

Our Statewide Summit on the Status of Women and Girls is just around the corner on June 12 at the University of Denver. We will release results of the most comprehensive research study we've ever commissioned on the status of women and girls in Colorado. It is our hope this valuable community resource and critical information will inspire collaboration and a collective moment to create positive changes for our women and girls.

At the Summit, we will bring community leaders and partners together to share the results of our latest findings, pinpoint and raise awareness about emerging trends and start conversations that inspire action and change. We're also premiering a documentary video at the Summit about the Cliff Effect created in partnership with I-News and Rocky Mountain PBS. The video will also be aired on Rocky Mountain PBS starting Thursday, June 13.

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## Leadership Update

The Women's Foundation of Colorado welcomes **Barbara Bridges** as our new Board of Trustees Chair. Her term as Board Chair began April 1 and ends December 31, 2013.

Bridges is President of the Barbara Bridges Family Foundation which supports organizations focused on women, children and peace. She joined The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Board of Trustees in 2008 and has been an active volunteer and supporter in many roles.



*Board Trustee Kit Mura-smith with Board Chair Elect Cathy J. Hart, Immediate Past Board Chair Carol Burt and 2013 Board Chair Barbara Bridges*

"I'm honored to serve as Board Chair for The Women's Foundation of Colorado," said Barbara Bridges. "The Women's Foundation brings women together to give them a bigger voice to effect social change. We have ambitious plans this year to further our mission across the state."

Bridges succeeds Carol Burt, principal of Burt-Hilliard Investments, who served as Board Chair beginning in 2012 through March 31, 2013. Burt will remain on the Board of Trustees as Immediate Past Chair and Co-Chair of the Governance Committee. Board Chair Elect for 2014 is Cathy J. Hart who was most recently Vice President, Business Services and Corporate Secretary for Xcel Energy Inc.

"Carol Burt is a tremendous leader and ambassador for The Women's Foundation of Colorado," added Bridges. "We were fortunate to have Carol's leadership this past year. During her tenure The Women's Foundation realized great progress in its strategic plan execution along with record-breaking grantmaking levels and fundraising successes."

Bridges was also recently recognized as one of the 2013 "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" award winners from *Women's eNews* in the category of "Seven Who Shake The Status Quo" for her work as a story teller for social justice.

## *From the President and CEO*

*(continued from front page)*

This is important and urgent work that is shaping and improving the future of women and girls in our beloved state, and we hope you will join us! Register today online at [wfco.org/summit2013](http://wfco.org/summit2013).

We're also planning other events and educational programming around the state – many ways for you to get involved in our work. In the pages of this newsletter you'll read about some of them, including the selection of our 2013 Girls' Leadership Council and our involvement with furthering STEM education in our state.

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of our organization. Together – and through initiatives like the Research Summit – we will build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential.

With gratitude,

Louise C. Atkinson



**Think big. Be bold. Stay focused. Accomplish more.**

*Empowerment through Experience*

## **Announcing our 2013 Girls' Leadership Council<sup>sm</sup>**

The Women's Foundation of Colorado Girls' Leadership Council<sup>sm</sup> (GLC) inspires young women to be leaders and philanthropists. Each summer, ascending high school junior girls are invited to participate in this one-week intensive, on-site program at the University of Denver.

This year we are expanding the program from 10 to 20 participants, and the experience will take place July 21- 27. The program is designed to allow each girl to discover her own power to assist in her community. Girls' Leadership Council is a program of The Women's Foundation of Colorado coordinated this year in partnership with Girls Inc. of Metro Denver. Applications were received from across the state, and 35 finalists were interviewed and selected in May.

### ***Congratulations to our 2013 Girls Leadership Council Members including:***

- Vismaya Bachu— Rock Canyon High School, Douglas County (Highlands Ranch)
- Jamie Briscoe— Basalt High School, Garfield County (Carbondale)
- Victoria Brozek— Falcon High School, El Paso County (Peyton)
- Chiara Degenhardt— Ouray High School, Ouray County (Ouray)
- Austin Dikeman— Pueblo South High School, Pueblo County (Pueblo)
- Ariel Gorsky— Lakewood High School, Denver County (Denver)
- Katie Hachen— Faith Christian Academy, Jefferson County (Arvada)
- Rachel Hernandez— North High School, Denver County (Denver)
- Lauren Howard— Thompson Valley High School, Larimer County (Loveland)
- Magdalena Landa-Posas— Hinkley High School, Arapahoe County (Aurora)
- Natasha Liggett— Heritage High School, Arapahoe County (Littleton)
- Brigitte Nguyen— Rampart High School, El Paso County (Colorado Springs)
- Kiley O'Neil— Loveland High School, Larimer County (Loveland)
- Brielle Pray— Regis Jesuit High School, Arapahoe County (Aurora)
- Kennede Reese— St. Mary's Academy, Arapahoe County (Aurora)
- Jaida Rollins— Rangeview High School, Arapahoe County (Aurora)
- Kelly Schmitt— Regis Jesuit High School, Douglas County (Highlands Ranch)
- Andra Turner— Greeley West High School, Weld County (Evans)
- Tabor Whitney— Battle Mountain High School, Eagle County (Avon)
- Baylee Wiemer— Eagle Valley High School, Eagle County (Eagle)

Training components will include: Foundation-led research; economic self-sufficiency of women and girls; education of women and girls; public policy and advocacy; women in the work force, including Science, Math, Technology and Engineering (STEM); women in leadership and civic engagement; women in media; women in philanthropy and grantmaking; diversity and inclusiveness; and team building and leadership development activities.

The group will also have the unique opportunity to award approximately \$20,000 to partner nonprofit organizations around the state. At the end of the program, two exemplary participants will be selected to each receive a \$1,500 Dottie Lamm Leadership Award. Learn more at [wfco.org/GLC](http://wfco.org/GLC) and view a video of last year's participants using this QRcode on your mobile device →

Thanks to our program sponsors: Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Rhondda & Peter Grant, Lockheed Martin, Natalie Rekstad-Lynn, The White Rose Foundation and Xcel Energy Inc.

## ***Mark Your Calendars...***

- **Pueblo Annual Summer Soiree Dinner: Sunday, June 23, 2013** at 5 p.m. at Pueblo Community College – Fortino Ballroom. To purchase tickets contact Sandy Stein at 719-566-1441.
- **Vail Valley Annual Luncheon & Silent Auction: Wednesday, August 14, 2013** from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Vail Marriott Mountain Resort & Spa. Keynote speaker is Donna Orender, Former President of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and Top 10 Most Powerful Women in Sports. To purchase tickets go online to [wfco.org/events](http://wfco.org/events) or email [WFCOVailValley@gmail.com](mailto:WFCOVailValley@gmail.com).
- **21st Annual Denver Luncheon: Thursday, October 24, 2013** from 11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. at Colorado Convention Center. Keynote speaker is Actress and Humanitarian America Ferrera. To purchase tickets go online to [wfco.org/events](http://wfco.org/events). For more information on sponsorships or to purchase a table, please contact Chrissie Butz at 303-285-2968, [chrissieb@wfco.org](mailto:chrissieb@wfco.org) or Diane Tomecek at 303-285-2967, [dianet@wfco.org](mailto:dianet@wfco.org).
- **Colorado Springs Annual Luncheon: Wednesday, October 2, 2013** from 11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. at Cheyenne Mountain Resort. Keynote speaker is Kathy Tobey, Vice President of Military Support Programs for Lockheed Martin. To purchase tickets go online to [wfco.org/events](http://wfco.org/events).





## 21st Annual 2013 DENVER LUNCHEON

### Emmy Award-Winning Actress **America Ferrera To Be Keynote Speaker**

America Ferrera is best known for her fearless portrayal as ‘Betty Suarez’ on ABC’s hit comedy *Ugly Betty*. This breakthrough role has earned Ferrera an Emmy®, Golden Globe® and Screen Actors Guild Award along with other awards.

She may currently be seen in the film *It’s a Disaster* and will next star in the film *Chavez* which centers on the civil rights activist and labor organizer Cesar Chavez. Ferrera is currently starring in and producing the independent film called *X/Y* opposite Amber Tamblyn. Past films include *End of Watch*, *Real Women Have Curves*, *The Dry Land*, *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 1 and 2*. On the West End, Ferrera starred in the musical *Chicago* and off-Broadway in *BETHANY*.

Ferrera appeared in PBS’s *Half the Sky*, served as an artist ambassador for Save The Children, and recently visited Honduras on behalf of the organization ONE in support of women facing the challenges of extreme poverty. She also served as an ambassador on a campaign called “America4America” joining Voto Latino, the leading non-partisan national youth empowerment organization.

“We are thrilled to host America Ferrera as our Denver Luncheon’s Keynote Speaker and the first Latina speaker in our event’s history,” said Louise Atkinson, President and CEO of The Women’s Foundation of Colorado. “America will bring wonderful energy and a dynamic message of inspiration for women of all ages and backgrounds.”

**Thursday, October 24, 2013 / 11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**  
**Colorado Convention Center – Denver, CO**

**GET TICKETS  
NOW!**

Thanks to our corporate sponsors: Barbara Bridges Family Foundation, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, CBS4, Cherry Creek Shopping Center, Comcast, FirstBank, Piton Foundation and Vladimir Jones.

## **Celebrating International Women’s Day**

This year we joined forces with WorldDenver and Denver Eclectics, along with our Beyond Our Borders members, to celebrate International Women’s Day which is recognized each year on March 8. A special reception was held featuring guest speaker Deedee Corradini, President of the International Women’s Forum and former Mayor of Salt Lake City, Utah. We also hosted 16 special guests from Africa and Canada who are part of the State Department’s International Visitor Leadership and Women in Trade & Entrepreneurship Programs.

Russell Kemp, WorldDenver Board Chair, and WFCO P.E.P. Club members kicked off the evening, welcoming more than 80 guests to the reception. The Women’s Foundation of Colorado President & CEO Louise Atkinson shared information about our 2012 successes and the exciting things happening in 2013. We also expressed our deep appreciation to WFCO Honorary Trustee Lee Everding who co-sponsored the guest speaker with Denver Eclectics.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a wonderful celebration of women, both internationally and right here in our great state of Colorado. ♡

## **Corporate Partner Spotlight**

*Thanks to  
our outstanding  
sponsor!*



We are grateful for the ongoing generous sponsorship of Vladimir Jones, our 2013 Denver Luncheon Speaker Sponsor.

Vladimir Jones is a full-service advertising agency founded and based in Colorado with offices in both Denver and Colorado Springs.

Vladimir Jones was founded in 1970 by Nechie and Jim Hall. In 2008, their daughter, Meredith Vaughan, took over as president and now oversees and runs the day-to-day operations of this 74-person, woman-owned Colorado business.

Meredith is proud of her organization’s partnership with The Women’s Foundation of Colorado and is passionately committed to promoting and supporting women-owned businesses. With a workforce that is 60% female, Meredith also believes in fostering strong, smart women in the workplace, which closely aligns with The Women’s Foundation of Colorado’s commitment to women and girls realizing their full potential.

Over the years Vladimir Jones has remained true to its strong Colorado roots and its commitment to local non-profit organizations. In 2003, Vladimir Jones was the winner of the first-ever Governor John A. Love award, part of the El Pomar Foundation’s Awards for Excellence program. The prestigious award annually honors a single business that improves the quality of life for Coloradans through a demonstrated commitment to the nonprofit sector.

Vladimir Jones works with clients such as Xcel Energy, The Broadmoor, Centura Health and Comex USA providing insight, brand communications, media, digital and production services. Learn more by visiting [vladimirjones.com](http://vladimirjones.com).

## TidBits →

► Congratulations to our President & CEO Louise Atkinson for being chosen as a 2013 Finalist for the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce Annual ATHENA Award. The ATHENA Award is given to an outstanding woman leader who demonstrates excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession, provides valuable service to improve the quality of life for others in their community and assists women in reaching their full leadership potential. View her video online at [wfco.org/content/video-gallery](http://wfco.org/content/video-gallery) or scan this QRcode to watch on your mobile device:



► We have a new website! Please visit [www.wfco.org](http://www.wfco.org) to see many new, wonderful features and robust information about our work, events and opportunities to get involved.

► Welcome **Mandy Hughes**, CFRE to our staff team as Major Gifts Officer for The Women's Foundation. She was previously a contractor for us.

► We are currently seeking additional volunteers to help with administrative office support such as data entry and mailings. Please contact Jessica Black at [jessicab@wfco.org](mailto:jessicab@wfco.org) if interested.



### *Making a Difference*

## **Cultivating Girls' Interest in STEM Careers**

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is focused on women and girls achieving their full potential and believes economic self-sufficiency is the foundation for success. To support girls' economic security for the future, WFCO provides grants and invests in partners working on preparing girls for careers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

STEM careers and fields of study are among the fastest growing areas of Colorado's economy, yet women are under-represented in these fields, limiting their opportunities over the course of their lifetimes.

Preliminary findings from the upcoming Status of Women and Girls in Colorado research report show that some of the highest-paying careers and industries are in STEM fields and the gender wage gap between men and women is smaller in these fields. Moreover, research shows early awareness and exposure to these concentrations in academic settings is necessary for girls to enter these industries and develop a sound basis for future education and training.

The Women's Foundation of Colorado invests in programs that:

- Support counselors creating awareness, exploration or exposure to job training in STEM-related careers among girls;
- Enhance the STEM pipeline of girls to pursue STEM careers in college or seek STEM job training;
- Target the integration of how girls learn into teacher education programs for STEM teachers; and,
- Coordinate STEM activities for girls with other agencies/nonprofits/school districts.

Our current cycle of STEM funding is now complete, and grants will be approved and announced in early June. To learn more visit [wfco.org/STEM](http://wfco.org/STEM). ♡

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### *Opportunity to Learn About Philanthropy and Leadership*

## **Empowerment Council – Young Professionals Making a Difference**

Do you know a young female professional age 25-40 who is interested in changing the lives of Colorado's women and girls? If so, The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Empowerment Council (EC) needs her! Membership in the Empowerment Council offers the opportunity for young female professionals to learn about philanthropy and leadership, as well as provides exposure to The Foundation and community leaders who can share their extensive knowledge. We strive to give Empowerment Council members a chance to hone the skills they need to become future leaders in our community and The Foundation so there is a constant pipeline of leaders working to help all of Colorado's women and girls achieve self-sufficiency. Learn more at [wfco.org/empowermentcouncil](http://wfco.org/empowermentcouncil) or contact Chrissie Butz, Annual Fund Officer at [chrissieb@wfco.org](mailto:chrissieb@wfco.org). ♡

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THE WOMEN'S  
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*A Priority Focus*

## Cliff Effect Statewide Educational Events

Elimination of the Cliff Effect is one of The Women's Foundation's largest priority focus areas. To that end, we're hosting educational events around the state this year to educate more people about the issue. In January The Women's Foundation's Empowerment Council hosted an interactive educational event about the current status of the Cliff Effect and our progress in implementing Senate Bill 22, the bipartisan legislation which provides the opportunity for counties to pilot the gradual reduction of childcare work supports for working poor parents. The presentation was repeated in May in Colorado Springs.

The events featured a distinguished panel including Louise Atkinson, The Women's Foundation of Colorado's President

& CEO; Senator Suzanne Williams, Co-Author of SB22; and Tracey Stewart, Family Economic Security Program Manager at the Colorado Center for Law & Policy. Our lobbyists were part of the panel in Colorado Springs. The program focuses on how The Women's Foundation of Colorado's research helped identify the Cliff Effect, how and why SB22 was written, the process of developing the current self-sufficiency standards and how they both came together resulting in the writing and passing of SB22. Learn more about the Cliff Effect at [wfco.org/cliffeffect](http://wfco.org/cliffeffect) and contact us at [wfco@wfco.org](mailto:wfco@wfco.org) if you're interested in having this presentation in your community.



[wfco.org](http://wfco.org)

THE WOMEN'S  
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