



University of Colorado **Denver**

# 9TH ANNUAL BE !MPACT CONFERENCE

# 20 25



**Ready, Set, Launch:**  
**Preparing for the Future of Black Education**  
**FEBRUARY 28TH · 10:00AM · CU DENVER**

# PROGRAM FLOW

2025 CONFERENCE

**Ready, Set, Launch:**  
**Preparing for the Future of Black Education**

**9:30 - 9:55**

**BREAKFAST**

**10:00 - 10:05**

**OPENING REMARKS**

Deneshia & Marlinda

**10:05 - 10:35**

**KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER**

Regent Wanda James

**10:35 - 10:45**

**BREAK**

**10:45 - 11:30**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS A**

**11:35 - 12:20**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS B**

**12:20 - 12:50**

**LUNCH**

**12:55 - 1:00**

**PRESENTATION**

Dr. Marvin Lynn

**1:00 - 1:45**

**BYSTANDER  
INTERVENTION**

Phoenix Center Auraria

**1:00 - 1:45**

**ADMISSIONS  
PRESENTATION**

CU Denver Admissions

**1:45 - 2:00**

**CLOSING  
REMARKS**

Dr. Regina Richards

**2:00 - 2:05**

**DISMISSAL**

BEIC Member



University of Colorado **Denver**



# LAND *Acknowledgment*

The Auraria Campus, including CU Denver, is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute Nations. This area was also the site of trade, hunting, gathering and healing for many other Indigenous people including the Lakota, Ute, Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, Shoshone and 45 other Indigenous Nations. We must recognize Indigenous peoples as the original stewards of this land. As these words of acknowledgment are spoken and heard, remember the ties these nations still have to their traditional homelands. Let us acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory and pay our respect to the diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land.



# LABOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**“WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MUCH OF WHAT WE KNOW OF THIS COUNTRY TODAY, INCLUDING ITS CULTURE, ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND ACROSS TIME, HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE LABOR OF ENSLAVED AFRICANS AND THEIR ASCENDANTS WHO SUFFERED THE HORROR OF THE TRANSATLANTIC TRAFFICKING OF THEIR PEOPLE, CHATTEL SLAVERY, AND JIM CROW. WE ARE INDEBTED TO THEIR LABOR AND THEIR SACRIFICE, AND WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE TREMORS OF THAT VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THE GENERATIONS AND THE RESULTING IMPACT THAT CAN STILL BE FELT AND WITNESSED TODAY.”**

**DR. TERAH 'TJ' STEWART IS AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.**

**[HTTPS://WWW.DIVERSEEDUCATION.COM/DEMOGRAPHICS/AFRICAN-AMERICAN/ARTICLE/15108677/ON-LABOR-ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS-AND-HONORING-THE-SACRIFICE-OF-BLACK-AMERICANS](https://www.diverseeducation.com/demographics/african-american/article/15108677/on-labor-acknowledgements-and-honoring-the-sacrifice-of-black-americans)**

# 2025 BE !IMPACT CONFERENCE

## Ready, Set, Launch: Preparing for the Future of Black Education

### REGENT WANDA JAMES

1st Congressional District, Democrat, Current Term 2023-29

9:10AM TO 9:45AM | KEYNOTE SPEAKER | NC 1539



Regent Wanda James became the first Black woman elected to the board in over 44 years. She will serve in Colorado's First Congressional District.

James is a first-generation graduate of CU Boulder and the first Black woman commissioned through the Naval ROTC program. She served four years in the military. She worked for two Fortune 100 companies and one of the largest senior living nonprofits in California. Her husband, Chef Scott Durrah, has opened five restaurants in Colorado and California.

James managed the congressional campaign for Jared Polis; was appointed to National Finance Committees by former President Barack Obama, Vice President Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden; and was an appointed member of Gov. Jared Polis' transition team.

She is past president of the National Women's Political Caucus and has served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Colorado Tourism Board; a member of the CU Alumni Board; a graduate of the inaugural class of the Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute at the University of Southern California, and a Junior League of Los Angeles Board Fellow.

Wanda's election to the University of Colorado Board of Regents marks a historic moment, as she is the first Black woman elected to the board in over 44 years. Her leadership skills and extensive background make her a dynamic and accomplished leader. As a passionate CU Boulder graduate, Wanda's purpose as a Regent is to foster inclusivity at the university and provide exceptional educational opportunities for all individuals. Her mission is to ensure that every student has access to a remarkable education.

In 2009, James and her husband became the first African Americans to own a cannabis company in America. She has two Bassett Hounds and a Great Dane.



# 2025 BE !IMPACT CONFERENCE

## PARTICIPANT BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND DISCUSSION ROOMS

### Breakout Session A 10:45-11:30

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**RM 1806**

**Breakout Room #1:** Mapping Your Success Along the Wheel of Life

**RM 1608**

**Breakout Room #2:** Resistors, Schematics & Breakthroughs: My Path Through CU Denver

**RM 1005**

**Breakout Room #3:** One Path to STEM Success

### Breakout Session B 11:35-12:20

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**RM. 1608**

**Breakout Room #1:** YOU CAN DO IT TOO! Five Strategies For A Successful College Experience

**RM. 1005**

**Breakout Room #2:** My Black is Professional: Exploring the “How” and “Why” of Navigating Professional Spaces as a Black Woman.

**RM. 1806**

**Breakout Room #3:** Building community





## **2025 BE !IMPACT CONFERENCE**

### **Breakout Session A**

**Title: Mapping Your Success Along the Wheel of Life**

**Presenter: Bryanna Streeter & Brie Mondragon**

**Location: 1806**

It's time to take the wheel on your journey to success! This workshop will teach you how to use the "Wheel of Life" tool to measure your satisfaction with different areas of your daily life (i.e. school, work, relationships, finances) and set goals for how to move forward towards future success in those areas. Hosted by CU Denver's Office of Student Success Initiatives.

**Title: Resistors, Schematics & Breakthroughs: My Path Through CU Denver**

**Presenter: Favour Ogbinaka**

**Location: 1608**

Join me for an inspiring presentation where I'll discuss the metaphor of resistors, sharing the challenges I've faced and the strategies I've used to overcome them. I'll map out my journey, highlighting key breakthroughs, achievements, and recognitions. Together, we'll explore how perseverance can lead to success and motivate students to pursue their aspirations with confidence.

**Title: 'One Path to STEM Success'**

**Presenter: Tarik Walker, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Location: 1005**

Will introduce the field of public health/medicine and my training program. Will discuss my college path and current research projects and listen to students' individual career paths. Will engage with students on how to choose a STEM career path, seek mentors, and how to prepare and be successful in thriving within a STEM program.



# 2025 BE !IMPACT CONFERENCE

## Breakout Sessions B

### **Topic: Building Community**

**Presenter: Marius Finch**

**Location: 1806**

Participants will learn about The Ambassador Foundation and its programs, hear a participant's experience with the Leadership and Scholarship program, and understand the importance of community involvement for post-secondary success. They will also engage in a group challenge from the 11-week program.

### **Title: YOU CAN DO IT TOO!**

#### **Five Strategies For A Successful College Experience**

**Presenter: Antwaun Johnson , Nova Everett**

**Location: 1608**

You heard it being said: what you put in is what you get out; join us for an interactive experience and discussion on how to successfully complete college, launch one's career, develop community connections, and understand the ins and outs of college navigation from the student's perspective including both undergraduate, graduate, and college prospecting lens.

### **Title: My Black is Professional: Exploring the "How" and "Why" of Navigating Professional Spaces as a Black Woman.**

**Presenter: Jazmyne Peters, Ph.D.**

**SUPPORTED BY KIDDE KOKOLE & AMIDA NIGENA**

**Location: 1005**

Black women face pressures regarding their presentation in professional settings. This session targets young Black girls and femmes, encouraging them to explore how to navigate workplace environments while maintaining authenticity. Participants will engage in discussions and activities aimed at understanding the challenges and successes of Black women in professionalism.



# 2025 BE !IMPACT CONFERENCE

## AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS



**Presenter: Shanae Adams**

**Location: 1539**

**Time: 1:00-1:45**

### **Bystander Intervention Training**

*Have you ever wanted to help someone experiencing violence or harassment, but felt unsure how?*

*You are not alone.*

*Expand your tool box on how you can become an ethical bystander by following the 5 D's of Intervention. These 5 D's were developed by a group of young folks in New York as a way to develop creative, safe ways to intervene in street harassment. These 5 D's present 5 options folks can utilize to safely de-escalate violence and harassment they see happening in their communities.*



# Denver

**Presenter: Raeyana DeGray**

**Location: 1005**

**Time: 1:00-1:45**

### **University of Denver, Admissions Presentation**

JOIN US FOR A BRIEF PRESENTATION ON THE CU DENVER ADMISSIONS PROCESS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS! WE BELIEVE YOU'VE GOT POTENTIAL, AND THE RIGHT DEGREE CAN TURN THAT POTENTIAL INTO SO MUCH MORE. DISCOVER HOW YOU CAN GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND VALUABLE EXPERIENCES WHILE PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER. AT CU DENVER, WE FOSTER AN INCLUSIVE CAMPUS COMMUNITY THAT ATTRACTS STUDENTS OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS, WITH 49% FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS AND 42% STUDENTS OF COLOR, MAKING US THE MOST DIVERSE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY IN COLORADO. GET READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARD YOUR FUTURE AT CU DENVER!

# 2025 BE !IMPACT CONFERENCE

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## **DR. REGINA RICHARDS**

**Vice Chancellor of Access and Engagement**

CLOSING REMARKS



Dr. Richards (Regina) has over twenty years of experience in academia as a business professional, educator, social worker, an equity, inclusion and community advocate, practitioner, and thought leader in the CU Anschutz triplex systems. In her role (2020) as Vice Chancellor of Access and Engagement (OAE) for the Anschutz Medical Campus alongside her team and campus community, she has developed campus wide initiatives which include measurable outcomes for strategic, systemic, and sustainable systems of accountability focused on increasing access and opportunities, increasing collaborations, equity, inclusion and sense of belonging for ALL across the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, and with community stakeholders.

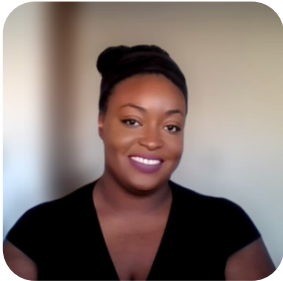
# 2025 BE !IMPACT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## Ready, Set, Launch: Preparing for the Future of Black Education



### TRACEY ADAMS

Tracey Adams, MA, is serving as the Director of Student Success Initiatives at the University of Colorado Denver. Tracey was born and raised in Denver, CO, and attended Denver Public Schools. Tracey received her BA in African American Studies from Metropolitan State University of Denver, and her MA in Higher Education-Leadership and Organizational Change from the University of Denver. Tracey has worked in higher education for over 20 years, supporting the advancement of campus initiatives centered on equity, inclusion, and social justice for her students, faculty, staff, and alumni. As a first-generation college graduate, Tracey has dedicated her life and career to ensuring historically minoritized student populations have access to programming, services, and resources that promote their academic and personal success. Tracey is a mother of three children and a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.



### JAIMIE CARRINGTON

Jaimie Carrington is the Program Director, Undergraduate Recruitment, Retention and Student Success. Jaimie is a transplant from Texas but has been growing roots in Colorado since joining the CLAS team in 2016. Born and raised in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, she moved across the state to earn her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Master of Education in Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Texas at San Antonio. Jaimie started her diverse career in education in 2006 and has been supporting inclusive student success since. She enjoys watching students she meets at New Student Orientations all the way through graduation and onward towards their future goals.



### KEN ENGLISH

Ken English serves as the Program Director for Student Success in the Office for Access and Campus Engagement. Ken mostly grew up in Denver and is proud alumnus of DPS, graduating from George Washington High School. Ken completed his B.A. at CU Boulder, followed by an M.Ed. in Higher Education Leadership at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. For over two decades Ken's career has spanned many facets of higher education at both the community college and large university level, from recruiting and admissions to advising to student programs. Ken's passion to help students stems from his own experiences in K-12, his college years, and as a professional in higher education.



### TIANA HAUSSLER

Tiana Haussler is a dedicated senior at the University of Colorado Denver, majoring in Human Development and Family Relations (HDFR). As the current student assistant for Student Success Initiatives, Tiana is deeply committed to empowering her peers and fostering an inclusive environment on campus. Her passion for social justice drives her advocacy for marginalized communities.



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### DENESHIA HEARON

Deneshia is an Assistant Director of Undergraduate Outreach and Admissions Pathways and a Student Success Instructor for first-year students at CU Denver. After graduating from Montbello High School in Denver, CO, as a first-generation student, she furthered her education in completing 3 years at the University of Colorado Boulder, during her last year, she transferred to the University of Colorado Denver, to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. Deneshia completed a Masters of Public Administration, from the University of Colorado Denver. Deneshia has been working in higher education for over 18 years, where she has advised, inspired, motivated, and assisted students in obtaining and achieving their goals through higher education. Deneshia has spent much of her time volunteering with youth organizations, nonprofits, community-based organizations, education, and faith-based organizations throughout the state of Colorado.



### DR. MARLINDA HINES

Dr. Marlinda Hines is a dedicated professional with a profound commitment to education and community development. As the Associate Director of Recruitment & Outreach for CU Denver's School of Education and Human Development, Dr. Hines is deeply invested in inspiring and supporting students on their educational journeys. Her passion lies in advocating for social change and empowering individuals to pursue advanced education as a means to enhance and uplift society. Dr. Hines firmly believes that education serves as a catalyst for progress and transformation within communities.



### DR. CHÉLYNN RANDOLPH

Dr. Chélynn Randolph is a third-year clinical assistant professor in the Couple and Family Therapy Program housed in the School of Education and Human Development. Chélynn received her MA in Marriage and Family Therapy from Appalachian State University and received her PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy from Florida State University. While at Florida State, Chélynn researched Black Americans' experiences in therapy and their experiences with barriers to accessing mental health treatment. Presently, Chélynn's research and teaching interests revolve around public scholarship and open education resources with the family science research group Relevate, whose mission is to create publicly accessible relationship science resources that are easy to understand and engaging.



### JAMES SPEED

James Speed is a higher education and student services practitioner with over 10 years of experience. I drive student success and campus engagement. I excel at developing and implementing innovative initiatives that enhance access, engagement, and psychological safety. As a collaborative leader, I effectively navigate organizational complexities to champion student success and psychological stability across all levels. I leverage my asset mapping, capacity building, and strategic partnerships expertise to drive meaningful change. James has developed workshops, programs, training, and group facilitation centered on multiraciality and healing to support and address the needs of the BIPOC community. He has provided mentorship, leadership, and support to students, staff, and faculty to provide opportunities for voices traditionally not heard or represented.

# 2025 BE !mpact Conference

Conference program designed by Tiana Haussler

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