

Keynote Speaker: Elijah Huff



Elijah Huff was born and raised in the Five Points community in Denver, Colorado. He graduated from Manual High School before earning his bachelor's degree at Fort Lewis College. Elijah was led to community work after the passing of a close friend due to gang violence during his freshman year of college. His desire to be a mentor who could help youth avoid the same fate led him to the education sector. Elijah serves as a College Advisor for the Scholar Prep Program at Bruce Randolph High School. Everyday he looks forward to helping youth use education to help them discover their inner brilliance and life purpose. In his free time he enjoys watching sports and coaching boys high school basketball.

PFL Update from CDE: Stephanie Hartman



Stephanie Hartman is currently the K-12 Social Studies Content Specialist at the Colorado Department of Education. She has worked at the state level as a social studies content specialist for over 20 years. Her first state job was with the Nevada Department of Education. She has also taught elementary and secondary education courses at Metropolitan State University of Denver and the University of Nevada, Reno. Stephanie holds a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nevada Reno. Stephanie taught high school social studies for 13 years in both Everett, WA and Reno, NV. Stephanie has been published in Social Studies and the Young Learner and The Geography Teacher.

Estate Planning: Colton Craft



Mr. Craft received his undergraduate degree from Metropolitan State University in Denver, and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Wyoming. Before his time with Davis Schilken, PC as an Estate Planning and Administrator, he was a Deputy District Attorney for the 4th Judicial District in Colorado Springs, CO. Outside of the office Colton enjoys spending time with his wife, Patricia and their pets. Colton is a Colorado native and because of that he is the average Colorado enthusiast and enjoys hiking, snowboarding, biking, and fly fishing.

PERA 101: Leslie Johnson



Leslie is a dedicated Member Education Representative at Colorado PERA with over five years of experience serving public employees across the state. She brings a strong passion for connecting with members and employers, guiding them with care and clarity through each step of their retirement journey. Leslie is known for her approachable style, leadership skills, and commitment to building lasting relationships. In addition to her role at PERA, Leslie is an active participant in the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program and serves on PERA's Community and Belonging Council, where she advocates for inclusivity and engagement across the organization. Her work reflects a deep commitment to community, education, and meaningful service.

Investing Beyond Pensions: Dan Kuhl



Dan holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Colorado Denver with a concentration in finance and investment management. He began his financial services career as a small-business banker with Chase Bank, and in 2011 became a licensed financial advisor through GCG Financial and Securian, where his primary focus was working with families, business owners, and individuals on retirement, education, and insurance planning. He joined Empower Personal Wealth (then, Personal Capital) in 2014 and worked directly with clients as a financial advisor across multiple departments for six and a half years. In 2021, Dan was promoted to the role of Insurance, Annuity and Education Specialist on the Financial Planning Specialist Team, and he was promoted to the role of Senior Insurance Specialist on the Advanced Planning Team in 2024.

Financial Wellness For Everyone: Deborah Violette



I am a Retirement Income Specialist with Empower, focused on wealth management and financial analysis. I specialize in Social Security and pension income analysis, as well as Medicare planning. My goal is to empower clients to achieve financial security through personalized retirement income strategies tailored to their unique needs. With over 30 years of experience in finance, I bring a deep and comprehensive understanding of retirement planning. I am a Certified Financial Planner™ professional (CFP®), and hold Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor (CRPC®), and Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS®) designations, which further strengthen my ability to deliver thoughtful, strategic guidance and the Series 63 state securities license. I take pride in simplifying complex financial concepts, helping clients clearly understand their options so they can make confident, well-informed decisions regarding their retirement income and Medicare planning.

K through 5th Grade: Della Hoffman



Della currently teaches English Language Development at Place Bridge Academy in DPS. She has been passionate about incorporating the teaching of PFL and economics for her entire teaching career. Prior to working as a teacher, she worked with the Delaware Council for Economic Education doing material development and teacher training. She received her Master in Economic Education and Entrepreneurship from the University of Delaware before moving back to her home state of Colorado.

6th through 8th Grade: Jason Bradley



Jason Bradley has been a teacher at Estes Park Middle school for the past 11 years. He has been a 7th and 8th grade History teacher throughout that time, as well as a team leader in the district. Jason has attended Junior Achievement Economics workshops for over ten years and has excitedly made the transition to teaching them. Jason lives in Estes Park with his wife Jordanne and their two daughters, Ella Rose and Mae Mae.

9th through 12th Grade: Hilary Wimmer



Hilary graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in Business Administration and has since earned a Master's in Educational Counseling and certifications in Career and Technical Education and Educational Leadership. She has also completed Certified Financial Planning courses through Boston University. Hilary started a business career and then launched a second career as a teacher in 2004. She opened Mountain Range High School in 2006, where the business program has grown significantly, earning recognition at local, state, and international levels. She serves as the Career and Technical Education Department Chair, High School of Business Program Coordinator, and DECA and Investment Club sponsor. In 2020, she was honored as Colorado Teacher of the Year.

10 to 10:50 a.m. sessions - Choose one of the following:

PERA 101: Let's talk retirement! Learn how your retirement pension is calculated and how you can influence those numbers. We'll explore actionable steps and built-in benefits with one objective: clarifying what you need to know to maximize your retirement income – increasing peace of mind for Present You and Future You.

Investing Beyond Pensions: Teachers fund their own pensions by paying 11% from every paycheck into PERA, but will your pension be enough for retirement? In this workshop, we look at investment options to supplement teacher pensions. We'll cover the basics of 403Bs, 401Ks, Roth IRAs, and others, and we'll show you easy tools for planning your financial future.

2 to 2:50 p.m. sessions - Choose one of the following:

Financial Wellness For Everyone: We can get closer to financial security and freedom – financial wellness! – by focusing on four core financial areas: budgeting, debt, credit, and savings. These topics go hand in hand, but in this workshop, we look at each one individually to show you that you don't have to change your entire financial picture all at once — all you have to do is make whatever changes you can in whatever area you can. Every little bit counts.

Estate Planning: Estate planning is a vital step in protecting your family, your assets, and your wishes. In this informative and approachable session, we'll explore why having an estate plan is so important, when to begin the process, and the key steps involved in creating one. Taking the time now can offer lasting peace of mind for you and your loved ones.