



METROPOLITAN  
STATE UNIVERSITY<sup>SM</sup>  
OF DENVER  
LIVES TRANSFORMED

# ROADRUNNER DEVELOPMENT REPORT

## Reisher family contributes \$4.95 million in scholarship funds since 2001

By Lynne Winter '17

Realizing the dream of earning a college degree can come at a high cost.

The usual options for funding — scholarships, grants and, if willing to take on debt, student loans — may not cover the total cost of attending college, making staying in school financially impossible. Without additional support, students drop out — unable to complete their education.

Since 2001, the Reisher Scholars Program has been helping promising students at Metropolitan State University of Denver earn their undergraduate degrees without incurring additional educational debt.

Founders Roger and Margaret Reisher came from modest means — the dream of a higher education seemingly impossible to reach. After returning from World War II, Roger used the GI Bill to attend the University of Colorado and begin a career in banking. As first-generation college students, the Reishers found that an education improved their lives, motivating them to help others achieve the goal of earning a college degree through the Reisher Scholars Program.

“The Reisher Scholarship is one of the only scholarships that looks at the stop gaps in the academic need cycle,” says Cary Aplin-Gomez, student retention and Scholar Success Program coordinator. “The second-year and transfer students are at critical stages for retention. Reisher makes



Karla Muniz — Reisher Scholar



Mark Harper — Reisher Scholar



Chanel Ward — Reisher Scholar



Reisher 2016 Cohort Orientation, Aug. 12, 2016

it possible for the highly motivated student to complete college with little or no debt.”

The Reisher Scholars Program got its start at MSU Denver and the University of Northern Colorado in 2001. Over the past 16 years, the program has grown to serve six public universities across Colorado.

For students such as Chanel Ward (multicultural journalism, expected spring '18), herself a first-generation college student, receiving the Reisher Scholarship has proved invaluable.

“The Reisher Scholarship has

given me access to financial resources that allow me to complete my degree debt-free,” she says. “More than that, it is validation that my hard work and tireless efforts make me worthy of such an honorable and prestigious award.”

MSU Denver strives to make a college education accessible and affordable to all students seeking to better themselves through higher education, making it an ideal partner for the Reisher Scholars Program. With the lowest tuition among public universities in Colorado, the full-ride scholarships go further in covering costs and transforming lives at MSU Denver.

“We are deeply grateful to the Reisher family for their generosity,” says Matthew Kring, M.A., director of student support and retention, Roadways. “I cannot overstate the impact that this scholarship has on students. It improves their lives and, in turn, the future of our community.”

Unique in that they focus on college sophomores and transfer students from community colleges who have demonstrated academic and leadership potential as undergraduates, Reisher



### Reisher Scholars at MSU Denver

**\$4.95 million**

Total amount contributed by Reisher Scholars Program through February 20

**\$372,486**

Reisher Scholarship Funds 2016-17 Academic Year; **\$8,258** average per student

**321**

Total number of MSU Denver Reisher Scholars who have received funding

**80%**

Total Reisher Scholars graduation rate 2001-15

MSU Denver Graduation Rates, 2016:  
Graduates of Color 29.6%  
Female Graduates 57.7%  
Male Graduates 42.3%

**98%**

Reisher Scholars persistence rates

Fall 2016 — fall 2017  
Fall 2017 — spring 2018

Scholarships cover the financial need of sophomores for three years and transfer students for two years — ensuring they can commit to completing their education without taking on crippling debt. Applicants must meet a variety of eligibility requirements, including a grade-point average of 3.0 or better, demonstrated financial need and involvement in service activities.

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# Investing in students, our most valuable asset



Greetings!

*When I began my tenure at Metropolitan State University of Denver, I saw a campus community ready to take its next steps toward becoming the model urban university for opportunity, diversity, excellence and transformation. I promised to accomplish that task by focusing on students, students, students.*

*During the past year, MSU Denver has cultivated innovative ideas around these principles, such as the Aerospace and Engineering Sciences Building, a degree program in brewing, expanding the department of Hospitality, Tourism and Events to form a new school, and a unique partnership with United Airlines to address the national pilot shortage. We are primed to help Colorado meet its educational and economic goals by closing the educational attainment gap and improving the workforce pipeline.*

*The question is, how do we continue to expand, grow and accomplish these goals? The answer is by investing in MSU Denver's most valuable form of capital — students.*

*MSU Denver provides a place where people can find their path and become educated and productive citizens. More than 96 percent of MSU Denver students are Colorado residents, and 79 percent of our alumni work in our state. When private donors like you support MSU Denver students and programs, they are investing in Colorado's future workforce and economic stability.*

*At MSU Denver, we cultivate excellence on a shoestring budget, stretching the funds we have to keep education affordable and accessible. We tap into the passion of faculty and staff who challenge our students to reach their full potential. I am asking you to invest in our students and the future of MSU Denver. We cannot do it without your support.*

*We are the University in the city, for the city and of the city. Together, we will continue to transform lives!*

Sincerely,

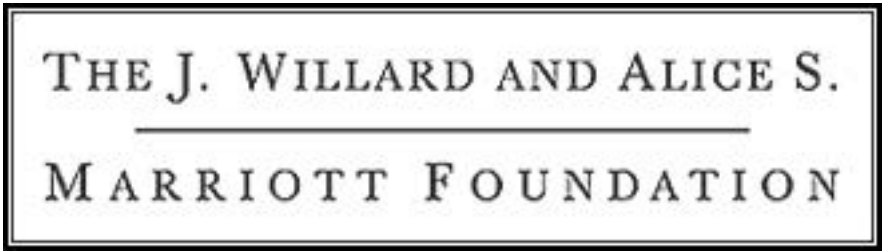
**Janine Davidson, Ph.D.**  
President  
Metropolitan State University of Denver

## Second \$1 million grant from Marriott Foundation develops School of HEaT

*By Lynne Winter '17*

Early on, Metropolitan State University of Denver recognized the opportunity to have an impact on the burgeoning hospitality industry by being on the cutting edge of technology and proactive in educating an industry-ready workforce. The University outlined a strategic plan to increase public-private partnerships that provide hands-on opportunities for students, translating into high-demand careers.

Since 2011, the J. Willard & Alice S. Marriott Foundation has been a committed collaborator, vital to the development and growth of the Department of Hospitality, Tourism and Events (HTE) at MSU Denver. With a generous \$1 million grant made in 2012, the foundation backed the University's significant private-public partnership with Marriott International and Sage Hospitality. This enterprise helped fund a capital campaign and led to the construction of the Hotel



and Hospitality Learning Center (HLC), propelling the University toward becoming a pre-eminent HTE education leader.

The Marriott Foundation is once again supporting MSU Denver with a second \$1 million grant. These funds will provide a foundation for the operating campaign to grow the Department of HTE into the School of Hospitality, Events and Tourism (HEaT). By transforming the hugely successful department into a school, MSU Denver will expand the national prominence of the program and address industry workforce needs. This new stand-alone school will feature nationally known, experiential programs that reflect Denver's unique position as a leader in

urban and resort tourism, a corporate meetings hub and a center for food-and-beverage innovation.

"The Marriott Foundation has proven to be an exceptional partner, and we are appreciative of their continued support," says Steve Galpern, senior director of major gifts. "MSU Denver is in an ideal position for growing our hospitality department. With this grant, we will be able to turn our goal of transforming into a school into a reality."

The development of the School of HEaT focuses on providing support for extraordinary students and faculty, and building world-class facilities. The plan for expansion includes

implementing innovative curricular changes, recruiting a nationally known dean, creating a state-of-the-art advising office and hospitality industry liaison initiative, providing high-level experiential education and improving graduation and retention rates. Graduates will have the workforce-ready skills needed to address increasing industry employment demands.

"The University is thankful to the Marriott Foundation for playing a meaningful role in our private-public partnership," says Steve Galpern, senior director of major gifts. "The growth of the Department of HTE into a school will ensure our graduates are highly sought after and push MSU Denver to the forefront of the hospitality industry."

*Learn about opportunities to help create the School of HEaT by contacting Steve Galpern, senior director of major gifts, at [sgalpern@msudenver.edu](mailto:sgalpern@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2043.*

**"MSU Denver is in an ideal position for growing our hospitality department. With this grant, we will be able to turn our goal of transforming into a school a reality."**

— Steve Galpern, senior director of major gifts

# Salazar scholarship supports about 27 students



**Lola Salazar '89 (center) and Carmen Lerma Mendoza (right), executive director of the Salazar Family Foundation, with 2016-17 beneficiaries of Salazar Scholarship funding.**

**By Traci McBee Rowe**

Metropolitan State University of Denver alumna Lola Salazar (elementary education '89) understands the impact that having access to a high-quality education can have on a person's future. Motivated to transform lives, Salazar has been supporting the students of MSU Denver for over a decade. In April 2018, approximately 27 Salazar Family Foundation scholarship recipients were able to meet and thank Salazar in person over lunch.

"I am likely the oldest student in the room," one of the students, Stephanie, said. After getting married in high school, having four kids and being a stay-at-home mom while her husband earned a degree, she is now studying to become a teacher. "I returned to school because I wanted to serve as a role model for my kids."

"I am thankful for the opportunity you have given me," Stephanie said to Salazar, echoing the overall sentiment of gratitude in the room.

Scanning the room, Salazar said, "I see myself in a lot of you." Having worked while her husband attended college, she began her MSU Denver education as a 22-year-old

with two kids at home. Salazar earned her bachelor's degree in 3½ years and went on to complete her masters in less than two years, after which she taught in the Jefferson County School District.

**"Thanks to [the Salazar Family Foundation] scholarship, I'm still here, this scholarship provided me with a community."**

**— Alexis, Salazar Family Foundation Scholar**

In 1999, she and her husband, Rob, started the Salazar Family Foundation. Life long advocates of education, the Salazars established the Foundation to assist in the growth and development of educational nonprofit organizations. Its mission: "to impact the lifelong learning of students through supporting the growth and efforts of organizations committed to improving the quality of education" ([salazarfamilyfoundation.org](http://salazarfamilyfoundation.org)).

The Salazar Family Foundation created a scholarship fund at MSU Denver that supports three distinct types of students, with the first awards issued

for the 2016-17 academic year. Center for Urban Education Scholarships give preference to first-generation students, students from high schools underrepresented at MSU Denver and part-time

and scholarship award amounts differ — the Salazars review areas of greatest need that match their personal preferences.

Students who attended the luncheon shared stories of hard work and a commitment to achieving educational dreams and gave thanks to the Salazars. "Thanks to your scholarship, I'm still here," said Alexis; and another student noted, "this scholarship provided me with a community."

"It was a great afternoon, being able to meet the scholarship recipients and hear their stories," said Salazar. "I feel blessed to know that the Salazar Family Foundation can make a positive impact on their educational journey."

*For more information on supporting student scholarships, contact Ran Railey, associate director of development, at [wrailey@msudenver.edu](mailto:wrailey@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-0062.*

**"I feel blessed to know that the Salazar Family Foundation can make a positive impact on their educational journey."**

**— Lola Salazar, '89**

## Reisher Scholars Program

*Continued from page 1*

"Since being awarded the Reisher Scholarship, I have a newfound confidence that pushes me to take on bigger and greater challenges," Ward says. "I was accepted into the Honors Program and will present my research on Latino exclusion in the mainstream media at the spring Honors Thesis Symposium with my presentation, *Latinos, Buying Their Way Out of Hollywood*."

"I also work as a peer mentor

for the Scholar Success Program," Ward continues. "It is a badge of honor that I wear proudly to encourage those who will follow in my footsteps."

Currently, there are three Reisher Scholars cohorts at MSU Denver, for a total of 50 students. Comprising 50 percent sophomores and 50 percent transfer students, the groups are a reflection of the diverse campus community.

Scholarship recipients are required to maintain a 3.0 GPA, work 10 hours a week, be involved in community service and participate in Reisher Scholars events — all reasonable requirements for the exceptional students who receive funding and are committed to excellence in their academic, personal and professional lives.

"The Reisher family provides students like me with more

than the monetary means to succeed," Ward concludes. "Their belief in our abilities provides us with the self-worth and enthusiasm to supersede our aspirations and abilities. For that, I am deeply grateful."

*For more information on supporting the Reisher Scholars Program, contact Gwen Thompson, senior director of development, at [gthomp39@msudenver.edu](mailto:gthomp39@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2051.*

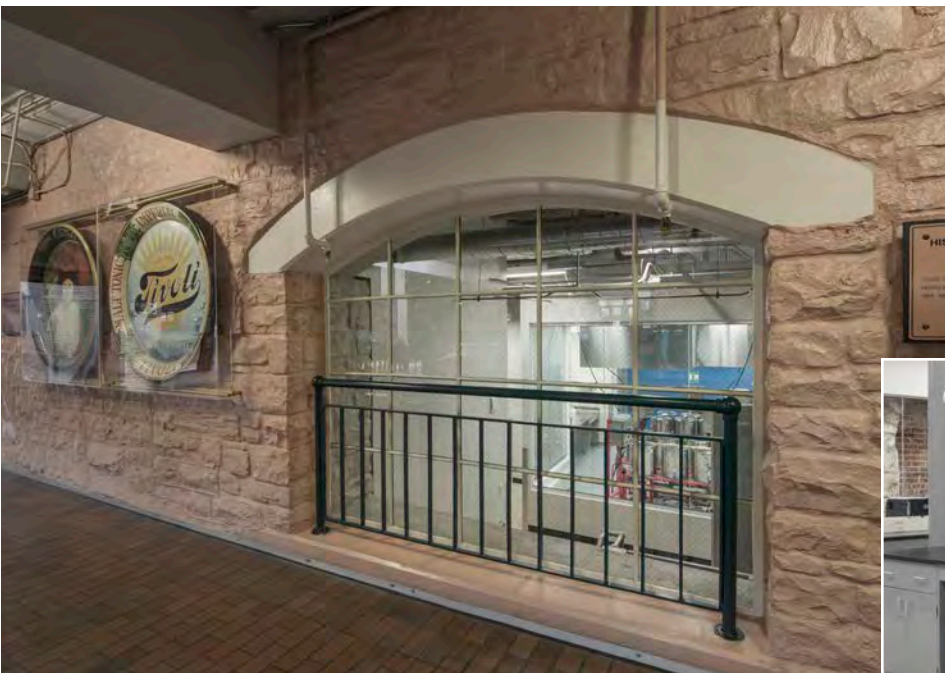


# \$180,000 from brewing-industry leaders builds state-of-the-art beer labs

By Lynne Winter '17

Craft breweries, brewpubs and larger brewers such as MillerCoors and Anheuser-Busch have become an increasingly significant part of Colorado's culture and economy. The result of these industry advancements is an increased need for university-educated employees trained in brewing, brewery operations, sales and distribution, brewpub management and related operations positions. Metropolitan State University of Denver and on-campus partner Tivoli Brewing Co. are working to meet the beer industry's growing workforce needs by building an international center for beer-industry education that blends the art and science of brewing with the business knowledge and operational skills necessary to be successful.

To complement the current Beer Industry Program's two bachelor's degrees — Brewing Operations and Craft Beer Pub Management — MSU Denver is building five state-of-the-art labs in the Tivoli Brewery basement. The Brewing Lab, Fermentation Lab, Quality Control and Analysis Lab, Packaging Lab and Draft Training Lab will offer students and brewers the opportunity to learn on the equipment and employ the processes they will use in the beer industry. In these labs, students will determine how to ensure that beer tastes as the brewer intended, study proper pouring techniques, master safe and effective line cleaning, learn the science and art of quality packaging and much more.



View from the hallway into the new lab space in the Tivoli Student Union.

Industry leaders have generously joined MSU Denver's efforts to educate tomorrow's workforce by supporting the new beer labs with equipment loans and donations of more than \$180,000. MSU Denver is grateful to Falling Rock Taphouse, Steamworks Brewing Co., Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant/Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, MicroStar Keg Management, Monarch Beverage Co., and Breckenridge-Wynkoop for becoming Beer Industry Quality Champions. Their contributions will impact the future of students in the Beer Industry Program, transforming their lives with an education and experience exclusive to MSU Denver.

"We are thankful for the backing we receive from our brewing-industry partners," says Steve Galpern, senior

director of major gifts. "The contributions they have made to our Beer Industry Program ensure that MSU Denver students are receiving cutting-edge training that gives them the skills necessary to be successful after graduation."

As the Beer Industry Program continues to advance, so will the labs that support it. Phase I has been fully paid for, with Phase II offering additional opportunities for donors to be involved in naming opportunities and program development.

MSU Denver is planning a grand opening of the facility, featuring the Beer Industry Quality Champions' contribution to the labs and the University, during the University's week-long



During the construction process.



Quality analysis and quality-control lab.



Brewing production kettles.

inauguration celebration for President Janine Davidson, Ph.D. — September 4-7, 2018.

To learn more about opportunities to support the Beer Program at MSU Denver, contact Steve Galpern, senior director of major gifts, at [sgalpern@msudenver.edu](mailto:sgalpern@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2043.

## TEI Rock Drills gifts \$125,000 in equipment

By Traci McBee Rowe

Through a recommendation from Hartwig Inc. the primary partner associated with the MSU Denver CNC Machining and Inspection lab, which is under the auspices of the Advanced Manufacturing Sciences Institute (AMSI), TEI Rock Drills, of Montrose, donated two equipment items valued at \$125,000. Faculty and students in the Advanced Manufacturing Sciences degree program, as well as in other participating degree programs in association with the AMSI, will have hands-on use of the Dorsey Metrology International 24P Optical Comparator and the

Romer Portable Arm Coordinate Measurement Machine. Thanks to Robert Mangelsdorf of Hartwig and Mike Lobato, senior buyer, and Sue Frank, president, from TEI Rock Drills, these pieces of equipment will be instrumental for projects and education in quality assurance.

With the addition of these two pieces of equipment, the advanced manufacturing program will collaborate with the mechanical engineering technology department



to develop an additional course for students, providing them with training from the machining through inspection process at a state-of-the-

art, production-grade level. This additional educational opportunity will produce MSU Denver graduates who will be in high demand by future employers.

As Robert Park, Ph.D., director of MSU Denver's AMSI states, "This is a prime example of how important it is to establish relationships and partnerships with companies

that have our program's best interests at heart. In this particular case, our advanced manufacturing program will benefit significantly from the extensive network of companies associated with Hartwig's ecosystem, by allowing us to add an inspection element to our CNC machining program, at the state-of-the-art level."

For more information on supporting the Advanced Manufacturing Sciences Institute, contact Gwen Thompson, senior director of development, at [gthomp39@msudenver.edu](mailto:gthomp39@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2051.



# The Peierls Foundation contributes more than \$1 million over 23 years

By Lynne Winter '17

Sometimes, a donor’s connection to Metropolitan State University of Denver is personal — they, or a family member, are an alum. In other situations, it becomes personal. Such is the case with The Peierls Foundation, dedicated to the MSU Denver mission of making higher education accessible since 1995.

“Growing up, my brother, Brian, and I were surrounded by highly educated multi-cultural families — we thought that represented the experience of more diverse populations than was actually the case,” says Jeff Peierls, co-founder of The Peierls Foundation, Inc. “We came to understand that, in this country, education is not equitably distributed. We want to do our part in leveling the playing field.”

“Brian and I chose to support MSU Denver because, for the cost of one student’s Ivy League tuition, we can fund 7-8 scholarships at MSU Denver,” says Peierls. “It allows the money to make a real impact.”

During the 2017-18 academic year, The Peierls Foundation focused its funds on MSU Denver’s Family Literacy Program, the Peierls



Jeff Peierls, Millie Webb and Peierls Foundation Scholars.

Supplementary Scholarship and the Peierls Student Teacher Scholarship.

Since 1994, the Family Literacy Program has been helping break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by building the literacy skills of whole families around Denver. From home visits with prenatal parents to community center-based classes housed in the Adams 12 and 14 School Districts, the program provides opportunities for low-income, multi-generational families with limited literacy to begin to shape an educational foundation.

“If a child does not read at their grade level by the time they reach third grade, they are four times less likely to graduate from high school than proficient readers,” says Peierls. “Reading makes a tremendous

difference in the type of future a child will have — we have to get to them early.”

The Peierls Student Teacher Scholarship provides financial relief for student teachers as they make their final preparations to be teachers. As student teachers, students not only are required to pay tuition but also must continue to cover their living expenses; however, they are unable to work a full-time job due to the demands of an eight-hour workday in the classroom. Scholarships ease the burden during that time.

The Peierls Supplementary Scholarship is a general fund that meets the needs of individuals who face particularly challenging financial circumstances and might otherwise drop out. “When a student and the school have already put two

or three years of effort into a degree program, it is a terrible waste to walk away,” he says. “We want to try and ensure that doesn’t happen. Graduating from college and finding a career allows students to be role models for others in their community.”

“We are deeply grateful to The Peierls Foundation for continuing to support MSU Denver students and programs in such meaningful ways,” says Allyssa Joseph, associate director of development. “Their work is tied directly to the mission of the University and has truly transformed lives.”

The Peierls Foundation supports MSU Denver students throughout their educational lifecycle — from birth through graduation — with the goal of narrowing the education gap. When students reach their dream of earning a college degree, anything is possible.

“Prioritizing education is essential to the future of our country,” says Peierls. “Our survival depends on it.”

To learn more about supporting the Peierls Foundation programs, contact Allyssa Joseph, associate director of development, at [ajoseph9@msudenver.edu](mailto:ajoseph9@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2045.

# \$140,000 memorial endowment transforms lives at MSU Denver, Adams City High School

By Lynne Winter '17

Michael Bentley loved teaching science. For more than 20 years, he taught at Adams City Middle and Adams City High School — sharing his knowledge and curiosity with students and encouraging them to consider a career in teaching — before his cancer diagnosis forced him into retirement in 2013.

“He loved teaching, science and his students. He wanted to complete one more year, but his treatment became too much,” says Peggy Moody, Bentley’s widow. “He was sad to leave and wished there was more he could do.”

One day, Bentley wore a thoughtful look, prompting his wife to ask what was on his mind. He proposed a solution for supporting his students — put half of the money they had



Peggy Moody (right) with scholarship recipient Julissa Martinez.

been saving to live in Panama after retirement toward a scholarship for students from Adams City High School. Bentley knew that transitioning from high school to college was difficult, and he wanted to ensure they had the tools to succeed during their first year.

“We never really discussed it again,” Moody says. “After he

died, I knew I had to follow through.”

After a year of research, Moody collaborated with MSU Denver to create the endowed scholarship that would honor Bentley’s legacy. The Michael A. Bentley Memorial Endowed Scholarship is open to students who have graduated from Adams City High School and will be attending MSU Denver with the goal of obtaining a Colorado certification to teach science, technology and math — STEM.

Bentley and Moody’s gift (which turned out to be the entire Panama fund), combined with a matching gift from HLC@Metro Inc. for a total of \$140,000, is one of the largest in the MSU Denver School of Education’s history.

“When we choose to invest

in communities — as Peggy and Michael have — we see a positive impact on future generations of students,” says Allyssa Joseph, associate director of development at MSU Denver. “This scholarship is larger than life and indicative of the passion that teachers have to see their students succeed.”

“I am excited and amazed,” Moody says. “The scholarship will help students from Adams City High School for years to come. It seems like a dream — I am sure that Michael is ecstatic.”

To learn more about how you can support the Michael A. Bentley Endowed Memorial Scholarship, contact Allyssa Joseph, associate director of development, at [ajoseph9@msudenver.edu](mailto:ajoseph9@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2045.

# 2018 Philanthropist of the Year joins lifetime giving society contributing over \$100,000

By Lynne Winter '17

**Joan Foster | 1978 | Biology |  
Dean of Letters, Arts and Sciences at  
Metropolitan State University of Denver**

“Giving back is something that was instilled in me from an early age,” says Joan Foster, Ph.D., Dean of Letters, Arts and Sciences at MSU Denver and recipient of the 2018 Philanthropist of the Year Award. “It was the ethos of my family.”

A Denver native and a proud graduate of East High School, Foster graduated from MSU Denver in 1978 with a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in mathematics. After graduation, a marine science internship led to a job at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Environmental Research Laboratories in Boulder. “Working at NOAA with the Ph.D.s made me realize I wanted to go to graduate school and become a professor,” she says.

Following graduate school, Foster returned to MSU Denver in January 1990 as an adjunct biology



Joan Foster '78

professor and by October held a position as tenure-track faculty. “MSU Denver is the social conscience of the Front Range,” she says. “We are making a difference in our community, providing students with the chance to shift social classes and create a better life for their families.”

Foster enrolled in payroll deduction and made her first gift on Oct. 8, 1990 — a commitment of \$20 a month.

“It wasn’t very much at first,” she says. “I had two small children and needed to pay for daycare, but I gave what I could because I felt that it was an important thing to do.”

Over the past 28 years Foster increased her giving as circumstances allowed. The result is an impressive lifetime giving total of more than \$100,000. “Donors like Dr. Foster have a tremendous

impact on the students and programs at MSU Denver,” says Gwen Thompson, senior director of development. “We are thrilled that we were able to honor her in this way.”

“MSU Denver is a lean institution. We do not waste money, and we know how to stretch a dollar,” Foster says. “If I give to facilities, my students have better classrooms in which to learn. If I give to a program, it creates new learning opportunities for students and, in turn, improves the community.”

“I am thankful to Dr. Foster sharing her time, talent and treasure with MSU Denver,” says Brandi Rideout, director of alumni relations. “Her commitment to philanthropy will continue to transform the lives of students and programs for years to come.”

“We are here for the students from every background — immigrants, single parents, first-generation students, returning college students, etc. — MSU Denver is for everyone,” Foster says. “We are helping students achieve the American Dream.”

*For more information and to make a gift, contact Gwen Thompson, senior director of development, at [gthomp39@msudenver.edu](mailto:gthomp39@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2051.*

**“We are making a difference in our community, providing students with the chance to shift social classes and create a better life for their families.”**

— Joan Foster '78

## Run with us — alumni donors setting records

By Jamie Hurst, J.D.

A pack of roadrunners is known as a “race” or a “marathon.” Metropolitan State University of Denver’s alumni base of 91,000 Roadrunners worldwide puts the University in a position to run a successful race toward being a pre-eminent public urban university and a bastion of the American Dream.

With nearly 75 percent of MSU Denver alumni staying in Colorado upon graduation, the opportunity to impact change at home is significant. Our alumni are engaging with the University, each other and the campus community at an increasing rate. Whether it is by attending

an event — like Fall Alumni Weekend, Homecoming or Golden Grads — continuing their education by taking a LearnOn class or volunteering with the Alumni Association to mentor current students, Roadrunners are choosing to run with us. Since 2014, alumni engagement has grown by over 220 percent. The result? Roadrunners are impacting Roadrunners.

Over the past four years, MSU Denver has also grown in the number of alumni donors by over 145 percent, bucking the national trend of declining alumni participation. Where the average public university across America is losing nearly 0.5 percent of their alumni

support yearly, Roadrunner support is growing by over 30 percent annually during that same period. Not only are we running the race — we are leading the pack.

For the third consecutive year, dollars raised by alumni will set an institutional record. Before 2016, alumni had never collectively given \$200,000 in any single year; however, in 2016, revenue from alumni reached \$265,000; in 2017 it crossed \$320,000; and this year, we expect it to total over \$575,000 by June 30. Setting records is what Roadrunners do.

Exponential growth can only mean only one thing — MSU Denver is doing something right. We are serving students with the potential and capacity to effect change. We are

developing the programs that build the knowledge and skills students need to succeed. We are setting the course for a new Colorado by changing education in our state and bolstering the economy by saturating the workforce with MSU Denver graduates.

MSU Denver is transforming the educational opportunities provided to our current students and producing an even more exceptional generation of Roadrunners. Alumni are outrunning the competition and paving a path to success for Colorado’s future. MSU Denver Roadrunners are choosing to join the race and run with us.

*For more information on getting involved with alumni events and giving, contact Brandi Rideout, director of alumni relations, at [brideout@msudenver.edu](mailto:brideout@msudenver.edu).*

**We are serving students with the potential and capacity to effect change.**



# 2018 Homecoming award winners



Awardees with President Janine Davidson, Ph.D., (l-r): Troy Walker '08, Stand-up Comedian; Angela Rodriguez '08, Student Success Specialist, TRIO, Community College of Denver; Cavell Alexander '90, Vice President, Chief Audit Executive, Chief Compliance Officer at UC Health; Stephanie Rayman '09, General Manager/Director of Marketing and Strategy, Tivoli Brewing Co.; Evan Claus '12, Off-Premise Sales Director, Anheuser-Busch; Janine Davidson, Ph.D.; Michael Bahl '08, Head Coach, MSU Denver Men's Basketball; Paula Leek '14, Owner and Operator of Paula Leek Petrographics; Ricardo Rocha '17, CEO, Abarrotes Bondarosa; Meranda Vieyra '10, Owner, Denver Legal Marketing LLC; Blake Bienemann '08, Vice President of Institutional Wealth Management, Colorado Bank and Trust; and Kate Imy '08, Assistant Professor, University of North Texas.



MSU Denver  
President Janine  
Davidson, Ph.D.



Philanthropist of the  
Year, Dr. Joan Foster  
'78, Dean, College  
of Liberal Arts and  
Sciences




Distinguished  
Alumna of the Year  
Cavell Alexander '90,  
Vice President, Chief  
Audit Executive,  
Chief Compliance  
Officer at UC Health



Michael Bahl '08, MSU Denver Men's Basketball Head Coach; Dr. Anthony Grant, MSU Denver Director of Athletics; Evan Claus '12, Off-Premise Sales Director, Anheuser-Busch



Gary and Judy George '01 Alumni Board Chair, with Brandi Rideout, Director of Alumni Relations, and Sabrina Rideout



**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY<sup>™</sup>**  
OF DENVER

2018 DAY OF GIVING

**\$57,311**

TOTAL RAISED

\$25,000 FROM THE MSU DENVER TRUSTEE & FOUNDATION BOARD CHALLENGE

**374**  
TOTAL GIFTS

**348**  
TOTAL DONORS

GIVING HIGHLIGHTS



\$32,929  
SCHOLARSHIPS



\$17,085  
PROGRAMS



\$5,085  
PRECISION FLIGHT TEAM

\$25,000 UNLOCKED IN MATCHING DOLLARS FROM

**THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**\$82,311**

TOTAL **IMPACT**  
ON STUDENTS





**DAY OF Giving**  
I JOINED THE RACE  
24 HOURS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
ONE DAY TO TRANSFORM LIVES

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for  
Fall Alumni Weekend: October 5-7, 2018



# \$50,000 endowed scholarship supports students pursuing long-term healthcare careers

By Lynne Winter '17

Based in Denver, Colavria Hospitality's goal is to provide the highest service levels possible when it comes to supporting and growing existing residential care facilities and the refurbishment or development of new residential care facilities. With the long-term healthcare field facing a shortage of qualified employees, Colavria recognized that future success depends on a vital resource: the individuals who choose careers in long-term care and rehabilitation.

"It is a challenge to find good, educated people who want to go into long-term healthcare," says Colavria Hospitality President and CEO Mark Bedinger, N.H.A. "Our industry needs the human element — we want to go beyond documenting vitals and focus on the hospitality and customer-service aspects."

Metropolitan State University of Denver, with its diverse student body and growing Hotel and Hospitality Learning Center (HLC), was a perfect fit for the Colavria Education Foundation's first endowed scholarship. "We like that MSU Denver supports non-traditional students," says Bedinger. "The healthcare industry can be a great field for people to go into when they are starting a second career or coming to college later in life."

A gift made by the Colavria Hospitality Education Foundation, combined with a matching gift from HLC@Metro Inc., established a \$50,000 endowed scholarship at MSU Denver. "The match was a huge factor for us," says Bedinger. "It allows us to have a substantial impact on the students of MSU Denver."



"We are grateful to Colavria Hospitality for establishing a scholarship at MSU Denver," says Steve Galpern, senior director of major gifts. "Our partnership will support the academic and professional aspirations of our students."

The Colavria Hospitality Education Foundation Endowed Scholarship will help meet the increasingly demanding needs for talented workers in the long-term care, assisted living or rehabilitation fields by supporting MSU Denver students who are interested in applying their education and skills toward a career in long-term healthcare.

"We need people with a diverse array of skills — from hospitality, food services, accounting, social work and more — to get involved in the healthcare industry," says Bedinger. "I hope that this scholarship will make students aware of the variety of careers available to them when they graduate."

To learn more about supporting hospitality education scholarships, contact Steve Galpern, senior director of major gifts, at [sgalpern@msudenver.edu](mailto:sgalpern@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2043.

## Graduation by the (good) numbers

University President Janine Davidson, Ph.D., will welcome a new class of Roadrunner graduates to the alumni family May 11.

The spring semester's graduation will see an estimated 1,586 bachelor's graduates and 171 students completing master's degrees; among the latter, 104 are in

social work, 42 in teaching and 19 in accountancy.

This semester's graduating class includes 577 students of color, led by 337 Latinx students. The spring 2018 class includes 30 ASSET graduates.

MSU Denver's spring graduates range in age from 18-year-old computer-science

major Alexander Jones to 67-year-old music major Vincent Collins. Consistent with national higher-education trends, women continue to outpace men, representing 57 percent of the graduates.

Transfer students make up 67 percent, and veterans comprise 6 percent of the graduating class. Thirty-three

percent of graduates are first-generation students, and 27 percent secured STEM-focused degrees.

The graduates' top five majors are psychology; biology; criminal justice and criminology; accounting; and management. 142 students are seeking teacher licensure.

## York Space Systems signals support with \$125,000 gift for AES Building



Janine Davidson, Ph.D., MSU Denver President, and Dirk Wallinger, York Space Systems CEO, prepare to cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the new headquarters as a public-private partnership with the University in the newly constructed AES Building on campus.



Inside the Mission Operation Center, York Space Systems CEO Dirk Wallinger presented MSU Denver President Janine Davidson, Ph.D., with a \$125,000 gift in support of the AES Capital Project.



# Cleared for takeoff

United Airlines-MSU Denver partnership books direct flight from classroom to flight deck

By Dan Vaccaro

The trip from an aviation classroom to the flight deck of a major airline can be a challenging one. That journey just got a little easier for more than 100 aviation students at MSU Denver when the University announced a partnership with United Airlines that will train the next generation of pilots through their Career Path Program (CPP).

This agreement is the first to establish a direct pathway from a university aviation department to a major U.S. airline.

“I see it as a win-win,” says Mike McCasky, managing director of flight training for United and an MSU Denver alum. “Students get a great start on their careers, and the airline gets

access to skilled pilots.”

Cultivating talent is even more essential in light of the most recent Boeing Pilot Outlook, which projected a need for 117,000 new pilots in North America and 637,000 worldwide between 2017 and 2036. United seeks to fill that need by reaching pilots early in their training and providing them with a defined career path. McCasky is convinced that MSU Denver students will take advantage of this unique opportunity. “MSU Denver students are hungry,” he says, “and it shows in their work performance.”

Kevin Kuhlmann, associate chair of aviation and aerospace science, is confident MSU Denver will meet the demand. “We offer one of the



largest and most advanced collegiate aviation programs in the country,” he says. “We are positioned to provide United with highly qualified pilots.”

Students can begin applying for the program in August. Minimum requirements for an interview include at least two semesters in the professional flight officer program at MSU Denver, maintaining full-time status with a 3.0 cumulative GPA in aviation courses and holding a commercial pilot certificate and instrument rating. “Agreements with our airline partners allow students to interview and gain conditional job offers while still attending school,” Kuhlmann

says. “All they need to do is follow through on the agreement conditions specified by the airline.”

“MSU Denver’s partnership with United Airlines will have a significant impact on our students’ futures where a new direct career pathway has now been created,” says Gwen Thompson, senior director of development. “This opportunity provides an exciting professional path to success.”

*Discover how you can support aviation students by contacting Gwen Thompson, senior director of development, at gthomp39@msudenver.edu or 303-615-2051.*

## Fox family makes \$50,000 gift to Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science



**Katie Fox (Alan’s wife), Alan Fox, Jack Fox (Alan’s son), Susan Pinkowitz (Alan’s daughter), Ted Pinkowitz, and Nathalie Fox (Jack’s wife).**



**L-R: Thomas De Cino, Director, Aeronautics and Aerospace Systems Laboratories; Alan Fox; Jack Fox; Jeff Forrest, Department Chair, Aviation and Aerospace Science; Susan Pinkowitz; and Ted Pinkowitz.**



**Alan Fox in front of a flight simulator in the Alan F. Fox Multi-Engine Simulation Lab at the Robert K. Mock World Indoor Airport.**

By Lynne Winter ’17

Metropolitan State University of Denver’s commitment to serving the community cultivates bonds that extend beyond campus borders. Those connections have the potential to impact the future of students and programs at the University.

One of those connections allowed the Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science to make birthday dreams come true for Alan Fox — a community member devoted to the mission and vision of MSU Denver.

Though never enrolled as a student at MSU Denver, Fox is a donor who considers himself a lifelong learner and advocate of higher education. In 1984, Fox was looking for a way to keep his aviation skills current when he discovered a program

at the University that exists exclusively for anyone over the age of 60: Metro Meritus — Lifelong Learning.

Through Metro Meritus, Fox took a flight-simulator course on campus at no cost to himself. He repeated the same course for 14 semesters straight — the ongoing joke is that he would purposely “flunk” the class so he could retake it the following semester.

In early 2017, Fox’s son, Jack, approached Department Chair Jeff Forrest about the possibility of naming a space in the Multi-Engine Simulation Lab after his father as an 85th-birthday present. On May 12, surrounded by family and friends at the World Indoor Airport, Fox received an out-of-this-world birthday present — a row of flight simulators named after him,

made official with a permanent plaque in the lab.

Fox was not the only one to receive a gift during the celebration. Inspired by the department’s birthday surprise for Fox, as well as their long-term relationship with World Indoor Airport manager and affiliate instructor T.J. De Cino, Ph.D., the evening’s festivities included the presentation of a generous donation from the Fox family to MSU Denver. Fox, his wife, Katherine, and their children, contributed \$50,000 to benefit students and programs in the Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science.

Last summer, Fox returned to campus to receive a take-home plaque, as well as a desktop model of his favorite plane, the Cessna 210. A larger model of that same plane now hangs in the lab above the

student check-in area in honor of Fox.

“The Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science and its students will flourish because of engaged donors like Alan Fox and his family,” says Yvonne Smith, program assistant-donor relations, and the event’s organizer and host. “It was a pleasure to have them on campus, and we are thankful for their commitment to transforming lives at MSU Denver.”

*For more information on how to support the Department of Aviation and Aerospace Science, contact Gwen Thompson, senior director of development, at gthomp39@msudenver or 303-615-2051.*



# Legacy Society members make future gift of home and art studio to MSU Denver

By Lynne Winter '17

Metropolitan State University of Denver Legacy Society members Stella Yu and David Griggs have a creative vision for impacting the students and programs of MSU Denver with a planned gift — the gift of their home.

“MSU Denver presented a rare opportunity to offer something different,” says Griggs. “We can build a partnership between the University and the community that allows them to participate as neighbors.”

Donating their home and art studio to the MSU Denver Art Department will allow future students to learn and grow as

part of a community of artists located in the Art District on Santa Fe. By establishing a home and flexible space for students to work that engages the local community, the neighborhood will keep true to its cultural and artistic history.

“Years ago, I participated in an artist residency and dove into my work without distractions — it made a significant impact on my work,” Griggs explains. “We wanted to create a space where MSU Denver students can immerse themselves in their art and have a similarly positive experience.”

“It is exciting when our donors have out-of-the-box ideas



**Stella Yu, David Griggs and Deanne Pytlinski, Ph.D., chair, art department**

for impacting our students,” says Kyle Backlund, associate director of planned giving. “Planned gifts such as this help sustain a bright future for MSU Denver.”

As a way to initiate the integration of the University into the community, Yu and

Griggs have invited recent MSU Denver art classes into their home to learn about their experiences as artists. “We have been able to form a new relationship with the University and it is gratifying to contribute like this,” says Yu. “In the meantime, we are having fun being a catalyst for making things happen.”

“If we pay attention to our vision, the possibilities are limitless.”

*For more information on planned giving opportunities in support of MSU Denver, contact Kyle Backlund, associate director of planned giving, at [backlund@msudenver.edu](mailto:backlund@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2040.*

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## Staff retiree leaves legacy with planned gift

By Lynne Winter '17

For 18 years, Metropolitan State University of Denver staff member Brenda Sabo transformed lives as a part of the campus community. With her decision to make an estate gift, she is leaving a legacy that will enhance the experience of future students at MSU Denver.

In 1998, Sabo saw a posting for a position in the Cooperative Education Internship Center (now Applied Learning Center) at MSU Denver that sounded perfect. It was in that position, coordinating student internship

experiences, that Sabo learned first-hand about the influence of faculty and staff. “Those are the interactions graduates remember when they think back on their time at MSU Denver,” she says. “Our faculty and staff inspire students to do amazing things.”

With retirement on the horizon, Sabo and her husband were motivated to continue their history of giving to MSU Denver by making a planned gift. They named MSU Denver as a beneficiary in their will, with the gift — 1/6th of their estate, an estimated

six-figure gift — designated to support faculty and staff.

As the lowest-funded public university in Colorado, faculty and staff at MSU Denver have learned how to make an impact on students without extensive financial resources. Sabo hopes her gift will alleviate their burden. “Our faculty and staff are always doing so much — I hope this gift frees them up — making it possible to spend more time mentoring and advising students,” she says. “That attention is what makes MSU Denver unique and

prompts students to work hard.”

Retired in December 2016, Sabo stays connected to MSU Denver, returning to campus to visit former colleagues. “I loved the students, my coworkers and the work we were doing,” she says. “Giving back in this way feels right.”

*To learn more about estate planning opportunities, contact Kyle Backlund, associate director of planned giving, at [backlund@msudenver.edu](mailto:backlund@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2040.*

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## Donor supports MSU Denver mission with charitable remainder trust

By Lynne Winter '17

“My husband was a great guy — and smart — but a traditional college setting was not for him,” says a recent Metropolitan State University of Denver anonymous donor about her late husband (marketing, '74). “If it weren’t for MSU Denver, he never would have finished school.”

It is MSU Denver’s mission to make an affordable, high-quality education accessible to every student with a desire to earn a college degree — students like him.

“When he graduated, we had a huge celebration,” she says. “It took him a long time,

but earning his degree was extremely important to him.”

Twenty years ago, the donor established a charitable remainder trust (CRT) that would, upon her passing, allocate 50 percent of its funds to MSU Denver and create a scholarship in her husband’s memory. The scholarship will support students who want to earn a college degree but work a full-time job and still cannot afford to do so.

“There are few scholarships for working people who want to go back to school and improve their lives,” she says. “People ask themselves: Do I pay for a class or feed

my family? They end up not being able to complete their education.”

A CRT is an irrevocable trust that generates income for the donor, with the remainder of the assets going to charity upon the donor’s death. As the CRT trustee, the donor was required to pay herself a yearly income from the trust; however, the fund was earning less than the mandatory payout, resulting in the trust losing money. She is in the process of dissolving the trust — the court has yet to rule — and is planning to make her six-figure gift to MSU Denver while still alive.

“Not all planned gifts need

to wait,” says Kyle Backlund, associate director of planned giving. “This is a smart way to expedite funding the scholarship so that the donor can see the impact of her gift during her lifetime.”

“I want to help people achieve their educational goals so that they can be a contributing member of society and have a sense of purpose,” she concludes. “That is what it is to achieve the American Dream.”

*For more information on planned giving at MSU Denver, contact Kyle Backlund, associate director of planned giving, at [backlund@msudenver.edu](mailto:backlund@msudenver.edu) or 303-615-2040.*



# Celebrating your generosity to students

Dear Friends,

I am delighted with your enthusiastic response to the inaugural issue of the Roadrunner Development Report. We are proud to share that the Roadrunner Development Report directly resulted in the formation of a new scholarship fund. I am excited to see what more we can accomplish in 2018!

With each issue of the Roadrunner Development Report, we are committed to celebrating the ways that your generosity transforms the lives of students and programs at MSU Denver. Your gifts provide our students with the tools they need to move up the social and economic ladder, making it possible for them to find academic, personal and professional success.

This issue of the Roadrunner Development Report features:

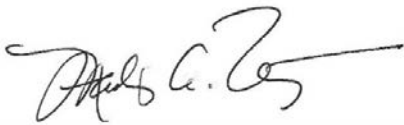
- The Reisher Scholars Program — allowing exceptional students to graduate without debt
- The Annual Alumni Awards Philanthropist of the Year
- Celebrating a new campus partner — United Airlines
- Ingenious ways to make an impact through planned giving

It is also my pleasure to welcome seven new staff members to the University Advancement team — meet them on page 11. These talented individuals will play an integral part in the future success of MSU Denver University Advancement. As always, do not hesitate to contact any one of us if we can be of service to you.

Finally, plan to join us this fall to celebrate the Presidential Inauguration of Janine Davidson, Ph.D. The event, to be held on Sept. 7, will include an investiture ceremony and evening gala. I look forward to seeing you there.

We are deeply grateful for your support — without it, our success would not be possible. Together, we will transform lives.

Sincerely,



**Marilee Utter**  
MSU Denver Foundation Board Chair

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## Welcome new team members

**Brett Befus, J.D.**  
Associate Vice President of Advancement/Campaign Director



Brett Befus, J.D., joined MSU Denver in May as the Associate Vice President of Advancement/Campaign Director. Arriving from the University of Wyoming where he most recently served as Director of Principal Gifts, Brett has previously held positions as the Director of Corporate Development, a unit-based fundraiser, and a practicing attorney, as well as a variety of other roles in higher education. With a proven track record of fundraising success, he looks forward to bringing his strategic, solution-oriented mindset to the University Advancement team and building the University's relationships with its donors and the campus community.

**bbefus@msudenver.edu**  
**303-605-5819**

**Megan Frances Conklin, MSW**  
Executive Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations



Megan Frances Conklin joined MSU Denver in May. As Executive Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, she is establishing a corporate and foundation relations program to increase support for MSU Denver students and programs, as well as developing a campus-wide plan for corporate support and engagement. A first-generation college graduate, Megan understands the impact that accessible educational opportunities have on people

from all backgrounds. Throughout her career, she has worked with organizations focused on transforming individuals and the community. She spends her free time reading, writing and mentoring, and in the great outdoors, skiing, hiking and camping.

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**303-605-5815**

**Cheryl Fountain**  
Office Manager for University Advancement



Cheryl Fountain joined MSU Denver in March as the office manager for University Advancement. With over five years of experience working with professional staff, she ensures the efficient day-to-day operations of the department, supports the work of the MSU Denver Foundation, V.P. of UA and other staff and is responsible for organizing and coordinating office operations. In her free time, she enjoys all things Colorado, including hiking, biking and rock hounding.

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**Steven Hartman, '18**  
Development Associate



Steven Hartman began his career with MSU Denver as a student caller in the Reach-a-Roadrunner Call Center in June 2016. After graduating with his bachelor's degree in theatre in December 2017, he joined University Advancement as a full-time staff member. As Development

Associate, he works closely with gift officers to schedule appointments, prepare for donor visits and facilitate stewardship efforts. In his free time, Steven enjoys watching movies, reading comic books and spending time with friends and family.

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**Tori Meyers**  
Interim Director of Grants



Tori Meyers joined MSU Denver as Interim Director of Grants in February. In this role, she is the primary contact within Advancement for identifying grant opportunities, conducting research and developing grant proposals for submission to foundations, corporations and other private funding entities. Tori worked with MSU Denver on grants on a contract basis before joining the Advancement Team more formally this year. Tori brings 15+ years of public and private grant-writing experience to MSU Denver across many types of nonprofits. She loves to spend time with her family and get out to bike, hike and ski when she isn't working on grants.

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**Katie Mnichowicz**  
Alumni Relations Coordinator



Katie Mnichowicz joined MSU Denver as Alumni Engagement Coordinator in May. With more than three years of experience working in higher education in student

support and student programming, she assists with the creation, facilitation, management, staffing and marketing of new and continuing alumni programs. She also oversees alumni career services and event planning for all Alumni Association events. In her free time, Katie enjoys watching professional sporting events, cheering on the Roadrunners, hiking, running, biking and skiing.

**kmnichow@msudenver.edu**  
**303-605-5820**

**Thomas Ragland**  
Web Services Specialist



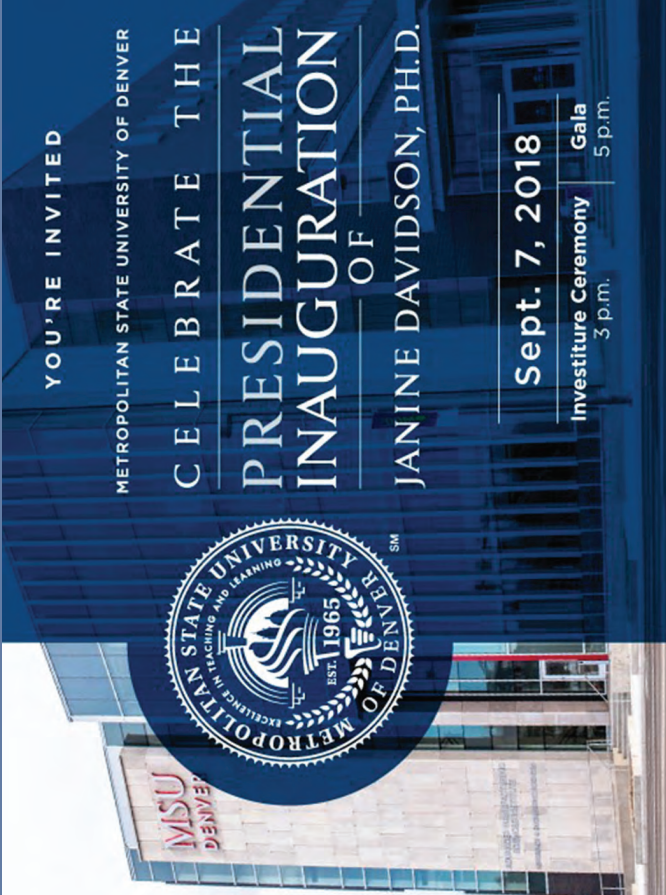
Thomas Ragland started working at MSU Denver in May 2015 and has been with University Advancement since December 2017. As Web Services Specialist, he works as the Blackbaud NetCommunity (BBNC) expert providing updates, training and reporting for those in, and outside of, University Advancement. He maintains event registration and donation pages, and serves as an email administrator. In his spare time, Thomas enjoys anything fitness related, all things Batman and spending time with his wife, son, two cats and two dogs.

**traglan1@msudenver.edu**  
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# ROADRUNNER DEVELOPMENT REPORT



“Come join us and be a part of Dr. Janine Davidson’s celebration as the ninth president of Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Dr. Davidson has completed her first year at MSU Denver and is ready to begin her mission of taking MSU Denver and our students to new and exciting levels of academic excellence. We could not have found an individual who is better suited to continue, and improve, MSU Denver’s focus on developing students who are ready to jump into the workforce and make a difference!

Join us in celebrating the excitement of a new era during a week of events September 4-7.”

— Jack Pogge, Chair, MSU Denver Board of Trustees

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Roadrunner Development Report is published by the Office of University Advancement at MSU Denver for donors, alumni and friends.

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Hussein Ogaidi, Reisher Scholar

Photo by Flor Blake/Courtesy of The Denver Foundation