

AAUW of Colorado State Convention Program Saturday, April 23, 2022

About Our Speakers and Panelists



Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO, AAUW

Gloria Blackwell, in addition to her role as CEO, is also AAUW's main representative to the United Nations. Among her many accomplishments is her 15-year management of AAUW's highly esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas. Gloria has been the driving force behind AAUW's signature programs, including its salary negotiation trainings; has worked on pay equity initiatives with public officials around the country; and has worked with the National Science Foundation to increase girls' participation in the STEM fields. Most notably, Gloria has significantly expanded the AAUW's outreach to girls and women of color.

Gloria's experiences before joining AAUW in 2004 were as director of Africa education and fellowship programs at the Institute of International Education and in various positions in the Peace Corps organization in Africa. She holds a master's degree in education and human development from the George Washington University, a bachelor's degree in international affairs from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and studied at the American University in Paris. Gloria is committed to supporting opportunities and empowerment for women and girls globally.



Temple Grandin, Professor, College of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State University

Temple Grandin is a one-of-a kind mind, ad world-renowned autism spokesperson and an advocate for humane livestock handling. She is a professor, an author, a role model for young women and much, much more. Among Temple's many honors and recognitions, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2017. There is just too much to cover here and you are encourage to go to her [website](#) to see and hear more about Temple Grandin, much of which is in her own words.



Nycci Jones, Director of Organizational Development and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Nelnet, Inc.

Building on more than 25 years of experience in the learning and development community, Nycci Jones helps leaders thrive in their careers, navigate change, lead diverse teams, coach for success, and building high performing diverse work environments. Her expertise spans across a wide range of diversity, equity and inclusion programming and initiatives. As a champion for diversity at all levels, Nycci focuses on creating a safe, equitable work environment that promotes trust, fairness, and transparency. Her commitment to delivering a culture that protects and promotes

wellness through performance management, talent development, leadership development, and developing organization-wide strategies, policies, and training programs.

Nycci's industry experience encompasses a Certification in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University, Master Trainer Designation, Instructional Design Certification, and a Coaching Certification through the Association for Talent and Development. In addition to her tenure at Nelnet as the Director of Organizational Development and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, she also leads the efforts of Nelnet University, and Coaches Corner.



Dora Gonzales, Colorado Springs Branch

Dora Gonzales, a retired educator, served the mathematics education community for 30+ years as a middle and high school mathematics teacher completing her career as the Mathematics Coordinator for Colorado Springs School District #11. She holds a Master of Science in Mathematics from the University of Northern Colorado and a Bachelor of Arts in Education with an emphasis in secondary mathematics from the University of Colorado in

Colorado Springs. Currently, Dora actively serves the Hispanic community by volunteering with various nonprofit organizations that include Pikes Peak Library District Board of Trustees, Adelante Mujer, Inc., Latina Equity Initiative/Foundation, Women's Partnering, American GI Forum, Hispanic Scholarship Committee, and Sacred Heart Parish Meals of Compassion. She has also served on the CPCD Headstart Board of Directors. Education equity is Dora's passion, and she continues to seek opportunities to empower the Latinas.



Anna T. Lopez, Colorado Springs Branch

Anna T. Lopez has spent her in education focusing on at risk students. She retired as principal of a Charter High School dedicated to graduating students with the skills for success. Anna has been active for many years with the League of Women Voters serving on the admin board for many years. And recognizes that *voting is a precious right*. As a member of AAUW, Anna serves as Public Policy Director and on the Diversity, Inclusion and Equity committee. She was asked to join the outreach effort to the Latina community which resulted in the Latina Equity Initiative in 2021.



Jugbeh Charles, Aurora Branch

Jugbeh Charles is currently the Fiscal Grant & Compliance Manager for the State of Colorado, a position she has recently taken following 9 years as a Grant Manager at the Aurora Community College. Her real passion, however, lies in the nonprofit arena where she is the managing partner and CFO of Leading Change which focuses on bringing about sustainable change to individuals and communities in Liberia and the United States. Jugbeh is also the founder of the New Awakening Clothing Group which provides affordable handmade

clothes to serve, empower, and build communities in Liberia, West Africa, and Colorado. Jugbeh holds a Master's in Accounting from Colorado State University Global and a Bachelor of Science in Business

Administrations from the University of Colorado Denver. Jugbeh has been active in the Aurora branch since 2015 and is currently their DEI Chair.



Candice M. Smith, Aurora Branch

Candice M. Smith is Founder and CEO of Boss Generation, a nonprofit organization that proactively addresses the student loan debt crisis that impacts Black women and women of color. Prior to starting this organization, she spent over a decade in education, as a teacher, teacher coach, and district trainer for Denver Public Schools. Candice holds a Master's degree in Education from Regis University and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace certification from the University of South Florida. She is also the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusiveness Coordinator at the Mental Health Center of Denver.

