



INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL OF  
DENVER

2021-2022

# *Impact Report*

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# A Message from Our Head of School

**Thank you to our wonderful faculty, parents, and donors for moving us forward this year and under very difficult conditions.**



**BOB CARIGNAN**  
Head of School

Through the 2021-22 school year, I guess we learned the answer to the proverbial question, “What’s harder than running a school in a year with a pandemic outbreak?” The answer: trying to run a school in a year with three distinct outbreaks—beginning, middle, and end.

In doing everything we could to keep our students safe, and under the amazing guidance of our nurses, we **turned our school into testing and vaccination clinics**, both of which required a huge amount of school resources and commitment from our staff. We also reignited something integral to the ISDenver experience: Classroom without Walls. Trips took students from across the city to around the world (see pages 13-14).

***There were certainly many more high notes throughout the year, but the biggest was the opening of our new Mary Louise Evans (MLE)***

**building, which has proven to be more than we had hoped. We can’t thank our RISE Campaign leaders and donors enough for leaving their mark on generations of ISDenver students and faculty.**

The stories behind the generosity of RISE donors are so compelling that we used the pages of this year’s Impact Report to collect a sampling of them. The name behind each new space, the intention behind every brick laid, is the story of our global community. I hope you’ll be as inspired by these stories as I am and that the next time you step into MLE, you’ll feel a stronger connection to the collective effort and generosity of those who helped to build it.

MLE is a wonderful educational and community gathering space (for our ISDenver community and our larger community) and an amazing place to show off our visual and performing





## A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

arts programs. On pages 10-11, you'll see how the MLE Learning Center was transformed into a gallery showcasing 8th grader's exploration of creativity. What's more, Celebration of Learning performances on the Dragon Steps were a fantastic way to gather as a community among the divisions and cap off the year.

Perhaps most importantly, we also moved the school forward strategically with the day-to-day operations in this unique time. Our Primary and ECE faculty worked tirelessly **to begin implementing our IB Primary Years Programme (PYP)**—never an easy task. We also **completed our year-long ACIS self-study**, enabling us to pave the way for our accreditation visit in December 2022.

**Thanks to each of you, we**

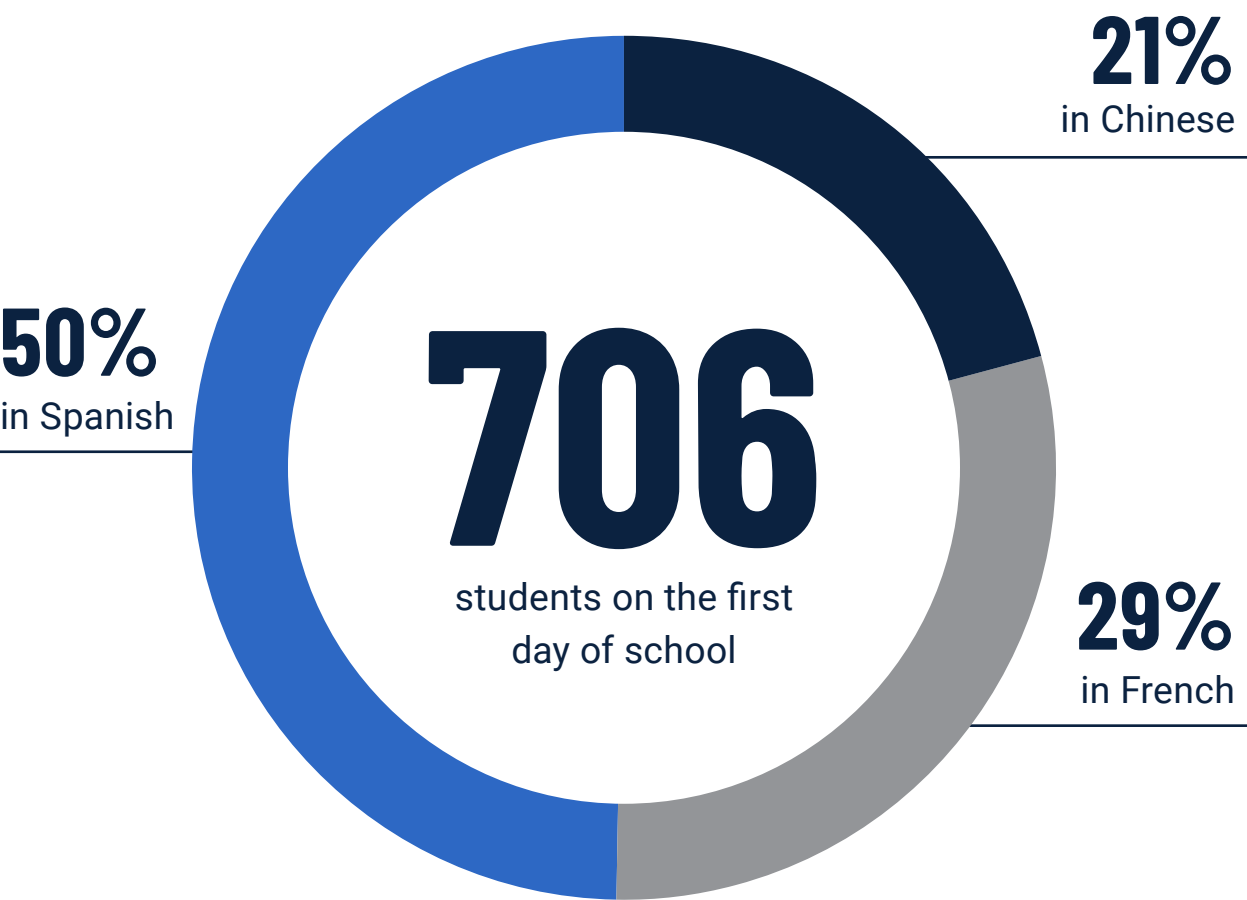
**are creating a culture of philanthropy that is beginning to equal our peer schools. Your support is what makes the entire ISDenver Experience not only possible but truly awesome.**

Finally, and this is something I have stated often, the wholehearted individual commitment and dedication from our staff that your children received are almost unimaginable relative to the situation the staff has worked through. The idea that they have known and loved your children and created a safe space for them to grow when those spaces are not typical in today's world is something that we should all be the most grateful for.

Sit close to your children and  
thank you for everything.



# Admissions by the Numbers





# A Message from Our Board Chair

I'd like to thank you for your continued support of the International School of Denver and for helping us build a school committed to creating global citizens who are biliterate, self-driven, and compassionate.



**KURT PLETCHER**  
Board Chair

It takes **all of us together** to create a space where all of our learners are prioritized, our staff feels valued, and we create a sustainable future for the school.

I'll never stop saying it: this school—this community—is really special. The ISDenver experience is something that simply isn't found elsewhere. It is about your kids. Our teachers. This incredible immersion program. And the amazing achievements of it all coming together. **Which is all made possible by our culture of philanthropy.**

From Gala to Giving Tuesday to the RISE campaign, the ISDenver community rose up in the face of unprecedented adversity. Together, you not

only raised \$4M to build an **award-winning academic building** but also **contributed so generously to Community Giving that you ensured our school moved forward strategically despite an ongoing global pandemic.**

Our culture of philanthropy is embodied in this year's Impact Report. The amount and the reason behind every gift are deeply personal, as you'll see in the stories shared. Our collective mission of creating a more curious and compassionate world, one student, one donation at a time, is at the heart of it all.

Thank you for caring deeply about our global community. It wouldn't be the same without you.

## Board Members

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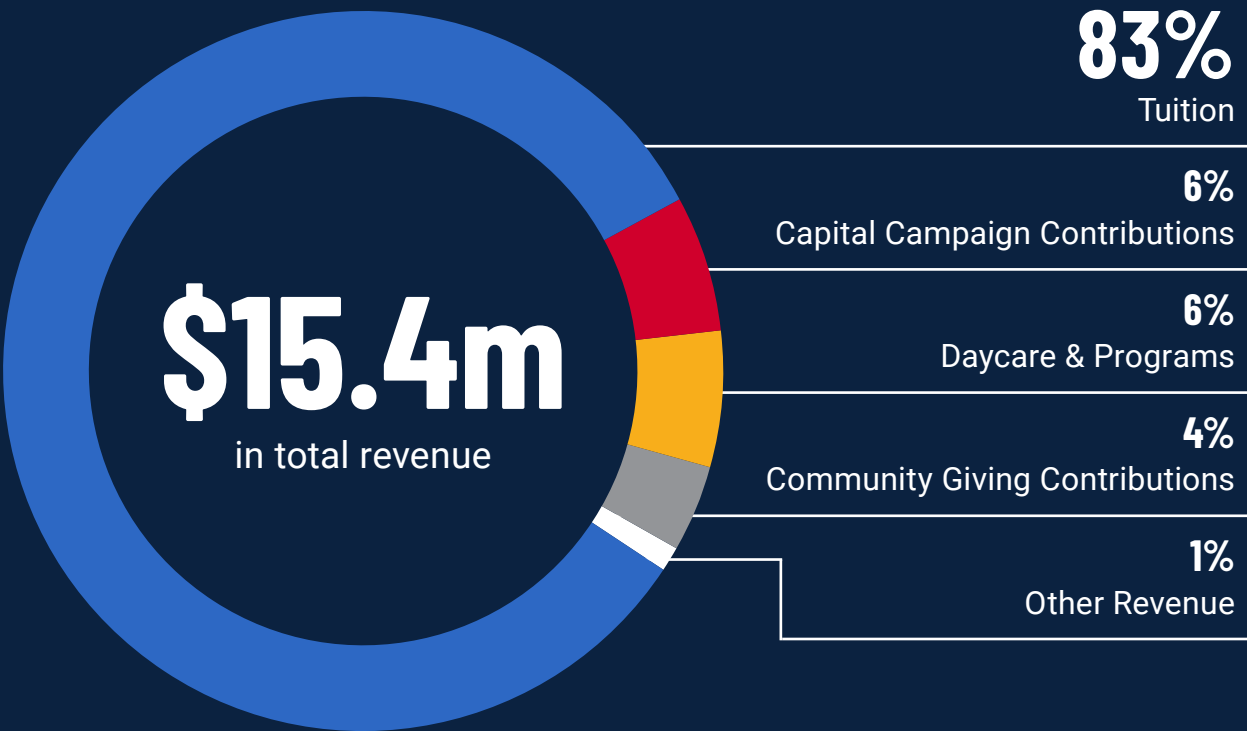
**Kenton Epard**  
*Member*

**Wendy Ware**  
*Member*

**Bob Carignan**  
*Head of School, Ex-Officio Member*

# Our Financial Health

## REVENUE



Revenue Category	Amount (\$)
Tuition, net of Discounts and Financial Assistance	12,888,455
Capital Campaign Contributions	871,513
Daycare, After School Programs, and Summer Programs	883,045
Community Giving Contributions	661,339
Other Revenue	130,942
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>15,435,294</b>

## EXPENSES



Expense Category	Amount (\$)
Educational	13,141,662
General & Administrative	3,077,390
Fundraising	454,494
<b>Total Expenses*</b>	<b>16,673,546</b>

*\*Total expenses include \$1.4M of non-cash depreciation expense.*

## SPOTLIGHT

# Our Outstanding **Faculty Philanthropist**

## Meet Marco Alvarez, Outstanding Faculty Philanthropist award winner

In the 2021–22 school year, we honored our fourth annual Outstanding Faculty Philanthropist award winner, Marco Alvarez!

Four years ago, we started honoring an outstanding faculty philanthropist, recognizing an exemplar in our community who not only pours themselves into our school but also goes above and beyond and joins our families in philanthropically investing in ISDenver, too.

This year, we honor our Head Custodian, Marco! He is someone who has supported our faculty and staff giving efforts since the early days, and while he doesn't teach in the classroom and isn't a parent here, ISDenver doesn't run without him. We are so grateful that he supports us, day in and day out!



## *I want to express my heartfelt appreciation*

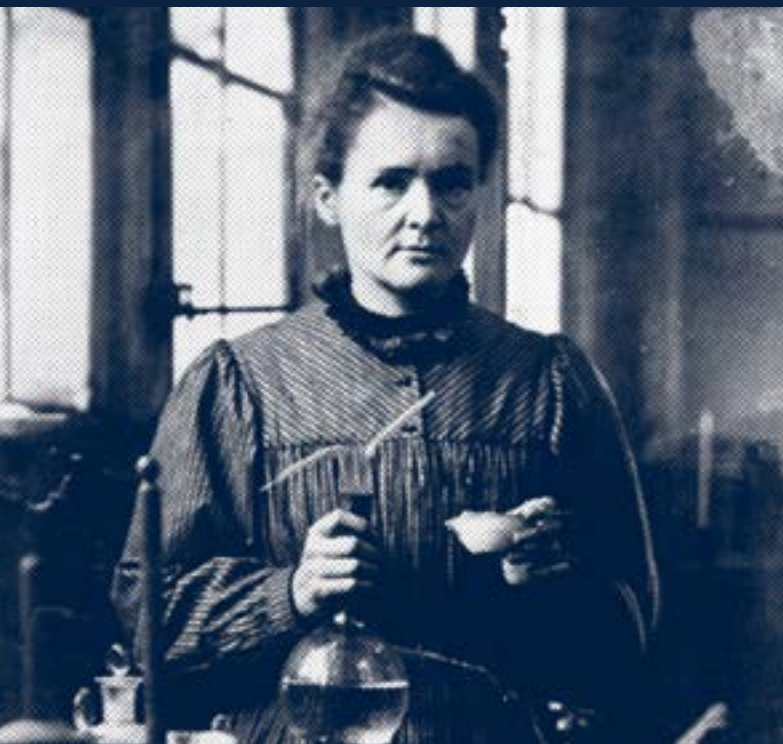
*to all of you involved in efficiently pulling together an on-campus vaccine clinic for the 5-11 year-olds just days after the vaccine received FDA approval for this age group. ISDenver has exceeded my expectations in the way you rolled out the clinic plans without missing a beat. Bravo! I am continually in awe of your group of dedicated professionals who have continued to roll with the punches in these unprecedented times, and who rise to meet new challenges again and again. It seems there's nothing this group can't pull off. The way you continue to prioritize the health and safety of the kids above all else reaffirms our decision to trust ISDenver with our precious kiddos.*

*—ISDenver Family*



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

# Mary Louise Evans Building Spaces Honor Our Past and Give Nods to Language Programs and Community



## SALAMANCA

The Salamanca Room is named out of admiration for a city with a long history as a center of learning. Salamanca is one of Spain's most beautiful cities and boasts one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious universities. An enduring and flourishing academic institution for more than 800 years, today, the University of Salamanca in Spain is a highly regarded international hub for the humanities. It is revered for its language studies, which attract students worldwide.

## SAINT-EXUPÉRY

The Saint-Exupéry Room honors our history, embracing our roots as a French language school. The room is named for Saint-Exupéry, a French writer, poet, journalist, and pioneer aviator best remembered for his novella *The Little Prince* (*Le Petit Prince*). Saint-Exupéry became a laureate of several of France's highest literary awards and won the United States National Book Award. Most notably, he was a global citizen who served in World War II. He said, "We fight in the name of a common cause. The freedom, not just of France, but of the whole world is at stake." He presented a challenge and showed us how to respond—mirroring our school's belief in Integrity.

## 小奇迹 / XIAO QI JI: "LITTLE MIRACLE"

小奇迹 – "Little Miracle" in Chinese is named for the giant panda cub born during a global pandemic at the Smithsonian National Zoo. Throughout the first year and a half of the pandemic, this playful and curious panda cub captivated, inspired hope, and brought joy to our ISDenver donor family and many others worldwide.

## LOS AMIGOS CREATIVOS

This breakout space pays homage to the Spanish language and international culture that has defined the school experience and the friendships the naming family has developed over the years. "Creative Friends" encompasses their time at ISDenver—lasting friendships paired with the tools and power to grow the students' minds going forward. The family shared, "This building is open, sunny, and warm and inspires students to be the best versions of themselves."

## CURIE-OSITY SCIENCE ROOM

A play on words, this room is named for Marie Curie. She was the first woman to win a Noble Prize (1903), the first person to win the award twice (1911), and the only woman to win in two scientific fields: physics and chemistry. In addition, she was the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris. When students enter this space, may they remember the power of a curious mindset: The mind that opens to a new idea never returns to its original size (Albert Einstein).

## THE ROOM OF REQUIREMENT

One family thoughtfully chose a space to name based on its location: a huddle room that opens onto a spacious learning pod rather than an individual classroom (as is the case with most Huddle Rooms). The accessibility of such a space goes hand-in-hand with its name: The Room of Requirement. Like in *Harry Potter*, this room is available to those who need it. We are proud to have a building designed from teacher inspiration that has spaces, rooms, and nooks to suit every learner and their unique needs at any given time.





## SHINING HOPE INTO THE WORLD

# **Exploration of Creativity Transforms Mary Louise Evans into an Extraordinary Gallery Space**

ISDenver 8th-grade learners embarked on a journey to define creativity. Students were asked to explore the statement of inquiry: *Creators can, by developing a unique context, compel the audience to consider new perspectives and question our socially constructed belief systems*. Their first task was to research and defend their own definition of creativity. Their research included interviewing community members, such as parents and administration, on how creativity shows up in their lives. Next, they explored how creativity fuels creators around us, from artists to doctors, musicians to activists, entrepreneurs to engineers.

Students took their research and their definition of creativity to identify a belief or belief system that they feel passionate about changing by constructing

a creative piece through the medium of their choice. Through the structure of a gallery walk in the MLE Learning Center, students presented their work, including poetry, visual arts, short films, sculpture, and painting, to reflect the need for a change in belief system. Some of their belief systems included speaking up about racism, sexism, homophobia, climate change, marginalized populations, and finding one's voice.

Students were asked to critique their work in a formal writing piece, through which they had to analyze and evaluate their own work, including how they conveyed a message through their visual presentation. The next page includes excerpts from the student presentations and/or self-critiques.



*Creativity is not just abstract art or music, but the process that starts with a vision. Our definitions of creativity are blinded by our preferences, opinions, and originality. When in reality **creativity is the process and reason behind an idea or vision.***

—8th Grade Student



SHINING HOPE INTO THE WORLD

**Building Self-Acceptance**

One student wrote a compelling poem, “When Society Lies,” expressing how “Society expects people to have a perfect balance of following the standards and not following them.” The poem also mentions that people who don’t conform, “those of us undefined by these rules” are erased and excluded from society. When the author uses “us,” it can be connected to trans and non-binary people, people who do not fit some of the standards. This is especially apparent when the author writes, “We have no rules, no guidelines to follow, / But yet we are still boxed in by those trying to eradicate us.”

**Challenging Racism**

Another student created a gingerbread scene “to portray how racial segregation still plays a big role in your lives... Racial segregation is still a massive issue in the US. Although we are equals, some people still treat others as though they are merely objects, garbage to throw away.”

**Exposing Anti-Immigrant Myths**

Imagine a delicately crafted mandala of yarn that symbolizes “the Mexican flag colors at the heart of this piece, followed by a black barrier. This section of black yarn represents all of the fences that we must push over in order to lead the people into a brighter future.” The artist’s critique deeply reflected their understanding and belief in how so much of American land has been colonized and

showed the importance of “The bias that must be strongly overcome is the mistaken ‘first-come-first-serve’ attitude directed at the immigrants who move into the United States. These attitudes are based on a few central ideas: priority, resources, and overall discrimination.”

**Shattering Stereotypes**

The poem “Then Decide” brings awareness to how to break down stereotypes, exploring “a clear message about Romanian stereotypes.” Immediately, you can see the poem’s purpose: To highlight the misguided perception of Romanians based on stereotypes without inquiry or knowledge. The poem then travels to a place of hope, in which the author writes, “Book a trip, even a virtual one: Cook a recipe: sarmale, polenta, or mici. Find Brâncuși’s sculptures at MoMa in New York.” Their critique explains that the poem would not be the same without a fix, a call to action. By doing this, the author filled this poem with positivity and something to look forward to.

**Fighting New with Old**

Ponder a collage of juxtaposing images from World War II propaganda with more recent propaganda reflecting a polarized political climate. The student writes, “To conclude, the influence of power and the influence of propaganda destroys communities in every possible example, and we need to do everything we can to stop it from happening.”



*When thinking about what it means to foster students who are globally-minded, reflective, and compassionate, the essence of creativity lies at the root. Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman writes, “For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.” **Through the lens of creativity, our students have reflected tremendous bravery in using their voices to actively be the light that our world desperately needs.***



**LAUREN CANTOR**  
Middle Years  
Programme  
Coordinator





## A RETURN TO NORMAL

# *Community Happy Hour under the Tent*

For the first time since the onset of the novel Coronavirus, we welcomed parents back to campus. On September 8, our Parent Teacher Organization hosted over 100 community members to a celebratory soiree under the illuminating lights of the new permanent tent adjoining the Lower Primary library. SAGE provided delicious bites for noshing and sips were enjoyed in a collective toast, welcoming a new normal for the school year!





## STUDENTS TRAVEL THE WORLD

# Classroom without Walls Resumes

Covid-19 put an abrupt halt to international and domestic travel in the 2020-21 school year. Trips resumed in 2021-22 thanks to a lot of heavy lifting, collaboration, and creativity between our Wellness, Administration, and Academic Teams. From our very own backyard in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to the Grand Canyon to France, students experienced:

### 3rd grade

Location: Snow Mountain Ranch, Colorado  
Activities: Outdoor and environmental education



### 5th grade

Locations: Canada, France, Spain  
Activities: Language and cultural immersion



### 7th grade

Locations: Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Parks  
Activities: Geology and archeology



NEW!

### 6th grade

Location: Breckenridge, Colorado  
Activities: Team building



### 8th grade

Location: Dominican Republic  
Activities: Service learning



[Learn more about domestic and international trips >](#)



STUDENTS TRAVEL THE WORLD

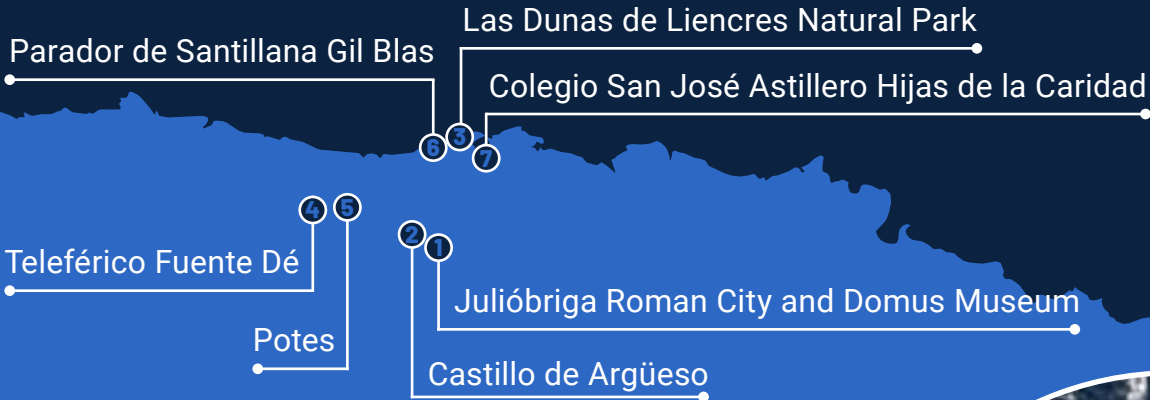
# Moments from Spain

- 1. We visited the **Julióbriga Roman City and Domus Museum**, a historical landmark, Roman ruins, and museum.
- 2. We had tons of fun at the **Castillo de Argüeso**. We toured the castle and tried out our sword fighting techniques!
- 3. At **Las Dunas de Liencres Natural Park**, we planted trees, hiked the dunes, and played at the beach.
- 4. We explored the top of a mountain via **Teleférico Fuente Dé**. The views were incredible!
- 5. On our way back to our hostel from Fuente Dé, we stopped in **Potes** for shopping and ice cream!

- 6. We had a memorable day in Santillana del Mar, where we ate a Spanish lunch at **Parador de Santillana Gil Blas**.
- 7. We visited the **San Jose School**, where we joined their classrooms, did activities, and then had a blast at recess.



*Shared by trip chaperone and ISDenver alumna, Dani Robb, Director of Summer Programs.*





# Thank You to Our Donors

The following list of individuals and organizations represents the donors who have made gifts from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

+ Rise Campaign Donor

\* Faculty/Staff

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Timothy Abrell

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Allyson and Mike Alexander+

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Barri Kass and Jonathan Luttwak+	Tish Kelly-Mick and John Mick	Jake Otto*	Diana Ranby+	Heather and Nik Sazdov
Risa Machovec*+	Amanda and Sean Miller+	Erin Ozimek	Krista and Scott Ranby+	
Judy and David Magill+	Anya and Lawrence Miller+	Victoria and Marc Palmer	Paige and Jeff Reberry+	
Thompson Mahon*	Sherrie and Mountain Miller+	Emily* and Bill Parsley	Stephanie and Dan Reddy+	
Emily Poliseo and Anthony Manzi	Katherine Millett	Jane* and Rob Pattison+	Emily and Jeremy Redenius	





Katie and Brian Schilb  
Nicole Lonsway and Alan Schindler+  
Alex Schlich and James Rodriguez+  
Carrie and Stephen Schmeltekopf  
Andrea and Nick Schommer+  
Lily Hereford and Sam Schultz+  
Maranda Schwartz\*  
Annie Kulungowski and  
Josh Seinfeld+  
Marnie Adams and Beckett Senter  
Alejandra Serafin\*  
Pam Crawford and Ted Shade+  
Tiffany and Kelsey Shane+  
Alice and Bradley Sheehan  
Nancy Sheffield\*  
Crickett Walljasper  
Shannon and Jordan Sher+  
Aaron Siegel\*+  
Jessica and Kyle Sieren  
Baljit Ubhi Silve and Florent Silve  
Stacey Simon and Chris Mento+  
Jennifer Lyden and Joseph  
Simonetti+  
Yoyo\* and Martin Sinnott  
Meg and Jeff Sippel  
Dusty Slaten\*+  
Ali and Justin Sloan  
Mara\* and Joel Smedes

Ruth Overlease and Stig Somme  
Jackie Sorce  
Troy Southard  
Gigi Gonzalez and Kester Spindler  
Sadie and Wells Squier+  
Michelle and John St Martin+  
Sarah Stella and Roger Stace  
Pamela and Tim Starck+  
Carrie and Timothy Stegner+  
Cara and Scott Sterling+  
Shelby and JC Sterrett+  
Erin and Nick Stewart+  
Cissie and Max Stich+  
Chelsea Stickney\* and  
Kayla Wilcken+  
Juliana Stoughton\*+  
Katie Streicher+  
Carrie Wernecke and  
Theodore Swenson+  
Mara and Patrick Tcheunou+  
Alissa and Eric Thibeault+  
Mia Weber and Stephen Tindle+  
Megan Von Wald and Lorin Ting  
Devin and Matthew Tomiak+  
Gregoire Tonye\*  
Sabrina and Hoang Tran+  
Jaime Travis+  
Michelle and JP Tremblay+

Christele\* and Timothy Turner+  
Alberta Utech+  
Doug Utech+  
Toby and Casey Vader  
Anne Mehlman and  
Youngblood Valdez+  
Michaela and Jean-Baptiste Varnier  
Myriam Velez Ferrer\* and  
Brady Mullen  
Michele and Jean Verrier+  
Eleonore Villard-Ramirez  
Alina Dumitrasc and Robert  
Rudolf Eric Vincze+  
Marisha Burden and Marc Voelkel  
Anna and Matt Vogel+  
Hirshini and Henning von Kalm+  
Katie and Matt Wagner+  
Tina and Chris Wall+  
Amanda Wallace and  
Matthew Fiegel+  
Adrienne Sloan and John Wallace+  
Camille and Kris Wallenta  
Amy and Jeremy Walsh  
Pam and Douglas Walter  
Elaine Scallan Walter and  
Nicholas Walter+  
Silvia Steimle and Tom Walthall  
Kelly Wang\*  
Wendy and Andrew\* Ware+



Gail and Ed Weintraub+  
Linsey and Matt Weller+  
Cesar Weston\*  
Jordan Whitacre\*  
Angelina Koehler and Donovan Wick+  
Clarisa Hernandez and Greg Wikelius  
Melissa Scholes and Brian Williams  
Alyssa and Seth\* Winnerman+  
Tiffany Woodward+  
Alexis\* and Jim Wooll+  
Kim and Whitt Wyatt+  
Jessica Zhou and Richard Xiong  
Elaine and Charlie Yang+  
Sihan Yang\* and Kai Yu  
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Delia and Tony Yates  
Janet\* and Chris Yenter+  
Su Lin and Daniel Yim+  
Laura and Andy Yost  
Troy Zabel and Ian Shipps  
Julie and Howard Zemel+  
Andra and Kyle Zeppelin+  
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CORPORATE GIVING

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Bank of America  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation

Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Bloom School Pictures  
Boston Scientific  
Centennial Resource Development  
Cisco Systems  
Gates  
General Mills  
HCA Healthcare  
Kroger  
Magnite Inc  
Mile High Environmental  
Mile High United Way  
Newmont Corporation  
Newmont Mining  
New York Life Insurance Company  
Occasions Catering  
Robert Half  
Salesforce  
Schwab Charitable  
The Related Foundation at  
The Miami Foundation  
University of Colorado  
Western Union  
Xcel Energy Foundation

It’s always the right time to  
invest in our learners and  
community >



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*I’ve enjoyed being a part of the ISDenver Community Giving Champions since its inception almost three years ago. I joined the group because I wanted to help raise awareness of the importance of the funds raised by Community Giving on the overall ISDenver experience, and I believed in the mission of the group to encourage all families to contribute what is meaningful and doable for them each year. It’s been exciting to watch the impact of our group grow over these few years, increasing family participation each year, which is building a strong base of support for the entire community. Thank you to all who have already become a part of this base, and I look forward to continuing our work toward 100% community participation!*



ALBERTA UTECH  
Community Giving Champion