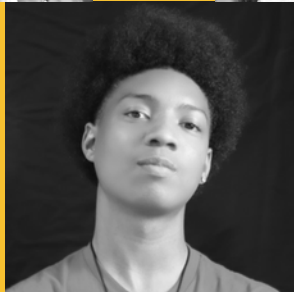
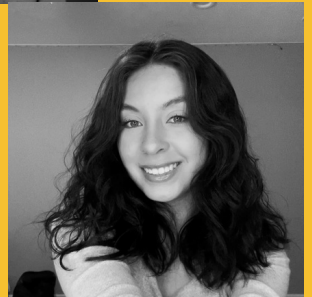




growing insight & voice

Meet the Fall 2023 GIV Fellows!



GRAYSON COWAN

He/him

Gates Family Foundation



Grayson "Gray" Cowan graduated from Centaurus High School in 2023. He is looking forward to starting college in the spring of 2024. Gray is passionate about reptiles, fashion and self expression, and music. In the future, he hopes to start his own non profit to regularly supply ice cold water to both the unhoused population in Boulder, and potentially in Arizona, Gray's home state. He is very excited for this opportunity to fill up his gap semester in the fall.

JIBRIL ALI HALANE

He/him

Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation



I'm Jibril Ali-Halane, a rising Junior at UW Foster studying Finance & Information Systems. I've interned before in the non-profit space with an organization called Global Visionaries, and while I'm still navigating career paths in Finance & Business like Private Equity or Investment Banking, working with organizations such as yours is something I definitely see as a continued path in my future. I also love to travel and gain exposure to new cultures, places, and people, as it's a personal mantra of mine that gaining more perspective translates to growth as an individual and community contributor.

SOPHIA HOUNTON

She/her

Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation



My name is Sophia and I'm a third-year undergraduate student at Seattle University. I am double majoring International Studies and French with departmental honors and recently just returned from studying abroad in France, Morocco, and Senegal where I was given the opportunity to learn more about religion, culture, languages, and postcolonial theory! I'm from Portland, Oregon but my family is from Benin, West Africa. My cultural heritage and ties to West Africa greatly impact how I see and move through the world as well as my professional and personal interests.

I hope to pursue a career working with nonprofits to better conditions for communities in West Africa navigating the postcolonial political landscape. I'm particularly interested in issues such as postcolonial relationships between France and Africa and the resulting impact on the languages, culture, and religion of all parties. I'm a very passionate learner and genuine lover of education! I fill my free time with a plethora of different hobbies. I've studied to a small extent astronomy and theoretical physics, two complex subjects I find very interesting and complex.

Outside of these, I also enjoy reading fiction books, taking film photos, studying historical fashion pieces, and learning new languages! Currently I'm working towards understanding and a conversational level of the West African language Fon and am in the beginning of writing a thesis on the history of its minor precolonial kingdoms.

I look forward to learning through this fellowship! I aim to reach better understanding of others as well as share my own perspective in the workplace to create more equitable work and mutual growth.

NADIA CROWLEY

She/her

Caring for Colorado Foundation



Hi! I'm Nadia. I am a Senior at CU Denver wrapping up my bachelor's degree in Human Development Family Relations and Psychology. Throughout my collegiate career my passion areas and professional goals have bounced around and expanded tremendously. I am excited and passionate about so many aspects of the human experience which has made it difficult to decide which avenue I want to pursue post-grad. The majority of my passions surround equity in education and youth so, wherever I go next these two passions are sure to be involved. During my time in Student Government, I created a program designed to highlight success and journeys to success from professionals with racialized identities. I hope that one day I am able to expand this program whether it be through my own non-profit or an organization with aligned values.

My tendency to gather passions is reflected in both my academic/professional and personal life. At this point, my hobby is having hobbies. I bounce between different forms of creation: right now, I am crocheting, learning to draw, learning to work with watercolors and baking. I started baking in first grade with my best friend, although we may have prioritized eating the cookie dough over making cookies. Cookies are absolutely my specialty, and my crowd favorite recipes are my triple berry cheesecake and harvest cookies. I have been involved in choir and theater since third grade and greatly look forward to post-grad when I will finally have time to dive back in.

I am a social butterfly with a competitive streak and love playing board/video games with friends and family. The Secret Order of the Gumm Street Girls was the book that ignited my love of reading. Since then, it is very rare that I am not actively reading a book. Throughout my collegiate career I have never been too busy to read a book for fun.

BRIANNA FLORES CHAVEZ



She/her

Colorado Gives Foundation

Brianna Flores Chavez was born and raised in the Denver metro area. She was raised by two Mexican immigrants that came to the United States from Nayarit and Guerrero, Mexico. As a proud first-generation student, she graduated from Lakewood High School and now attends Regis University, pursuing a double major in Politics and Peace & Justice Studies.

As a part of her upbringing as a daughter of immigrants and as a person with undocumented family members, Brianna understood the injustices that the immigrant community faces from a young age. After seeing family members go through the system, she knew she wanted to become a lawyer to defend her people.

Brianna grew up surrounded by strong and inspiring women all her life. She finds motivation in the hope that someday she will be able to give back.

Today, Brianna is very involved in advocating and serving her community through her work at the Center for Service Learning in Regis College and for the Colorado Youth Justice Collaborative. She believes in the importance of hearing all voices in an attempt to achieve justice, which is why she wants a career in law. Brianna is constantly looking for ways to be involved and seeking to create a support network.

Vv Battula



She/her

Colorado Health Foundation

Hello, everyone! I'm from Aurora, Colorado and am a biology major at CU Denver aspiring to become a future dentist or orthodontist. I greatly enjoy reading, creating art, and watching How to Train your Dragon in my free time. Coming from a culture that minimizes the importance of mental health, I wish to emphasize it in my future health practice.

ERIONNA TOVAR

She/her
NextFifty Initiative



Hello, my name is Erionna Tovar. I am a young Chicana woman who stands as a strong agent of change. I am from Denver, Colorado. I love my city. I am a first generation college student at MSU Denver, currently studying Human Services with a concentration in High Risk Youth Studies. I take pride in my education, and I seek ways to broaden my horizons by participating in experiences that push my growth. I come from the neighborhoods of Globeville and West Denver, where opportunity is limited. I have to go out and find my own opportunities. Which helps support my personal development. I have been involved with nonprofits and a variety of community organizations since my first job in 2017. I have a passion for community work and helping others succeed. I desire to be an advocate for my communities, for the youth, and for my people.

Within the last few years, I have stepped more into professional spaces. I have recently been promoted at my job from an Apprentice to a Manager at Prodigy Ventures Inc. The way my professionalism is growing is noticeable. I have worked on my communication, delegation, management, and collaboration so much within the last couple of years. I am part of leadership meetings where we talk about the organization's trajectory and how we can develop it more positively. I am the person who pushes the current apprentices into their leadership traits with conversation and observation. It feels good to be in these physical spaces and also mental spaces of professionalism. Signing up for fellowships like this one, working in my desired field, attending conferences, and building experiences will help overcome my professional & personal goals.

KEITH MARTINEZ JR

He/him

Colorado Health Foundation



Keith Martinez Jr. is a dedicated and passionate individual from Rangeview High School in Colorado. He is a strong advocate for inclusivity and has actively participated in Special Olympics Colorado, supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities. Raised in Colorado, Keith developed a love for sports at an early age.

Throughout his high school years, he actively participated in unified soccer, basketball, and football, where he not only honed his athletic abilities but also embraced the values of teamwork and inclusion. These experiences have had a profound impact on Keith, inspiring him to become an advocate for individuals with disabilities. He believes that having a disability does not define a person and works to promote inclusivity and break down barriers.

In addition to his involvement in Special Olympics Colorado, Keith has excelled academically, consistently achieving Academic High Honors and making the Honor Roll.

Keith's passion for making a positive impact extends beyond sports and academics. He actively engages in community service, volunteering at the local food bank, where he assists in sorting and distributing food to community members in need. He believes in serving his community and has a deep empathy for people from diverse backgrounds.

Selected as a GIV Fellow, Keith is thrilled to gain experience in the field of philanthropy. He aims to utilize his unique insights from his advocacy work with Special Olympics Colorado to contribute to the fellowship's mission. With a foundation placement at Colorado Health Foundation, he aspires to improve the health and well-being of Coloradans, particularly those with intellectual disabilities.

Keith's ultimate professional goal is to work in a role that combines his passion for sports, community service, and philanthropy. He wants to continue advocating for individuals with disabilities, promoting inclusivity, and creating a more compassionate society.

Outside of his academic and community pursuits, Keith enjoys spending time with friends, exploring online technology, dancing, playing online games, and immersing himself in various forms of entertainment. He finds joy in watching comedy or thriller movies, as laughter and suspense provide a much-needed escape.

With a determined spirit and a commitment to creating a more inclusive world, Keith Martinez Jr. is ready to embark on his journey as a GIV Fellow. He is eager to contribute his unique perspective and make a meaningful impact on his community.

ZAIDA SEVER

She/Her

AJL Foundation



Born and based in Colorado, I'm a college graduate seeking every opportunity to grow my career as a Freelance Artist, while also exploring possible futures in education and the nonprofit world. In the summer of 2021, I began working for a non-profit called PlatteForum, whose primary focus is to connect youth and artists with the creative resources necessary to thrive and reach their full potential. I myself graduated from their internship program, ArtLab; I was excited to continue my partnership with them as a proper employee. I hope to improve the skill set and virtues I've developed and become a better member of the philanthropy community

DARIUS DINKINS

He/him

NextFifty Initiative



Darius Dinkins is a homegrown Coloradan out of Aurora. Darius attended Metropolitan State University where his interest in community work was initially sparked. Shortly after college Darius would volunteer with Colorado People's Alliance and still does non-profit work with the organization Slam Nuba. Ultimately Darius just wants the opportunity to positively contribute to the community and the culture, and he hopes this fellowship will help him in taking the steps to do so!