



Keynote (Opening) - Forging the Life Sciences Frontier: Advancing Colorado as a Leading Life Sciences Hub

Colorado continues to gain recognition as a top-ranked hub for health innovation. We bring together visionary leaders focused on the state's economic development to discuss how Colorado can reach a critical mass of resources and infrastructure to accelerate health innovation.

Panelists include:



(Moderator) Elyse Blazeovich – President & CEO, Colorado BioScience Association

Elyse Blazeovich leads CBSA's work to create co-opportunity for Colorado's life sciences community. With the CBSA Board of Directors, team, partners, sponsors, and members, she strategically advances CBSA's efforts to build a collaborative environment for health innovation.

Elyse brings deep knowledge of life sciences company needs, CBSA as an organization, and Colorado's business community to offer continuity, connections, and a clear vision for the future of CBSA and the ecosystem it represents. Before joining CBSA, she co-founded Securisyn Medical and led the organization as COO and CFO, transitioning the company from a founder-led startup to a professionally led, commercial-stage medical device company. She remains a member of the Securisyn Medical Board of Directors.



Meredith Moon – Chief Economist and Director of Economic Competitiveness, Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation

Meredith Moon currently serves as the Chief Economist and Director of Economic Competitiveness at the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation after working for the State of Colorado since 2017. She first served as an economist for

Legislative Council Staff, where she contributed to the quarterly economic and revenue forecast and performed fiscal analysis on tax-centric legislation and ballot measures. In 2021, she transitioned to the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting as Chief of Fiscal Strategy, where she led the office's efforts on the \$700 million Colorado Recovery Plan and on Senate Bill 21-260, which overhauled transportation finance in the state. She was promoted to Deputy Director and led on FY 2022-23 budget development and then headed up the Governor's quarterly economic and revenue forecast and economic development team. Prior to moving to Colorado in 2015 to pursue her Master's in International Economics at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, she worked in Hispanic-focused marketing and advertising in Dallas, Texas.



Mike Freeman – CEO and General Partner, Innosphere Ventures

Mike Freeman is the Chief Executive Officer of Innosphere Ventures. Innosphere Ventures is a multi-faceted organization with a 25-year-old science and technology-focused incubator, specialized facilities for R&D-intensive startup ventures, and venture capital. Mr. Freeman is responsible for all Innosphere operations, finances, strategy, and execution. Mr. Freeman is the General Partner in Innosphere Ventures Fund I and Fund II and has led multiple investment rounds in science and technology companies in Colorado and surrounding states.

Innosphere Ventures seeks to drive large-scale economic impact in Colorado and surrounding regions. In the past, Innosphere led the Colorado Coalition to the final round of the inaugural US EDA Build Back Better grant program, led a two-state, Colorado-Wyoming joint proposal to the National Science Foundation Engines program of which CO-WY is in the final round of review, and will engage in other upcoming transformative funding opportunities. Our vision is to elevate the Colorado region to one of the top-performing economic regions in the U.S. within five years. With over 100k technology working along Colorado's front range, the region can advance to elite status with a concerted effort.

Previously, Mr. Freeman served as the Chief Financial Officer for the City of Fort Collins, CO. Fort Collins has a population of 140,000 and a total budget of nearly \$500 million. Before joining the City of Fort Collins, Mr. Freeman led several management consulting ventures. He managed the Local government Solutions Group, and was the Regional Director of HDR's Management Consulting Group responsible for the Rocky Mountain region of the United States. Before consulting, Mr. Freeman was the City Manager of Ashland OR, and held numerous positions with the City of Thornton, CO.



Joe Guiles, Ph.D. – AVP of Chemical Development , Nucleic Acid Solution Division, Agilent Technologies

- Pharma Veteran with > 30 years of drug development experience
AVP at Agilent Technologies 20+ years with J&J, Pfizer, Sanofi Aventis
- Organic Chemist, PhD Colorado State, BS UMASS



Raymond Gonzales – President, Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation

Raymond H. Gonzales has over twenty-five years of experience encompassing nearly every level of government administration. After starting his career with the U.S. Peace Corps, his roles spanned increasing responsibility from New Mexico's Deputy Cabinet Secretary under the leadership of Governor Bill Richardson to County Manager for Adams County, Colorado, the 5th largest county, serving over 500,000 residents, and the number one job growth county in the US in 2019.

Although he found great success in fortifying these agencies, his heart was in Economic Development. Following his passion, Raymond oversees the Metro Denver EDC in its work to unite more than seventy cities, counties, and economic development agencies in the ten-county Metro Denver region to promote economic prosperity and serve as the region's "business brand manager."

Raymond continuously strives for organizational improvement and his passion for workplace culture where he empowers employees and their personal impact, influence, and inspiration regardless of title or designation. Raymond continuously strives for the premier delivery of art and cultural opportunities to accentuate the culture of an ever-increasing innovative and inclusive region.

In addition to his challenging role leading Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, Raymond serves as Executive Vice President of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, serves on the Board of Directors for Fitzsimons Innovation Community, Colorado Workforce Development Council, CiviCO Community Building Council, Rocky Mountain Partnership, Local Government Hispanic Network, and Chairs the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.



Mike Falleroni – Principal - Site Selection and Business Incentives, Ryan, LLC.

Mike Falleroni is a Principal – Site Selection and Business Incentives at Ryan, LLC. Mr. Falleroni assists globally influential companies with site selection and securing financial assistance for capital projects as well as minimizing their tax liability in over 40 states. The multinational clients he works with have been able to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in financial assistance and tax savings for their capital expansion projects, which enables them to achieve the highest levels of financial and operational efficiency as they expand their footprint across the United States.

Mike has worked at Ryan for 10 years and is a frequent speaker at tax and industry association conferences. Prior to his tenure at Ryan, he worked in the management consulting industry serving the largest nonresidential construction companies in the nation.

When Mike is not serving his clients, he is spending time with his beautiful wife Vanessa and little baby girl Bryar and golfing.