

Center for New Directions

An MA Program
in Politics and Public Policy

EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW'S CIVIC LEADERS
IN LOCAL & STATE COMMUNITIES

DESIGNED FOR:

- Community Organizers
- Policy Directors/Analysts
- Social Economy Practitioners
- Urban Development Professionals
- Local & State Government Officials
- Small & Rural Jurisdiction Specialists

LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE - PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS - WEEKEND COURSES



Department of Political Science

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**



A CIVIC LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY/LABOR ORGANIZING MA

Who we are..

New Directions (ND) is a public leadership and community organizing Master's program in the Political Science Department at the University of Colorado Denver. We offer weekend courses to develop civic leaders in public, nonprofit, labor or community sectors.

Through our partnerships with non-profit organizations and government jurisdictions, ND has produced hundreds of alumni working to build community power and identify policy solutions to local challenges.

Building on this record of community-engagement, we offer three program tracks: local government, community-labor organizing and social economy innovations.

PROGRAM SPECIALIZATIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Salaried internships in local jurisdictions
- Network with city & county officials
- Courses in public policy, local administration, current Colorado politics, & public budgeting

COMMUNITY & LABOR ORGANIZING

New!

- Funded positions in nonprofits & community-based organizations
- Action-research on community issues
- Courses in labor issues, nonprofit politics, and growth with equity

SOCIAL ECONOMY INNOVATIONS

New!

- Engage with solidarity & social economy organizations
- Study innovative economic alternatives
- Courses in worker cooperatives, financing strategies, & political economy for organizers

Our vision is to create a hub for community and labor organizing education by bringing different social movement actors together to build solidarity and deepen university-community partnerships.

We build our curriculum around enhancing public leadership, civic engagement, and community/labor organizing skills.

OUR FACULTY

Our faculty are active in research and publication, but many are also working professionals in the field, serving as town managers, government officials, labor organizers, and leaders of community organizations.

FLEXIBLE WEEKEND & ONLINE COURSES

Weekend intensive classes allow students to complete a full graduate seminar in 6 days of retreat-style classes, held over 3 weekends. Online and independent study allow for additional flexibility.

EMPHASIS ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY/LABOR LEADERSHIP FELLOWS PROGRAM: We value strong partnerships with community organizations, social economy sectors and labor unions. We provide leadership development support for organizations through our fellowship program. **If an organization is willing to support its member or staff in joining our MA or Certificate programs to pursue leadership development, we will match funding to cover one year's tuition.**

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Best and Brightest Internship Program

We partner with local jurisdictions and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to offer salaried professional government positions for our Masters' students.

This internship runs for two years and students who are interested in this paid internship are required to join our MA program before applying for this internship opportunity.

INTERNS ARE COMPENSATED WITH A SALARY AND BENEFITS PACKAGE OF UP TO \$42,500 PER YEAR.

Community/Labor Paid Fellowship Program

Our connections with community organizations and local labor unions give us the ability to offer unique professional opportunities to students, including a paid student internship, covering a full year's tuition.

Selected students will work 10-12 hours a week. Students gain ground-level experience, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

SELECT FACULTY

Crisanta Duran

JD, CU Boulder
Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. As the first Latina Speaker of the House in CO, she brings her expertise in CO legislative politics.

Christy Doon

MA, CU Denver
Colorado Department of Local Affairs Regional Manager offering expertise in how small and rural jurisdictions face current challenges.

Carol Hedges

JD, University of Kansas
Founder/Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute and Director. Expert on tax, fiscal, & budget policies in Colorado.

Joseph Drexler

PhD, University of Pittsburgh
Labor scholar and a high-ranking official for trade unions in the US, Canada, and Switzerland.

Lisa Duran

MA, UC Riverside
Exec. Director Grassroots Grantmakers. Decades of experience in philanthropy, race and social movements. Former exec. director CO Rights for All People

Minsun Ji

PhD, University of Denver
Seasoned leader in the nonprofit sector with experience in labor & immigrant organizing. Academic expertise in social economy innovations.

Tony Robinson

PhD, UC Berkeley
Longtime academic activist in affordable housing, homelessness, & gentrification issues. Received awards in teaching, community service, and applications of technology in education.

Richard Male

MA, New York University
A founder of various CO nonprofits and longtime leader in nonprofit management, advocacy, and leadership development.

James Walsh

PhD, CU Boulder
Innovative community-based educator, coordinator of the Romero Theater Troupe, & service learning partner of multiple CBOs. National NEA Civil Rights award winner.

"The CU Denver Political Science Community Leadership Curriculum gave me opportunities to unite classroom learning with community organizing and advocacy in the field. It launched my career in public leadership."

- Paul D. Lopez

Denver City Council
District 3

HOW DO I APPLY?

APPLICATIONS ARE CONSIDERED ON A ROLLING BASIS.

Apply online anytime:
bit.ly/applynownd

MA APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- An undergraduate degree in any discipline
- A cumulative 3.0 GPA
- 3 letters of recommendation
- A writing sample
- A statement of purpose

Standardized test scores (e.g., GRE) are not required.

An applicant who falls short on one or more criteria may be provisionally admitted and regular MA status may be earned by a strong performance in graduate work.

Apply here: bit.ly/applynownd

NON-DEGREE SEEKING CERTIFICATE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

BA Certificate

High school degree or GED

MA Certificate

BA degree from an accredited college or university

Apply here: bit.ly/NDcertificate

Questions?

Contact:

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