



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Colorado State University's Elise Yenne named Student Leader of the Year

DENVER—The Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, in partnership with the Boettcher Foundation, named Elise Yenne the [Colorado Leadership Alliance](#) 2014 Student Leader of the Year at the CLA Summit on Saturday. Yenne is a senior at Colorado State University in the President's Leadership Program (PLP). She is studying psychology and sociology, with a focus in criminology. Yenne is the first student from the Fort Collins campus to be recognized with this award.

CLA, a program of the Leadership Foundation, unites undergraduate students participating in leadership training programs from 13 college and university campuses across Colorado. Since 2009, the Leadership Foundation and the Boettcher Foundation have partnered to select a Student Leader of the Year from a CLA member college or university who shows exceptional leadership and service in the classroom, on campus and in the community.

"My mother says I have always rooted for the underdog," Yenne said. "I have never shied away from issues of social justice, and my experience in PLP has given me the skills and the context to discuss these hard topics and move beyond a conversation and into action."

While serving as an AmeriCorps intern working with the Community Literacy Center, Yenne developed and led a creative writing workshop for incarcerated men in the Larimer County Jail. It offered the men she worked with a place to open up about personal struggles like addiction, Yenne said.

"Elise exhibits the type of leadership we work to cultivate at the Leadership Foundation," said Leadership Foundation Executive Director Mary Ricketson. "She has demonstrated excellence not only academically, but also in commitment to her campus and greater community."

Yenne plans to continue her work with incarcerated individuals as she pursues graduate studies and hopes to focus on policy issues related to prison reform.

"The Boettcher Foundation is thrilled to honor Elise as Student Leader of the Year," said Katie Kramer, vice president and assistant executive director of the Boettcher Foundation. "I am inspired by her courage and depth of commitment to individuals who are going through what may be one of the most challenging points in their lives."

About the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

An affiliate organization of the [Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce](#), the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation provides content, context and access to inspire leaders to engage in issues critical to the region's success. The Leadership Foundation encourages community and civic trusteeship through a continuum of leadership programs including Leadership Denver, Access Denver, the

Leadership Exchange, Impact Denver, Colorado Experience, the Leadership Alumni Network and the Colorado Leadership Alliance. For more information, visit denverleadership.org.

About the Boettcher Foundation

Founded by the Boettcher family in 1937 to effectively assist, encourage and promote a better quality of life for the citizens of Colorado, the Boettcher Foundation invests in “minds and mortar:” education, community services, health care and art and culture through merit awards, scholarships and capital grants. Over the past 75 years, the foundation has awarded more than \$300 million to the people of Colorado. For more information, visit boettcherfoundation.org.

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