



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Feb. 3, 2016

**Contact:**  
[Laura Giocomo](mailto:lgiocomo@boettcherfoundation.org), 303-725-4614  
[Sara Crocker](mailto:scrocker@boettcherfoundation.org), 720-937-9771

## University of Denver's Neda Kikhia named Student Leader of the Year

*Note to editor: Kikhia's headshot can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/1mdoq7Y>.*

DENVER—University of Denver senior Neda Kikhia was named [Colorado Leadership Alliance](#) (CLA) 2016 Student Leader of the Year at the CLA Summit on Saturday at University of Colorado Denver. The award is given by the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation and the Boettcher Foundation annually.

### Get to know the Student Leader of the Year, Neda Kikhia:



- Kikhia is majoring in communications and religious studies and minoring in leadership studies
- Member of Pioneer Leadership Program, one of 13 leadership training programs that's part of CLA
- Committed to social justice, Kikhia has served as a team lead for Public Achievement, a University of Denver program that connects its university students with students in Denver Public Schools, aiming to create a positive school culture and encourage academic achievement.

"I'm humbled by this honor," Kikhia said. "I have worked hard to challenge stereotypes around gender, race and religion and I'm committed to continuing my work as a leader to actively create spaces where underrepresented voices can be heard."

"From her perseverance to her empathy, we saw exceptional leadership qualities in Neda, and she has put them into action in her service and at school. We are excited to see the impact she'll make in the community next as she prepares for graduation," said Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation Executive Director Dan Lewis.

"Each year I am in awe of these students and their commitment to strengthening their communities," said Boettcher Foundation Vice President and Assistant Executive Director Katie Kramer. "Neda is no exception. Her drive to encourage students in their academics and challenge them to speak up for themselves shows how great leaders can empower others to act."

### Get to know the Colorado Leadership Alliance

The Colorado Leadership Alliance (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. Kikhia will also be recognized as Student Leader of the Year at the Leadership Foundation's [Celebrating Civic Leadership Luncheon](#) on March 8.

### 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](http://denverleadership.org).

**About the Boettcher Foundation**

At Boettcher, we believe in the promise of Colorado and the potential of Coloradans. Every day we champion excellence across our state by investing in our most talented citizens and high-potential organizations, because supporting their hard work and leadership will enable them to give back for years to come. For more information, visit [boettcherfoundation.org](http://boettcherfoundation.org).

###