



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 5, 2018

Contact:

[Laura Giocomo](#), 303-725-4614

[Sara Crocker](#), 720-937-9771

**Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation Announces
2018 9NEWS Leader of the Year Finalists
*Winner to be revealed at Leading Colorado luncheon March 8***

DENVER — The Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation and 9NEWS have once again joined forces to recognize outstanding leaders in our community. After much deliberation and review of an impressive group of nominees, the three finalists are:

- **Priya Burkett**, director of business development for [American Express](#)
- **Joshua Hunt**, founder and CEO of [TRELORA](#)
- **Jodi Rolland**, Colorado state and Denver market president for Bank of America and market executive for global commercial banking for the Colorado market [with Bank of America Merrill Lynch](#)

“Our three finalists are making a real and positive impact on our communities,” said Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation Executive Director Dan Lewis. “They’ve taken great passion and turned it into action, making our communities stronger. They also embody the tenets of Colorado’s Civic DNA™ – collaboration, inclusivity, shared vision, leadership and responsibility – and are inspirations for us all.”

[Priya Burkett](#) is well known in her community as a change maker and thought leader who impacts communities by leaving them better than how she found them. Her dedication to ensuring children have access to quality education drives her involvement with organizations such as the Denver Public Schools Foundation, Whiz Kids and Reading Partners. Burkett is also a firm believer that people from all walks of life should have free access to information and resources at local libraries. Her ability to connect people and leave lasting impressions helps drive her impact even further.

Always living in curiosity and not fear, [Joshua Hunt](#) provides innovative solutions to challenges and encourages others to become successful in non-traditional ways. At TRELORA, where Hunt is the founder and CEO, he is devoted to creating transparency in the real estate industry. As a leader, Hunt is passionate about affordable housing issues, mentoring and youth development. He brings these passions to life through support of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado, Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT Colorado) and other organizations and causes. No matter where he is involved, Hunt inspires success and never stops challenging the status quo.

[Jodi Rolland](#) is driven in everything she does, from her career to her community investment. At Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, Rolland rallies her staff to get involved in different programs and projects to improve communities. She is also dedicated to mentoring and advocating for women and young people to ensure they find professional success. Rolland passionately supports Junior Achievement – Rocky Mountain, Inc., Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, the National Leadership Academy and others. The work she’s doing now will ensure the future success of many generations to come.

Learn more about each finalist and the impact they are making in the community [here](#).



For the third year, alumni of the Leadership Foundation's [many impactful programs](#) will select the winner of the 9NEWS Leader of the Year award through an online voting process. Voting will be open until **5 p.m. on Monday, March 5**. Alumni from [Access Denver](#), [Colorado Experience](#), [Colorado Leadership Alliance](#), [Impact Denver](#), [Leadership Denver](#) and [Leadership Exchange](#) are all encouraged to cast their vote.

This year's winner will be announced live at the Leadership Foundation's annual [Leading Colorado luncheon](#) on Thursday, March 8. This event recognizes exceptional leadership in the community while raising scholarship funds to support emerging leaders who want to further develop their skills and use them to make the community better for all. For more information about the event and this year's 9NEWS Leader of the Year finalists and award, [click here](#).

About the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

An affiliate organization of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation educates and inspires people who want to make a difference as leaders in the community. Building strong, diverse leaders for more than 40 years, the Leadership Foundation provides the knowledge, skills, networks and experience to inspire leaders to engage in issues critical to the region's success through a continuum of programs, including Leadership Denver, Impact Denver, Leadership Exchange, Access Denver, the Colorado Leadership Alliance and the Leadership Foundation Alumni Network. For more information, please visit denverleadershp.org.

About 9NEWS

9NEWS is the NBC affiliate in Denver and Colorado's News Leader. 9NEWS signed on the air in 1952 as KBTV, changing to KUSA in 1984. 9NEWS broadcasts NBC programming on KUSA digital channels 9.1 and 9.4, 24 hours of weather information on 9NEWS NOW (9.2), and The Justice Network (9.3). In addition, 9NEWS broadcasts on KTVD Channel 20 (20.1) and MeTV Denver (20.2) as well as running Colorado's highest viewed broadcast website, 9NEWS.com. In 2015, Gannett Co. split its publishing properties from its broadcast and digital properties, making 9NEWS a part of the new TEGNA Media, which remains one of the country's largest, most geographically diverse broadcasters. At 9NEWS, our mission is to deliver timely and accurate information, entertainment and solutions to our customers wherever they are, on whatever device they choose; interact with and listen to them in an authentic and meaningful way, and serve the greater good of our community.

###