

Conference Speakers



Sam Adams – Comedian

Wednesday, September 9 – Entertainment

Smooth. Clever. Colorful. Hilarious. These words are often used to describe Sam Adams as a comedian, public speaker and Master of Ceremonies. In 2001, he stepped in front of a microphone to perform stand-up comedy for the first time – at age 41. Eight years later, the former award-winning sports journalist was inspired to start a full-time career in entertainment after winning at the 2009 Great American Comedy Festival.

During a career that lasted nearly 25 years, he established himself as one of Denver's premier sports journalists – voted by his peers as Colorado's "Print Journalist of the Year" in 2003. His work has been featured in print and video for The Denver Post, The Charlotte Observer, Rocky Mountain News and Colorado AvidGolfer magazine. His resume also includes television appearances on ESPN, Fox Sports, CBS and NFL Network. In 2014 he returned to the media, giving sports commentaries (Sports A to Z) for Denver's NBC affiliate KUSA-9NEWS. In 2013 he authored a book featuring highlights from his career in sports journalism titled, 'If You Don't Believe Me: Lessons Learned From Listening To The Greats.'



Dr. Phyllis Resnick Ph.D. – Lead Economist, Colorado Futures Centers at CSU

Thursday, September 10 – Economic Review

Phyllis Resnick is lead economist for the Colorado Futures Center at Colorado State University. In addition, she is an independent consultant with a practice that focuses on economic forecasting, revenue and fiscal sustainability studies for state and local governments, and economic impact studies. Her current and past clients include the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting, the region's metropolitan planning organizations, many of Colorado's municipal governments, and the State of Hawaii.

Resnick is the former lead economist for the Center for Colorado's Economic Future and the Colorado Economic Futures Panel, both at the University of Denver. For much of 2012, she traveled throughout Colorado presenting the findings from the Center's award winning fiscal sustainability study and advised the State of Hawaii on issues of fiscal sustainability. In 2007-08 she served as research staff to DU's Strategic Issues Panel exploring changes to the state's constitution. She has led and authored a number of studies looking at state and local tax policy and burdens within Colorado and has spoke nationally on the impact of Colorado's TABOR Amendment and the role of the initiative process in formulating fiscal policy in Colorado.



Elizabeth Garner – State Demographer Thursday, September 10 – Changing Demographics– The Aging of Colorado

Elizabeth Garner is the State Demographer and joined the Colorado Department of Local Affairs in 2004. The State Demography Office produces population and economic estimates and forecast for use by state agencies and local governments. Current areas of research include aging in Colorado, characteristics of migration, and poverty. Elizabeth is an economist by training and prior to working with the state she worked for 10 years with CSU Cooperative Extension managing a data center and producing economic and demographic impact reports. She received her B.A. in Business at the University of San Diego, her masters in Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University and is a PhD candidate for the same program. Elizabeth is a Denver native.



Jack Arrowsmith – Executive Director, Statewide Internet Portal Authority (SIPA) Thursday, September 10 – The New World of eGovernment Services

Jack Arrowsmith officially began his role as executive director of SIPA on Tuesday, February 17, 2015.

Arrowsmith brings great knowledge and understanding of SIPA's services and vendors. He has been involved with SIPA since it's inception. In July 2004, Governor Bill Owens appointed

Arrowsmith to the SIPA Board of Directors. Arrowsmith held the position of chairman of the board since 2012 with the primary focus to represent local government in Colorado.

Arrowsmith graduated with honors from the University of Northern Colorado with a degree in secondary education and a minor in business. Arrowsmith's professional career started as a classroom teacher at Englewood High School. Since leaving Education in 1980, he has held a number of management positions including travel, insurance and publishing industries. In 2006, Jack was elected to the office of Clerk and Recorder for Douglas County. Prior to the election, Arrowsmith served as the Public Trustee to Douglas County for an appointment of four years.



Kyle Clark – Co-Anchor KUSA-TV, Denver (9News) Friday, September 11 – Bias in the Media

Kyle Clark is the co-anchor of 9NEWS at 6 p.m., 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. He also frequently reports from the scene of significant events in Colorado and around the nation.

His Emmy award-winning reporting ranges from in-depth investigations to offbeat features. He contributes reports to 9NEWS' political coverage, the 9Wants to Know investigative unit, and 9NEWS Storytellers. Clark joined 9NEWS in 2007, drawn by the opportunity to tell meaningful stories alongside the station's talented photojournalists, who are frequently honored as the best in the nation. During election years, Clark produces and hosts *Balance of Power*, a political show airing Sundays. Before joining 9NEWS, Clark was a reporter and anchor at 13WHAM-TV in Rochester, New York. While attending Ithaca College where he graduated with a degree in journalism, he worked as a weekend anchor and reporter at WBNG-TV in Binghamton, New York. The New York State Associated Press twice recognized him with its top award for overall excellence in television reporting. Clark grew up in the small town of Lyons in western New York where, at age 15, he landed a job covering local news and high school sports for WACK-AM, a rural radio station. Today, he is an enthusiastic, but not very skilled, homebrewer and a passionate beer geek who is always exploring Colorado's exceptional craft beer scene. He's also spent years in search of his own family's story through genealogical research. Clark lives in Denver with his wife and their shelter dog, Porter, whose underbite has looked like a grin since the day he was adopted.