



## 2026 CUPA-HR Rocky Mountain Annual Conference

On behalf of the CUPA-HR Rocky Mountain Chapter Board, we welcome you to our Annual Conference. Under this year's theme, "Trailblazing HR: Forging the Future of Work," Come be inspired, elevate your expertise, and connect with colleagues who are driving innovation across campuses.

### Conference Schedule

#### Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Welcome/Informal Networking 5:30 – 7:30 PM

#### Thursday, June 4, 2026

Breakfast 7:15 – 8:25 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks 8:30 – 8:55 AM

Keynote Speaker 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Topic: The Human Side of HR: Connection, Kindness, and Innovation in the Future of Work

Speaker: Ashley Eschler, Deputy HR Director, City of Littleton

BREAK 10:00 – 10:10 AM

Presentation 10:10 – 11:10 AM

Topic: Improving How Work Happens: Lean Assessment Strategies to Support Employee, Student, and Institutional Success

Speaker: Jennifer Matthews, SHRM-SCP, PHR, Vice President of Human Resources Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator, ADA Coordinator, Red Rocks Community College

Presentation 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Topic: The Future of Work is Distinctly Human-Radical Hope

Speakers: Jay Stephens, Vice President for People and Culture, University of Montana

LUNCH 12:15 – 1:15 PM

Presentation 1:30 – 3:30 PM

Topic: Implicit Bias: Moving from Awareness to Action

Speaker: Clara Smith, PhD, Principal Learning & Development Specialist, University of Colorado Boulder

BREAK/Networking 3:30 – 3:55 PM

Presentation 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Topic: Beyond Boundaries: Why Multi-State Hiring is Reshaping Higher Education's Competitive Edge

Speakers:

Elijah Wilk, Director of Workforce Solutions, nextSource

Martin Stensing, Dean of Student Learning, Northwest College

Networking Happy Hour 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Dinner 6:00 – 7:00 PM

### **Friday, June 5, 2026**

Breakfast 7:15 – 8:30 AM

Presentation 8:45 – 9:45 AM

Topic: Strategic Workforce Renewal in Higher Education

Speaker: Dr. Bobbie Murray, Chief Human Resources Officer, Sheridan College

BREAK 9:45 – 9:55 AM

HR Legal Update 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Speaker: Mark Flynn, ESQ., SPHR, AWI-CH, Employment Matters

Closing Remarks 12:00 – 12:15 PM