



# CPL Colorado

*Building the Next Generation of Progressive Leaders*

Newsletter: Issue 1, March 2009

## Welcome to Colorado CPL's first official newsletter!

It is designed to keep you informed and energized about your work, the work of your progressive peers, and CPL. I am excited about the Alumni Board's newly elected Executive Team and look forward to working with the Board to take advantage of all the possibilities.

CPL is actively working toward its goal in Colorado of empowering the progressive movement. As we start the 2009 Fellowship Class, it is an exciting time, seeing new, interested and motivated people wanting to make a difference. Please consider how you can be helpful: being a mentor to someone, you or your organization sponsoring a Fellow, become a recurring donor, nominate a potential Fellow, talk about CPL with your friends, or just reach out to your classmates and let them know what is happening with you. Let's not lose the energy and relationships that were built during our Fellowship journey.

We also wanted to let you know that we'll be launching a four week **"Greeley Community Leadership Academy"** with our partner **Colorado Progressive Coalition**, to provide leadership training for grassroots activist interested in making a change in the Greeley and surrounding areas. This academy will run from Saturday April 4, April 18<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

Best wishes, continued success and Peace and Blessings.

**Dante James**  
Colorado State Director

"Politics is not about money...politics is not about power...politics is not about winning for the sake of winning. It is about the improvement of people's lives...it's about advancing the cause of peace and justice in our country and the world. **Politics is about doing well for the people.**"

Paul Wellstone (1944-2002)

## CPL Welcomes the 2009 Colorado Political Leaders Fellows

*Meet them all on page 4*



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# Alumni Board Update

## Exciting things are Afoot at CPL

**Mason Tvert, Alumni Board President**

The second Political Leaders Fellowship is underway, and the staff's aggressive outreach and recruitment efforts -- paired with a strong showing of alumni recommendations -- produced an incredibly impressive class of fellows. The remarkably diverse and exceptionally talented group spans a wide array of social, geographic, and professional backgrounds, and initial feedback from fellows and staff have been positive and promising.

Thank you to those alumni who attended this year's opening reception in Denver and lent to it being such an enormous success. The event was fun and productive, presenting a unique opportunity for current and former fellows, staff, and faculty to meet and network with one another, as well as with the broader progressive community. Not to worry if you couldn't make it, as there are more great opportunities on the horizon. The Alumni Board is working closely with the staff to develop quarterly programs that will provide continuing leadership training and issue-based education, along with ample networking time.

As you can see, word about CPL is spreading. The organization is quickly establishing itself as a major player in Colorado's progressive community, and the Fellowship program is building a reputation as a highly effective, high-profile training ground for the next generation of progressive leaders in Colorado. Thus, it is critical that we as alumni remain engaged, and maintain our commitment to the mutually beneficial growth of this organization, its programs and ourselves.

So, when you hear about a CPL-sponsored event or activity; or when you receive that e-mail requesting a personal and/or professional update for the newsletter; or when you are asked to contribute to the development of CPL and its programming; I hope you will take the few hours, the few minutes, or the few dollars to take the action that will help all of us continue to move forward.



## Sponsor a Progressive Leader

Greetings alumni, current fellows, and friends of CPL!

The economy is front and center during these uncertain times. Stocks are down and the financial system is in disarray. Many people are thinking, "where can I invest my money and be guaranteed the best dividend?" In the words of President Obama, "We are the change that we seek." Donate to the Center for Progressive Leadership - Colorado and be guaranteed a great return!

We are all on the hook for the future of this state and country. Your investment today will provide tuition assistance for Colorado's next generation of progressive leaders, and fund continuing education opportunities for alumni and current fellows. Before I wrote this message, I submitted a donation online. As someone who benefited both from tuition assistance and a dynamic fellowship class, I intimately understand the need to contribute to this progressive movement.

I scheduled a donation of \$10/month and I encourage you to match or exceed that amount. That's like foregoing 4 cups of coffee a month (1 per week).

You can use the enclosed remittance envelope or donate online at:

**[www.ProgressiveLeaders.org/Colorado](http://www.ProgressiveLeaders.org/Colorado)**

We are the change (and dollars) we've been waiting for.

Jessie Ulibarri, Treasurer  
Alumni Board of Directors

## Alumni Board Update

Last August our Alumni elected our first Board. They are:

President: **Mason Tvert**  
mason.tvert@gmail.com

Vice President: **Connie Simon**  
constance\_simon@hotmail.com

Secretary: **Jennifer Piper**  
wanderingpiper@gmail.com

Treasurer: **Jessie Ulibarri**  
Jessie.ulibarri@gmail.com

This March, Connie has had to resign because of personal reasons. The Board is looking for someone to replace her.

Please send nominations by March 31st to Cecile Johnson at  
Cjohnson@progressiveleaders.org.

Same email for your Alumni updates, and achievements

# Reflecting Back

During the past 24 months the Center for Progressive Leadership in Colorado has laid a strong foundation in meeting its goals to fill the progressive pipeline with qualified, trained emerging leaders to advance progressive values and policies for the betterment of our state. The following represents some of our achievements.



- **Selected and trained our first class** of Colorado Political Leaders Fellows in 2008;
- Provided **training with our partners** on Visions and Values at Roots Camp in Glenwood Springs and at the White House Project's Debate Boot Camp in August 2008.
- Elected our **first Alumni Board** in August 2008.
- Co-sponsored a **Progressive Meet and Greet in Pueblo** with Progressive Majority, our alumni Connie Simon.
- **Received a \$2700 scholarship from the Gay and Lesbian Fund** for our applicants who were part of the C3 Roundtable
- Did extensive outreach across the state reaching all major areas and diverse populations resulting in our fellowship class II being **62% female, 44.5 % people of color and 22 % GLBTQ**. All ethnic groups are represented in this year's diverse fellowship class.
- Had a Guest Opinion in the **Colorado Statesmen** on 2-06-09 entitled "*Colorado builds fellowship program to train future progressive activist.*"
- **Started our second Colorado Political Leaders Fellowship** in early 2009, with 45 participants representing diverse communities and regions such as Boulder, the Metro Denver area, Pueblo, and Durango.

## Take Action

### Become a Mentor for the Colorado Political Leaders Fellowship

Criteria for mentor - Someone either actively involved in community activist or electoral work who has a depth of knowledge or relationships that can add to a mentor experience.

Training commitment: Willing to meet with their Fellow at least two times between June and September for at least 90 minutes. Ability to allow their Fellow to "shadow" them if desired in a way that will be instructive and appropriate. Ability to invite their Fellow to join them at a periodic political or community event. Consciousness to keep their Fellow in mind as political opportunities arise.

Locations and how many each location - Denver, Pueblo (3), Durango (3).

Subject areas to be covered: Nothing specific. Use of the Fellows PPLP or bio to discuss ongoing evaluation of how to reach goals.

Contact Dante by April 10th.





# Welcome

## Welcome to the 2009 Colorado Political Leaders Fellows!

**Jennifer Ale**

Campaign for Change

**Karen Arnold**

Retired Educator

**Tangala Ash**

Middle School Teacher

**Ashley Boothby**

Paralegal

**Debra Brown**

Chief Operating Officer  
Syzygic, LLC

**Angela Corral**

Attorney at Law

**Antonio D'Lallo III**

High School Teacher

**Dorian DeLong**

High School Teacher

**John Erhardt**

Managing Editor  
Squarestate.net

**Shirley Francis-Fraser**

CEO  
Fraser Human Resources  
Consulting

**Michelle Gabrieloff-Parish**

Community Activist

**Israel Garcia**

Colorado Progressive Coalition

**Angela Giron**

Regional Representative to Senator  
Michael Bennett

**Marisela Gonzalez**

Administrative Associate  
Colorado Progressive Coalition

**Elma Hairston**

Marketing Professional  
Johnson & Johnson

**Dawn Haney**

Community Activist

**Jami Horwitz**

Assistant Corporate Secretary  
Intrepid Potash

**Cheyenne Hughes**

Youth Organizer  
Colorado Progressive Coalition

**Melissa Jaure**

Political Fundraiser

**Donna Johnson**

CEO of Atomic Air, Inc.

**Hillary Jorgensen**

Disabilities Advocate

**Scott Kwasny**

Executive Director  
Colorado Jobs with Justice

**Leslii Lewis**

Settlement Specialist  
Office of Expedited Settlement

**Isaac Medrano**

Colorado State Director  
Democracia USA

**Monisha Merchant**

Director of Product Management at Level 3  
Communications and Elected Regent at  
Colorado University

**Melissa Mouton**

Medical Student

**Thomas Ogas**

President and CEO  
Latin American Research and Service  
Agency

**Ageno Oti**

Executive Assistant  
Retired Enlisted Association

**Andrew Pattison**

IGERT Research Fellow  
Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs

**Marylou Rogers**

High School Media Specialist

**Chandra Russo**

Communications Coordinator  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

**Ronda Schotling**

Public Relations Manager

**Carrie Scislowicz**

Attorney at Law

**Jen Shupe**

Associate Director  
Sexual Assault Services Organization

**Cody Sudmeier**

Founder of Agility Solutions

**David Szumiloski**

Educator  
Henry World School

**Amber Tafoya**

Project Director  
Denver Integration Coalition

**Christina Rinderle Thompson**

Project Manager  
Crossroads Durango

**Theresa M. Trujillo**

Southern Colorado Director  
Colorado Progressive Coalition

**John Vivian**

Community Activist

**Arthur Way Jr.**

Colorado Racial Profiling and Police Dis-  
crimination Hotline  
Colorado Progressive Coalition

**Amber Wilson**

Educator

**Aaron "Jack" Wylie**

Student Constituent Relations Officer  
Governor's Office of Delaware

*Pictures from the Friday night reception at this year's Fellowship Orientation:*



Alumni of the Colorado Political Leaders Fellowship are taking their Personal Political Leadership Plans quite seriously, as demonstrated from some of the latest news flashes we've received:

- **Pam Berry** ran an unsuccessful bid for County Commissioner in Dst 3, Colorado Springs. Though not successful she ran a great campaign!
- **Joel Davidow.** Since the fellowship, Joel has managed a successful city of Boulder council campaign for Angelique Espinoza. In 2008, he was appointed to the county of Boulder's Social Services Advisory Committee. This past election cycle, he managed the re-election campaign for Brandon Shaffer who is now the next Senate Majority Leader. He also continues to serve on the city of Boulder's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and was recently elected chair of the Boulder County Democrats
- **Matt Guy** has moved from the Colorado Prevention Center to become the leader of the Pueblo satellite office of the Colorado Rural Health Center and will also be a Quality Improvement Coach for rural health clinics in southeastern and south central Colorado.
- **Maggie Guntren** spent the last few months volunteering with the Udall and Obama campaigns and waving signs for issue dear to the Colorado Education Association. Her current project is designing "The Art of Teaching: Democracy, Creative Expression, and Public Education."
- **Regina Jackson** spent the last few months as a Community Organizer in HD6 as part of the Obama Field Organizing team. She is now the Democratic precinct person for HD6. She says, "I have been the data coordination lead, canvass captain, canvasser, data entry person, trainer, poll leader and comfort team member for the Obama Team 3, HD6! What an experience! I was overwhelmed by the commitment I experienced daily by people just like me who had a common purpose. I think if I learned anything it is to never underestimate the power of committed people to create change. Wonderful leadership develops the goals, strategies, tactics, gives the people the tools, keeps them energized and then gets out of way. " She is now working on getting programs for Disabled Adults.
- **Jennifer Piper** now works with *American Friends Service Committee* where she is the Immigrant Rights Director for Interfaith Organizing.
- **Mason Tvert** will be co-author of the book, *Marijuana is Safer*, to be released by Chelsea Green Publishing in August 2009.
- **Jessie Ulibarri** -Upon completion of the CPL fellowship, Jessie has focused his efforts on building a stronger progressive movement. His energy has been focused on defeating Amendment 46 last election cycle. As an advocate who believes that everyone should have a fair shot at the American Dream, he was appalled that a Californian millionaire would come to Colorado to attempt to change the state's constitution by outlawing all equal opportunity initiatives. He travelled to every corner of the state, knocking on doors, and speaking in churches and family rooms to as many voters as possible to inform them of the deceptive and destructive impacts of Amendment 46. In his not-so-spare time, Jessie joined the Colorado Jobs with Justice Board of Directors to ensure communities and workers can unite together in an effort to build an economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy or well-connected. He also has utilized his newly acquired grass-roots fundraising skills to assist Congressman Mark Udall's bid for Senate and Senator Barack Obama's historic run for the presidency. And most excitingly, Jessie is building a family with his partner, Louis, and their son, Israel, in their new home in West Denver.



# Upcoming Progressive Calendar

## March

### **Media Go Lead Training**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 25th, 2009 / Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

**Location:** 1536 Wynkoop 3rd Floor Conference Room

Working with the media is important element in furthering your cause. Media adds visibility and credibility. It not only helps get your message out, but can help with fundraising and recruitment, too. Find out how to get your cause or candidate in the news! Food will be provided. Training is Free! Public transportation is encouraged. There is metered parking on the street; pay-lots are available as well. **RSVP:** [fwinter@thewhitehouseproject.org](mailto:fwinter@thewhitehouseproject.org)

*Colorado Go Lead Trainings are hosted by 9 to 5 National Association of Working Women, Center for Progressive Leadership, Colorado Black Women for Political Action, COLOR Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights, Latina Initiative, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and The White House Project.*

## April

### **Greeley Community Leadership Academy**

**Date:** Sat April 4, 18, 25 (9Am - 3 Pm) & Thursday May 7, 2009 (5-9 Pm)

**Location:** TBD. CPL and the Colorado Progressive Coalition will be hosting a 4 week grassroots leadership academy for the residents of Greeley and surrounding areas. Registration is required.

**“Everything you wanted to know about the economy, but were afraid to ask!”**

**Hosted by the Alumni Class of 2008.**

**Date:** Saturday April 25, 2009 / Time 5:00—7:00 Pm

**Location:** to be announced

Come meet this years fellows while having all your questions answered about the state of the economy and its affect on Colorado. Food will be provided. **Please RSVP by 4-15-09** to Cecile at [cjohnson@progressiveleaders.org](mailto:cjohnson@progressiveleaders.org) or Jennifer Piper at [wanderingpiper@gmail.com](mailto:wanderingpiper@gmail.com)

## May

**“Beautiful minds... bold visions.. Big ideas”**

*A progressive meet and greet to highlight CPL's programs to El Paso County*

**Where:** House party in Colorado Springs hosted by Lynn Young

**Date:** Saturday May 16, 2009 / Time : 11:00 Am– 1:00 Pm

Join us in identifying the unique challenges /opportunities in El Paso County. If any alumni's want to attend please get in touch with Cecile at CPL this would be a wonderful opportunity to share your experience with the group. RSVP to Lynn at 719-440-9297 or [lyoungcoach@msn.com](mailto:lyoungcoach@msn.com)

### **CPL Fellowship Workshop - 3rd Weekend in Colorado Springs**

#### **Progressive Happy Hour**

**Date:** Friday, May 29th

**Location:** TBD

Come meet this year's Fellows and share your Fellowship experiences with Community Members as we get to know one another In El Paso County.

#### **Fellowship Workshop**

**Date:** Saturday May 30th and Sunday May 31st