



### Our Theme

The Inauguration of Dr. Manya C. Whitaker as Colorado College’s 15th president draws upon the motto of the National Association of Colored Women, “Lifting As We Climb.” Founded in 1896 by leaders like Mary Church Terrell and Ida B. Wells, the NACW emphasized advancing oneself while uplifting one’s community. For President Whitaker, this idea shapes both her approach to leadership and her hopes for CC graduates. As she leads alongside the CC community—present, engaged, and collaborative—she seeks to create pathways for others, just as others did for her. Likewise, she hopes that CC graduates will carry this principle forward, pursuing their own goals while supporting and lifting others, and reinforcing the College’s commitment to shared responsibility and a community where progress is collective.

### Why the Bees?

You may notice bee-themed touches throughout the inauguration! Don’t worry, we’re not replacing the tiger with black-and-gold stripes of a different kind. “Bea” is President Whitaker’s nickname, given to her as an infant by her big brother and lovingly used by her whole family ever since. We like to think it reflects the energy, collaborative spirit, and little bit of buzz that our new leader wholeheartedly brings to CC.

“Colorado College will claim our space in higher education by shaping citizens who think deeply, act boldly, and build a more compassionate tomorrow, proving that immersive liberal arts education creates the leaders our world demands.”

*Dr. Manya C. Whitaker, President*



THE  
INAUGURATION OF  
*Dr. Manya C. Whitaker*  
15<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT  
OF COLORADO COLLEGE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025  
Richard F. Celeste Theatre  
Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center  
Colorado College



LIFTING AS WE CLIMB



### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Community Breakfast**  
8:30 a.m.  
*Ed Robson Arena*

**Block Talks**  
9 a.m.  
*Ed Robson Arena*

A series of dynamic, thought-provoking presentations by Colorado College faculty, staff, and students that reflect the spirit of the Block Plan

**Inauguration Ceremony**  
11 a.m.

*Richard F. Celeste Theatre | Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center  
(tickets required)*

*Community Viewing: Screening Room | Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center  
Stream from anywhere: [coloradocollege.edu/live](http://coloradocollege.edu/live)*

**Lunch Reception**  
Immediately following ceremony  
*Ed Robson Arena*



Steven Hayward



Carlie Malott



Steve Getty



Dustin Fife



Elizabeth Coggins

## BLOCK TALKS

*Emcee: Sarah Hinkle, Director of the Speaking Center at Colorado College*

### Steven Hayward, Professor of English “How to Study Abroad”

Dr. Steven Hayward was born and raised in Canada and is a Canadian bestselling author. He has published four fiction books and directed the documentary feature “The Block Plan,” which won Best Picture at the 2022 Helsinki International Film Festival. His talk examines how digital connectivity has changed the way we experience new places and cultures and offers a path to rediscovering authentic connection through intentional moments of ‘lostness’.

### Carlie Malott, Class of 2026 “Beyond the Label: The Psychological Impact of Education Categories on Child Development”

Carlie Malott is a senior education and psychology major. Her education thesis, the early findings of which she presented at an international conference last fall, examines how disability labels can both unlock students’ potential and inadvertently limit their sense of self-worth, confidence, and performance. For her psychology thesis, she is piloting a body-acceptance program she co-developed with researchers at Stanford University. She currently works in a neuropsychological assessment clinic and as a Crisis Text Line counselor.

### Steve Getty, Director, Quantitative Reasoning Center “What Makes You Tick? A Formula for Understanding and Supporting Motivation”

Dr. Steve Getty has been involved in teaching and research at CC for the past 25 years. He has a

Ph.D. from Brown University. For over a decade, his research has investigated the experiences of STEM students from middle school to college and ways to support their motivation and academic success.

### Dustin Fife, College Librarian “How to Read Unwritten Rules”

Dustin Fife has been the College Librarian at CC since 2022 and a library director for over 15 years. His research interests include the intersection of leadership and equity in higher education. Fife is the co-author of “A Starter’s Guide for Academic Library Leaders” and was named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker in 2016.

### Elizabeth Coggins, Associate Professor of Political Science “The Power of a Conversation”

Dr. Elizabeth Coggins came to CC in 2014 after a year as a post-doctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in U.S. Politics & Methodology. She studies U.S. politics, public opinion, ideological identification, race, and political psychology. Her co-authored book, “The Dynamics of Public Opinion,” was published by Cambridge University Press in 2021. She teaches Introduction to U.S. Politics and Government, Race & Politics, Ideology in the United States, Public Policymaking, Political Science Research Methods, and Congress.

## CEREMONY ORDER OF SERVICE

### *The Inauguration of Dr. Manya C. Whitaker*

#### Prelude

“Celebration,” by Kool & The Gang  
*Performed by the Tiger Jazz Ensemble, directed by Ricky Sweum*

#### Processional

“Lovely Day,” by Bill Withers  
*Performed by the Tiger Jazz Ensemble, directed by Ricky Sweum*

#### Invocation

Kate Holbrook, Chaplain

#### Welcome

Dr. Kathryn Mohrman, 11th President of Colorado College

#### Video

“Reflections from President Whitaker’s Former Students”

#### Musical Performance

“Rise Up,” by Andra Day  
*Performed by Ellement A Capella*

#### Oath of Office & Investiture

Kyle Samuel, Chair, Colorado College Board of Trustees

#### Musical Performance

“Never Would’ve Made It,” by Marvin Sapp  
*Performed by Morris Whitaker, Father of Manya C. Whitaker*

#### Inaugural Address:

“Lifting As We Climb”  
*Dr. Manya C. Whitaker, President*

#### Video

“Lifting As We Climb at CC”

#### Benediction

Dr. Mike Edmonds, Former Senior Vice President of Colorado College

#### Recessional

“Girl on Fire,” by Alicia Keys  
*Performed by the Tiger Jazz Ensemble, directed by Ricky Sweum*



## DR. MANYA C. WHITAKER

Dr. Manya Whitaker is the 15th President of Colorado College. Initially appointed to a two-year interim presidency on July 1, 2024, Whitaker earned the confidence of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners through her transparent leadership, keen understanding of the College’s mission, and steady guidance. During her initial year as Interim President, she led efforts to advance several institutional priorities, deepen engagement with the local community, and surpass fundraising goals, while overseeing a pivotal moment in College history. She was officially appointed President by the Board of Trustees in June 2025.

Dr. Whitaker previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, acting as the President’s principal aide and strategic advisor. In that role, she managed sensitive and confidential matters, oversaw cross-divisional initiatives, and provided leadership on key institutional priorities, including the College’s antiracism commitment.

Dr. Whitaker is also a Professor of Education at Colorado College, and before moving into administration, she taught classes on social and political issues in education. She is a developmental educational psychologist with expertise in adolescent identity formation and motivation. She has authored four books and more than 20 book chapters and articles focused on her research, including “Public School Equity: Educational Leadership for Justice,” “Schooling Multicultural Teachers: A Guide for Program Assessment and Professional Development,” “Learning from the Inside-Out: Child Development and School Choice,” and “Counternarratives from Women of Color Academics: Bravery, Vulnerability, and Resistance” (co-editor).

Through more than 14 years at Colorado College, her roles have also included Interim Director of the Butler Center, Director of the Crown Faculty Center, and Director of Graduate Studies and Chair of Education.

Dr. Whitaker received her doctorate in developmental psychology from Vanderbilt University and her B.A. in educational psychology from Dartmouth College. In addition to her position at Colorado College, she has worked as an independent educational consultant since 2009. She established Blueprint Educational Strategies in 2013, working with minoritized and marginalized families on educational advocacy and partnering with school districts and state departments of education to support teachers and administrators in delivering high-quality experiences to all learners and their families.

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