

COLORADO COLLEGE  
OPENING CONVOCATION  
CLASS OF 2028

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL ACADEMIC YEAR  
Monday, August 26 | Shove Memorial Chapel



# PROGRAM

Presiding: Dr. Manya Whitaker, President of Colorado College

## PRELUDE

*Rhosymedre* ..... Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

Eric Wicks | *Colorado College Organist*

## PROCESSIONAL\*

*Royal Knights: A Ceremonial March* ..... Christopher Tambling (1964 – 2015)

Eric Wicks | *Colorado College Organist*

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT\*

Debbie Howell, Elder in Residence

## INVOCATION\*

Kate Holbrook, Chaplain to the College

## THE COLORADO COLLEGE HYMN\*

Kai Givens '25

## WELCOME

**Koray Gates '25**, President, Colorado College Student Government Association

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dr. Manya Whitaker

## PRESENTING OF JUST WORLD AWARDS

**Dr. Maybellene Gamboa**, Mike Edmonds Igniting Students' Potential Award

Lacy Karpilo, Vice President for Student Life & Dean of Students

**Dr. Vivian Ota Wang '83**, Dr. Margaret A. Liu '77 Health Justice Award

Lesley Irvine, Vice President and Director of Athletics

**Yolanda Avila '85**, Adrienne Lanier Seward Bold and Courageous Actions Award

Emily Chan, Vice President & Dean of the Faculty

**Rose Harvey '77**, Ken Salazar '77 Stewardship Award

Ryan Simmons, Vice President for People & Workplace Culture

**Gregor Robertson '86**, Val Veirs Environmental Justice Award

Pedro de Araujo, Dean of the College & Chief Operating Officer

## ANTHEM: COLORADO COLLEGE ALMA MATER\*

Kai Givens '25

## BENEDICTION\*

Kate Holbrook, Chaplain to the College

## RECESSIONAL/POSTLUDE\*

*Please remain standing until the faculty and distinguished guests have exited.*

*Toccata from Symphony No. 5* ..... Charles-Marie Widor (1844 – 1937)

Eric Wicks | *Colorado College Organist*

\*Attendees standing



## THE COLORADO COLLEGE HYMN

“St. Anne”

William Croft (1678–1727)

(Selected Stanzas)

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.  
A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

O Colorado College fair,  
Long may your fame be known;  
May fortune smile upon you,  
and honor be your own;  
Our Alma Mater always,  
Your loyal children we;  
Together let us face the future,  
Hail C.C.

*Attendees: Please Join Us In Singing.*

## COLORADO COLLEGE ALMA MATER

(“O Colorado College Fair”)

Words and music written in 1953 by Charles Hawley ’54 and Professors Earl Juhas and Albert Seay

O Colorado College fair,  
We sing our praise to you;  
Eternal as the Rockies,  
that form our western view;  
Your loyal sons and daughters will always grateful be;  
The college dear to all our hearts is our C.C.

O Colorado College fair,  
Long may your fame be known;  
May fortune smile upon you,  
and honor be your own;  
Our Alma Mater always,  
Your loyal children we;  
Together let us face the future,  
Hail C.C.



## 2024 JUST WORLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

### ***Mike Edmonds Igniting Students' Potential Award***

Dr. Maybellene Gamboa

Dr. Maybellene Gamboa is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Organismal Biology & Ecology who aims to inspire others to find joy in the natural world through research and education. As an evolutionary ecologist and conservation biologist, Dr. Gamboa is interested in how animals interact and adapt to dynamic landscapes, specifically on the California Channel Islands and the Colorado Front Range. As a biology education researcher, Dr. Gamboa is motivated to develop and evaluate methods

to improve scientific literacy and student resilience. As an educator, Dr. Gamboa enjoys helping students develop their curiosity and creativity through inquiry-based learning. Ultimately, Dr. Gamboa believes that the unique skill-building opportunities at Colorado College enable individuals to be responsible stewards and to more confidently navigate the world with freedom, dignity, and a sense of purpose.

### ***Dr. Margaret A. Liu '77 Health Justice Award***

Dr. Vivian Ota Wang '83

Dr. Vivian Ota Wang graduated from Colorado College in 1983 with a B.A. in Biology, and afterwards, she earned her M.S. in Genetic Counseling and her MPhil/PhD in Counseling Psychology. As a psychologist, genomicist, and genetic counselor, Dr. Ota Wang's domestic and global experiences in research, education, policy, and ethics span biomedical, psychological, genomic, nanoscale, and data sciences. She applies her expertise in racial identity, community engagement, and ethics to scientific leadership of women's health research as the NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health's Deputy Director. Previously, she was

the inaugural Policy, Ethics, and COVID Lead at the Office of Data Science Strategy where she established the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) Data Repository that accelerated COVID-19 testing innovation and spearheaded the first NIH sovereignty-based research data repository. Dr. Ota Wang is an American Medical Association Fellow (American College of Medical Genetics), a diplomate of the American Psychological Association, American Board of Medical Genetics, and American Board of Genetic Counseling, and a licensed psychologist.



### ***Adrienne Lanier Seward Bold and Courageous Actions Award***

Yolanda Avila '85

Yolanda Avila graduated from Colorado College in 1985 with a B.A. in International Political Economy. In 1990, Avila began work as a criminal defense investigator in Orange County, CA. She also worked as a field supervisor and mentor to local university students. In 1998, Avila was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, a degenerative eye disease that has a prognosis of blindness. She retired from the OC public defender's office in 2011 and returned home to Colorado Springs to be near her mother. Avila was elected to City Council District 4 in 2017 and reelected in

2021. She immediately championed several causes in the city by improving transit accessibility, fixing bus routes and frequency. Her commitment to improving infrastructure in her district resulted in an unprecedented amount of infrastructure construction, including roads, bridges, sidewalks, and ADA ramp construction. Avila's guide dog, Puma, accompanies her to the many boards, commissions, and committees where Avila serves gratefully as both a City Councilmember and a Colorado Springs Utilities Board Director.

### ***Ken Salazar '77 Stewardship Award***

Rose Harvey '77

Rose Harvey graduated from Colorado College in 1977 and went on to obtain an M.E.S from the Yale School of Environment where she was a McCluskey Fellow and Lecturer. Harvey currently serves as the Executive Director of New City Parks and, prior to that, served as Commissioner of the Office of New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Appointed by Governor Cuomo in 2011, Harvey oversaw the revitalization, creation, programming, and operations of more than 250 parks and historic sites, and helped create and execute the \$1 billion

"Parks 2020" capital improvement program to rejuvenate and transform the New York State Parks system. Before moving to the public sector, she served as the Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region and later became National Director of Urban Programs at the Trust for Public Lands, and Senior Fellow at Jonathan Rose Companies. Harvey sits on the Board of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Yale School of the Environment's Advisory Council, and is a gubernatorial appointee to the Hudson River Park Trust Board and The Climate Action Council.

### ***Val Veirs Environmental Justice Award***

Gregor Robertson '86

Gregor Robertson graduated from Colorado College in 1986 and served as the 39th mayor of Vancouver, British Columbia, from 2008 to 2018. A member of Vision Vancouver, Robertson is known for his focus on sustainability and affordable housing. Before his mayoral career, Robertson was an influential figure in the business and political communities. He co-founded the successful organic food company Happy Planet, which laid the groundwork for his subsequent foray into public service.

His mayoral tenure was marked by efforts to improve public transportation, green building standards, and climate action, establishing Vancouver as a global leader in sustainability. After leaving office, Robertson continued to advocate for urban development and environmental issues. Currently, Robertson is spearheading a global collaboration effort to help countries tackle climate change in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.



