

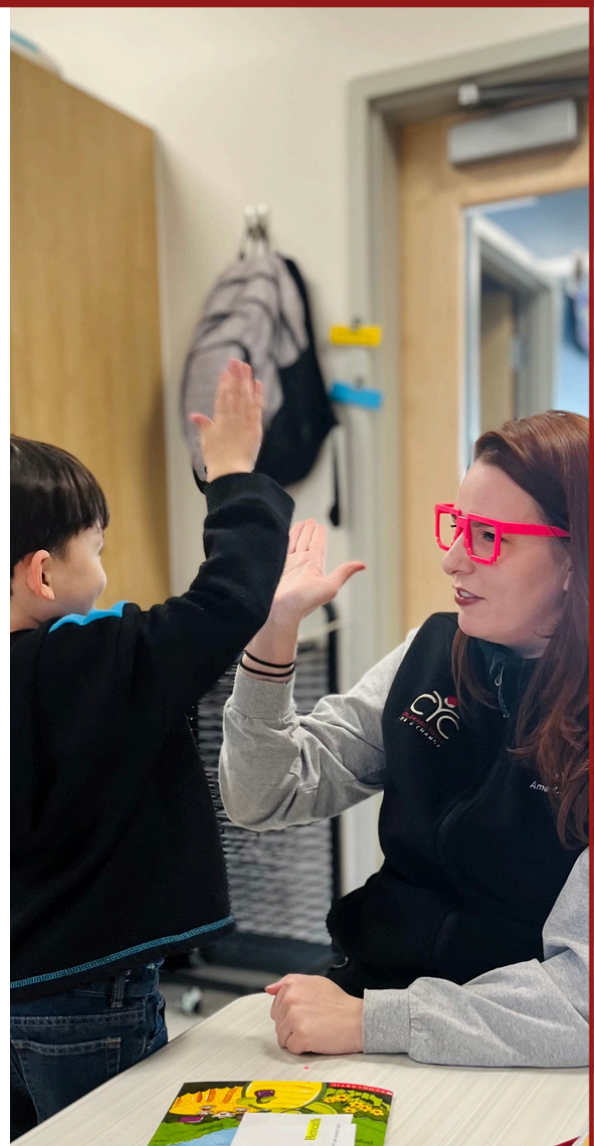


# ***Back to School Night 2025***

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

5:30-8:30 P.M.

MILE HIGH STATION | 2027 W. COLFAX AVE



*Colorado Youth for a Change provides individualized support and tutoring for 5,000+ students every year in partnership with 20 school districts.*

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***5:30 to 7 p.m.***    Cocktails & silent auction

***7-8:30 p.m.***    Seated dinner & program with live auction

# ***Sponsorship Opportunities***

## ***Senior Sponsor | \$10,000***

- 2 tables, 16 guests
- Full page ad in program
- Logo on bid numbers at the event
- Acknowledgement from stage
- Logo on CYC homepage year-round (1,900+ monthly visitors)
- All benefits included in lower levels

## ***Junior Sponsor | \$7,500***

- 1 table, 8 guests
- Half page ad in program
- Logo on all event marketing materials
- Acknowledgement from stage
- All benefits included in lower levels

## ***Sophomore Sponsor | \$5,000***

- 1 tables, 8 guests
- Quarter page ad in program
- Logo in program, at reception, and on stage area
- Acknowledgement from stage
- All benefits included in lower level

## ***Freshman Sponsor | \$2,500***

- 1 table, 8 guests
- Name in program
- Name featured in Annual Report

***Interested? Contact us***

***All guests receive full dinner and complimentary wine from Blanchard Family Wines.***





# *About Colorado Youth for a Change*

Colorado Youth for a Change addresses barriers to learning by providing individualized supports throughout pivotal stages of students' education journeys. Together with stakeholders, partners, and 20 Colorado school districts, we support children and youth from PreK through high school to maximize their learning and growth. For some young people, this means finding a new school fit alongside a CYC advocate. For others, this means boosting math or reading skills through the support of a tutor. Regardless of their age or program, our students are building confidence, skills, and a sense of belonging.

## *Why Support CYC?*

When you sponsor Colorado Youth for a Change, not only do you support over 5,000 Colorado students each year, but you also receive an impressive return on investment. CYC earns an average monthly social media reach of over 7,800 and an industry-leading average email open rate of 55.4%.

# ***2025 Changemaker Honoree***

**D.J. Close**

**Executive Director, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation**



As we celebrate 20 years of change, we are pleased to name D.J. Close as our 2025 Changemaker of the Year! D.J.'s commitment to civic engagement, education, and collaboration across sectors has made a lasting impact across Colorado. As a dedicated volunteer and steadfast supporter of CYC for nearly 10 years, D.J. has served as both a board member and as Chair of the Board. Through his leadership and unwavering dedication, D.J. has left a lasting imprint on CYC, and we are excited to honor his contributions at our 2025 Back to School Night.

Born and raised in Durango, Colorado, D.J. now calls Denver home, where he lives with his husband, Sinjin, their newborn son, Clayton, and dog, Herschel. A graduate of the University of Denver with a degree in Political Science and Leadership, D.J. is deeply committed to civic engagement and believes that real change occurs when the private, public, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors unite to work toward a shared vision.

Currently the Executive Director of the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation at Delta Dental of Colorado, D.J. brings extensive experience in nonprofit leadership. Prior to this role, he was the Director of Giving and Executive Director at the DaVita Giving Foundation. Before joining DaVita, D.J. worked at Mile High United Way, where he started the Colorado Reading Corps, an AmeriCorps program dedicated to improving K-3 literacy (now operated by Colorado Youth for a Change). Earlier in his career, D.J. served in the Office of Colorado Lt. Governor Joseph Garcia and was a distinguished graduate of the El Pomar Foundation's Fellowship program.



## ***CYC Board of Directors***

James Blanchard, **Chair**  
Kate Drahm, **Chair Elect**  
Mindy Marler, **Past Chair**  
Becca Stevens, **Secretary**  
Herb Quintana **Treasurer**

Carrie Miller  
Lindsay Gartner  
Winters Heafey  
Erica Kadi  
Maksim Kim

Alli Levy  
Cherronda Richie-Rogers  
Brad Yoshimitsu  
Lorena Marquez Zimmer

## ***Back to School Night 2024 Sponsors***

Allstate  
American Family Insurance  
Blanchard Family Wines  
Comcast  
DaVita  
Delta Dental Foundation  
Dinsmore

Edward Jones  
FirstBank  
Guaranteed Rate  
infused  
Matthew Padilla & Chris  
Wigley

NFP  
Otten Johnson Robinson  
Neff + Ragonetti  
Q3 Consulting  
RGO  
The Colorado Trust

## ***CYC Development Committee***

Cherronda Richie-Rogers, **Chair**  
Alli Levy, **Past Chair**  
Kathleen Ham

Winters Heafey  
Matt Hughes  
Carrie Miller

Monica Smolak  
Brad Yoshimitsu  
Max Hamilton