



The 2014 Fiscal Forum: Presented by the Colorado Fiscal Institute

Speaker Bios

Guest Speakers:

Robert Reich: Robert B. Reich is one of the world's leading thinkers about work and the economy. Now Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley, he has served under three national administrations, most recently as Secretary of Labor under Bill Clinton. He also served on President Barack Obama's economic transition advisory board. In 2008, *TIME* magazine named him one of the ten most successful cabinet secretaries of the past century.

Reich is the author of 14 books including *The Work of Nations*, which has been translated into 22 languages, and the best sellers *Locked in the Cabinet* and *The Future of Success*, which in 2002 was ranked by *BusinessWeek* magazine as the #2 best-selling business book. His book, *Supercapitalism*, published in 2007, warned of the perils of an under-regulated and over-leveraged financial system. In his 2010 best seller, *Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future*, Reich looks at where the economy is heading after the Great Recession and what to expect over the next decade.

Reich is the co-creator and host of the widely acclaimed 2013 documentary, *Inequality for All*, in which he explains the underlying forces that are shaping our economy and lays out pragmatic solutions for a broader prosperity.

Reich has a nationally-syndicated column and he also writes frequently for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and *The Financial Times*. He is a contributor to CNBC, and a frequent panelist on ABC's *This Week* and other television programs.

In late 2003, Reich was awarded the prestigious Václav Havel prize, in Prague, for his original contributions to economic thinking. *The Wall Street Journal* has named him one of the nation's top ten thought leaders.

Natalie Mullis: Natalie Mullis has been one of the Colorado General Assembly's economists since November 1998 and has served as Chief Economist since February 2009. She holds a Masters of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Natalie's primary job responsibilities include forecasting the Colorado economy, forecasting state government revenue, analyzing the fiscal impacts of legislative bills, and educating legislators and the public about the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, Referendum C, and the state budget. Natalie serves on the steering committee for the National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices and is Staff Co-Chair of the National Conference of State Legislature's Legislative Effectiveness Committee. She has served on the board of the Denver

Association of Business Economists since 2000 and contributes yearly to the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business Economic Outlook Forum.

Dee Wisor: Dee Wisor is an attorney in private practice at Sherman and Howard – He was selected as Denver’s 2012 Public Finance Lawyer of Year by Best Lawyers and has been recognized in The Best Lawyers in America in public finance since 2007. Dee has extensive public finance, economic development and TABOR expertise.

Dee is a graduate of Dickinson College and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. Dee was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 1976. He is a member of Board of Directors of the National Association of Board Lawyers, a member of the Board of Directors of the Denver Public Schools Foundation and a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado Fiscal Institute.

He served as a member of the Cherry Creek school board from 1990-1996 and was a board member of CASB in 1995 and 1996. Dee has also served as a member of the Willows Water District and as a Trustee for the University of Northern Colorado.

He is an avid skier and cyclist and a true friend of rational economic and fiscal policy in Colorado.

CFI Staff:

Carol Hedges: Carol Hedges is the Executive Director of the Colorado Fiscal Institute. Carol has been an important part of the research, policy and advocacy community in Colorado for more than 15 years. She served as policy director for Governor Roy Romer in the late 1990s focusing on human service, education and budget policy. As program officer at the Piton Foundation in Denver, Carol directed the Denver Workforce Initiative, a project of the Annie E. Casey Jobs Initiative. While serving as a senior policy analyst with the Bell Policy Center, Carol authored Ten Years of TABOR, a comprehensive study of the effects of Colorado’s Taxpayers Bill of Rights. Most recently as the Director of the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, a project of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Carol’s work focused on creating an adequate, sustainable and equitable revenue system in Colorado. As a recognized expert on the effects of Colorado’s TABOR amendment, Carol has been involved in education efforts on TABOR-like proposals across the country.

Prior to moving to Colorado, Carol served as staff for the Human Service committee and the Agriculture and Natural Resources committee for the National Governors’ Association. She started her policy career as policy advisor to Gov. John Carlin of Kansas.

Carol graduated from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kan., and earned a law degree from the University of Kansas.

Carol serves on the Board of Directors of Progress Now Colorado Education and FRESC: Good Job, Strong Communities. She is a member of the Leadership Advisory Committee of the Colorado Nonprofit Association and was a founding member of the Steering Committee of the Colorado Civic Engagement

Roundtable. Carol served as a technical advisor to Gov. Bill Ritter's Blue Ribbon Transportation Panel and is a member of the Steering Committee for Gov. John Hickenlooper's statewide civic engagement project—TBD. Carol also partners with the Colorado business community as a convener of the Colorado Reform Roundtable

Kathy White: Kathy White is the deputy director of the newly formed Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI). Kathy is a veteran advocate for policies that enhance economic prosperity for working families. For more than a decade before joining CFI, Kathy served as the director of the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute where she worked on issues ranging from unemployment insurance and other worker supports to tax credits for low-income families and immigration reform. Prior to that Kathy conducted research and policy analysis for a national health insurance company. Kathy holds a master's degree from the University of Colorado Denver.

Ali Mickelson: Ali Mickelson is the tax policy attorney at the Colorado Fiscal Institute. Ali has been working in tax policy since 2009, but her passion for advocacy began three years earlier when she was involved in the low-income taxpayer clinic during law school at the University of Denver. While working at the tax clinic, she coordinated and participated in VITA sites. This is where Ali first began to see the benefits of targeted, equitable tax policy on Colorado families. After she graduated from DU with her J.D. and a LL.M. in Taxation, she worked in tax consulting for a short time before moving into policy at the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute, a project of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy.

Since starting at CCLP, Ali has become a tax and budget resource for both elected officials and the community. Ali has also been involved in the passage of tax policies that support Colorado families, including a tax amnesty bill that put \$14 million into the state education fund and a bill creating a state-level Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. She has authored a number of reports about state and federal tax policy and in 2012 she was also selected by the Governor Hickenlooper's Office of Economic Development and International Trade as the budget expert on the Enterprise Zone Task Force.

Chris Stiffler: Chris Stiffler is an economist at the Colorado Fiscal Institute. Chris has been working in the public policy and economic research business since May 2012. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond in 2009, after which he spent a year teaching high school Latin before moving to Colorado. He received his masters in economics from the University of Denver. His particular area of interest involves the combined field of psychology and economics, with a particular curiosity in how people's mental quirks influence public policy and the public policy debate.

Chris got his start explaining economics in 2009 writing an explanatory economics column for his small home town newspaper in western Pennsylvania. The column was geared at explaining complicated economic concepts in simple metaphorical terms that everyone could understand and showing how those economic concepts relate to policy discussions. He believes that public policy discussion is much more fruitful when everyone is informed about the economic concepts behind such policy. Combining his joy for teaching, Chris hopes to make Colorado a better informed populous.

Tim Hoover: Tim Hoover is the communications director for CFI. Previously, he worked for 20 years as a journalist, most recently as a member of the editorial board of The Denver Post. Hoover also was a state politics and government reporter for The Denver Post and The Kansas City Star. Much of his work for The Denver Post focused on the state budget, state fiscal policy and TABOR.