

Celebration of Leadership Past Honorees

For four decades, the Boulder Chamber has brought together community leaders and organizations to celebrate those who have played a vital role in driving our region's economic and social progress.

2025

Virginia Patterson Business Leader of the Year: Rick George, University of Colorado Athletics

Rising Star Award: Sristy Agrawal, Mesa Quantum

Innovative Business of the Year Award: Enveda

Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Colonel (Ret.) Lee Rosen, Think Orbital Inc.

Impact Award: Dr. Rob Anderson, Boulder Valley School District

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Stephen Tebo, Tebo Properties

Chamber Champion: Merix Gustin, Plan Ahead Events Boulder

Special Recognition: David Cohen, Techstars

2024

Virginia Patterson Business Leader of the Year: Neal Lurie, Resource Central

Rising Star Award: Marie-Juliette Bird, The New Local

Innovative Business of the Year Award: Element Properties & Boulder Shelter for the Homeless

Entrepreneurial Business of the Year Award: Meati Foods

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Doug Greene, New Hope Network

Impact Award: Dr. Reiland Rabaka, Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS)

Chamber Champion: Hannah Hester, Live West Realty

2023

Virginia Patterson Business Leader of the Year: Danica Powell, Founder, Trestle Strategy

Rising Star Award: Perla Delgado, Ph.D., I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder County

Innovative Business of the Year Award: Rook Capital

Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Lane Hornung, 8z Real Estate + zavvie

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Philip DiStefano, University of Colorado Boulder

Impact Award: Conscience Bay Company

Chamber Champion: Debi Richards

2022

Virginia Patterson Business Leader of the Year: Brian McCudden – Corden Pharma

Rising Star Award: Tatiana Hernandez – Community Foundation Boulder County

Startup of the Year: Chris White – Shinesty

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Catherine Allegra – IHS Markit

Impact Award: CU Boulder and the City of Boulder for their successful negotiation of the CU South Annexation Agreement.

2021

Virginia Patterson Business of the Year: Jill and Eric Skokan - Black Cat

Innovative Business of the Year: David Cohen and David Brown - Techstars

Rising Star Award: Katrina Miller - Blackat Productions

Startup of the Year: Aaron Clark - Equity Solutions

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Peter Salas, Latino Chamber of Commerce of Boulder County

Special COVID-19 Impact Awards:

- **Boulder County Public Health Response Network** - Avista Adventist Hospital, Boulder Community Health, Boulder Community Health Foundation, Boulder County Public Health, Longmont United Hospital, SCL Health, UC Health
- **The Boulder Chamber's partners in the Boulder Business Response and Recovery Alliance** - Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau, Boulder County, Boulder Small Business Development Center, Community Foundation Boulder County, City of Boulder, Downtown Boulder Partnership, and the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Boulder County

2020

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Kevin Daly, Mountain Sun Pubs & Breweries

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Bryce Isaacson, Western Disposal

Impact Award: Jonathan Lev, Boulder JCC

Innovative Company of the Year: HomeCare of the Rockies

Rising Star Award: Gerry & Nicole Wienholt, Yoga Pod

Startup of the Year: Rule4

2019

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Ariel Solomon, Premier Mortgage Group

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Larry Gold, SomaLogicCommunity

Impact Award: Mardi Moore, OUT Boulder County

Innovative Company of the Year: St. Vrain Valley School District

Rising Star Award: Alyssa Harding, Justin's

Entrepreneur of the Year: High Precision Devices

2018

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Scott Green, Google Boulder

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Steve Bosley, BolderBOULDER Community

Impact Award: Doyle Albee, MAPRagency

Innovative Companies of the Year: Black Lab Sports and Terrapin Care Station

Rising Star Award: Sharon Matusik, Leeds School of Business at CU Boulder

2017

Virginia Patterson Businesspeople of the Year Award: Dirk Friel and Gear Fisher, Peaksware

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Jon Kottke, Kottke & Brantz

Community Impact Award: Tamil Maldonado-Vega, Barrio E' and Jose Beteta, Boulder Latino Chamber of Commerce

Innovative Business of the Year: Tectonic Group

Rising Star Award: Boulder Organic Foods

2016

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Gerry Agnes, Elevations Credit Union

Franny Reich Local Business Heroes: Liz Hanson, City of Boulder; George Karakehian, Art Source International

Community Leadership Awards: Ken Hotard, Boulder Area Realtor Association; Will Toor, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

Chamber Champion: Dianna Rands, Chill Digital Marketing

2015

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Judy Amabile, Product Architect/Polar Bottles

Industry Leadership Award: Zayo Group

Franny Reich Local Business Hero: Ron Secrist, Boulder Community Health Foundation

Community Leadership Award: The Yes on 2A Campaign

Chamber Champions: Elvira Ramos, The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County; Barb Truan, Renaissance Management

2014

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Ryan Martens, Rally Software

Franny Reich Local Business Hero: Dave and Dee Hight, McGuckin Hardware

Community Leadership Award: Nick and Helen Forster, eTown

Chamber Champion: Ro Medina, University of Colorado Career Services/BYP Chair

Industry Leadership Award: The Brewers

2013

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Frances Draper, University of Colorado

Franny Reich Local Business Hero: Richard Polk

Business Innovator of the Year: Blake Jones

2012

Members of Distinction: John Regur, Dutch Creek Financial; Christina Savage, iSupportU

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Brad Feld, Foundry Group

Key Contributor of the Year: Bob Noun, NREL

B2140 Young Businessperson: Lee Shainis, Intercambio

Best Place to Work: Gnip

Community Sustainability Leader: Boulder Community Hospital

2011

Members of Distinction: Brent Hultman, Taggart Insurance; Jan Autry, Without Bounds

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: Lou Dellacava, LJD Enterprises, Inc.

Key Contributor of the Year: Susan Connelly, Colorado Chautauqua Association

B2140 Young Businessperson: Shaun Oshman, iSupportU

Best Place to Work: Western Disposal

Community Sustainability Leader: University of Colorado Boulder

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement: Frank Day, Craftworks Restaurant

2010

Members of Distinction: Elayne Oligschlaeger, The Pampered Chef; Peggy Altschuler (Goehringer), Home Based Business

Virginia Patterson Businessperson of the Year Award: George Karakehian, Art Source

Key Contributor of the Year: Rich Wobbekind, CU Leeds School

B2140 Young Businessperson: Matt Kolb, Pedal to Properties

Best Place to Work: Namaste Solar

Community Sustainability Leader: Elevations Credit Union

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement: Tom Eldridge, Tom's Tavern

2009

Members of Distinction: Barb Batt, U Creative Group; Lawrence Cunningham, Buffalo Sports Properties; Jim Lieberman, Array Biopharma

Business Person of the Year: Bob Morehouse, Vermilion

Volunteer of the Year: Karen Pickering, Hix Insurance Associates

2008

Members of Distinction: Benjamin Reed and Tyson Brawley, Goozmo, LLC; Chris Ratay, RE/MAX Alliance

Businessperson of the Year: Stephen Tebo, Tebo Development Company

Volunteer of the Year: Dan King, Boulder Outlook Hotel

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Virginia Patterson

2007

Members of Distinction: Melissa Dunning, Megalo Software Systems, Inc.; Cathi Hight, Hight Performance Group; Scott Monette, Flagstaff House

Businessperson of the Year: Ken Hotard, Boulder Area Realtor Association

Volunteer of the Year: Susan Osborn, Empowered for Life

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Bob Charles, B & J Enterprises

2006

Members of Distinction: Theresa Pickner; Debbie Thornholt, Silver Star Printing

Businessperson of the Year: Clair Beckmann

Volunteer of the Year: Michael Deragisch, University of Colorado

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement: Lane Earnest

2005

Member of the Century: Ed Regal

Business of the Century: Roche Colorado

Franny Reich Lifetime Achievement Award: Denis Nock

2004

Member of Distinction: Barb Truan

Businessperson of the Year: Steve Miller, Puddle Car Wash

Volunteer of the Year: Wendy Reynolds

Small Business of the Year: Illegal Pete's

2003

Members of Distinction: Joan Tallman, Colorado Business Bank; Judi Schulte, Inn on Mapleton Hill; Rich Wobbekind, CU Boulder

Businessperson of the Year: Bill Reynolds

Volunteer of the Year: Cathi Hight

Small Business of the Year: Nuf Said Advertising

2002

Members of Distinction: Mike Noesen, US Bank; Craig Reynolds, Lord & Reynolds Clair Beckmann; Karla Collins-Friar, Aegis Staffing

Businessperson of the Year: Frank Day

Volunteer of the Year: Ed Regal

2001

Members of Distinction: Jean Atwood, Atwood Company; Carlo Beuf, Rocky Mountain RAM; Barry Frangipane, Consume, Inc.

Businessperson of the Year: Alexander “Sandy” Bracken

Volunteer of the Year: John Tayer

2000

Members of Distinction: Catherine Bedell, Adopt a School Program, Barb Truan, Pat Engstrom, Doreen O’Donovan, Ken Hotard

Businessperson of the Year: John McFerran

Volunteer of the Year: Joanne Wheeler Smith, Granny Smith’s, Barry Cohen

1999

Members of Distinction: Josie Heath, Libby Cook & Michael Gilliland, Don Schmidt

Businessperson of the Year: Colleen Conant

Volunteer of the Year: Theresa Pickner

1998

Members of Distinction: Deborah Rosenberger, Bill Reynolds, Bruce Rose

Businessperson of the Year: Virginia Patterson

Volunteer of the Year: Bob Charles

1997

Members of Distinction: Gary Beels, Bill Hayes, Ed Regel, Jim Ziegler

Businessperson of the Year: Bob Greenlee

Volunteer of the Year: John Mozeliak

1996

Businessperson of the Year: Carol Riggs

Volunteer of the Year: Diana Royce Smith

1995

Businessperson of the Year: Denis Nock

Volunteer of the Year: Kris Urbonas