



MSUSM ALUMNI
DENVER

2024 Alumni Association Annual Report



Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Roadrunner Alumni,

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the Metropolitan State University of Denver Alumni Association annual report with you. Our vibrant and dynamic group's shared commitment to excellence and service has resulted in achieving significant milestones and making invaluable contributions to our alma mater.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce that alumni engagement has reached an all-time high. 10,826 graduates actively participated in various initiatives and events last year, surpassing 10,000 engaged alumni for the first time in the University's history. It is an epic triumph.

Other impressive accomplishments include completing the Rowdy statue, a permanent testament to an enduring MSU Denver spirit and the collective achievements of our alumni community; captivating and engaging audiences with inspiring alumni stories through the Bird Talk podcast; and distributing \$31,840 in scholarship funds to 21 students during the 2023-24 academic year with the Finish Line Scholarship Endowment, ensuring students can pursue their dream of earning a degree.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the Board of Directors has grown to its maximum of 19 members, underscoring our commitment to fostering inclusivity and representation by ensuring leadership reflects our diverse alumni community.

Your unwavering dedication and enthusiasm have been instrumental in driving these unprecedented successes, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your continued support and involvement. You are making a difference.

As the outgoing president, I would like to formally thank my fellow board members, the Alumni Relations staff, the Board of Trustees, President Janine Davidson, Ph.D., and the many others I have had the privilege to work with these past three years. We have achieved remarkable success and made lasting contributions to our University's legacy. As we look towards the future, let us continue to exemplify what it means to be a Roadrunner, showcasing our tenacity, grit and unwavering excellence.

Sincerely,

James J. Qualteri Jr.

Jim Qualteri '96

Outgoing President, MSU Denver Alumni Association Board of Directors



2023-2024 Alumni Association Board of Directors

Alejandra Colmenero	2015	Hospitality, Tourism & Events
Justin Darnall	2019	Aerospace Systems Engineering
Amy Dieterich	2015	Finance
Devon Drew	2014	Behavioral Sciences
Leon Duran	2015 / 2022	Criminal Justice / MBA
Sarena Espinoza	2018	Sport Management
Adama Segree-Evans	2008	Anthropology
Jameer Fitch	2020 / 2023	Legal Analytics and Organizational Leadership / MBA
Peter Giusti	1988	Aviation
Brad Kaplan	1982	Accounting
Travis Luther	2008	Behavioral Sciences
Amber Mozet	2006	Psychology
Jim Qualteri	1996	Criminal Justice
Rebecca Reid	2018	Communications Studies
Joe Rice	1989	History
Peter Sola	2015	Finance
Alyssa Svalberg	2018	Sport Management
Elisa Varela	2010	Speech Communications
Kayla Wright-Jackson	2017 / 2019	Human Performance & Sport / MHA

2023-2024 Alumni Association Staff

Brandi Rideout, Executive Director of Alumni Association

Heather Holzbauer-Schweitzer, Executive Assistant to the Alumni Association

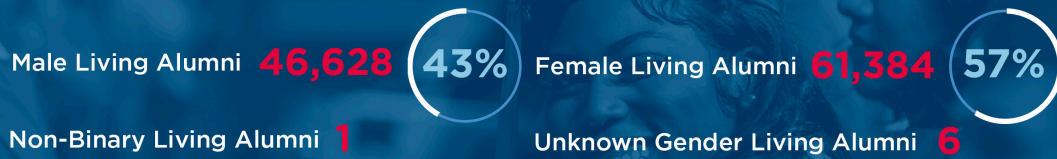


Outgoing President Jim Qualteri with Kayla Wright-Jackson at the 2023 Alumni Awards Luncheon.



Total Alumni 111,627

Total Living Alumni 108,019



Total Alumni Living in Colorado 81,372 75%

Total Alumni Living in Denver Metro 74,634 69%

Total Alumni Living Outside Colorado 24,265 22%

Living Alumni Veterans 4,571 Unknown Location Living Alumni 2,382

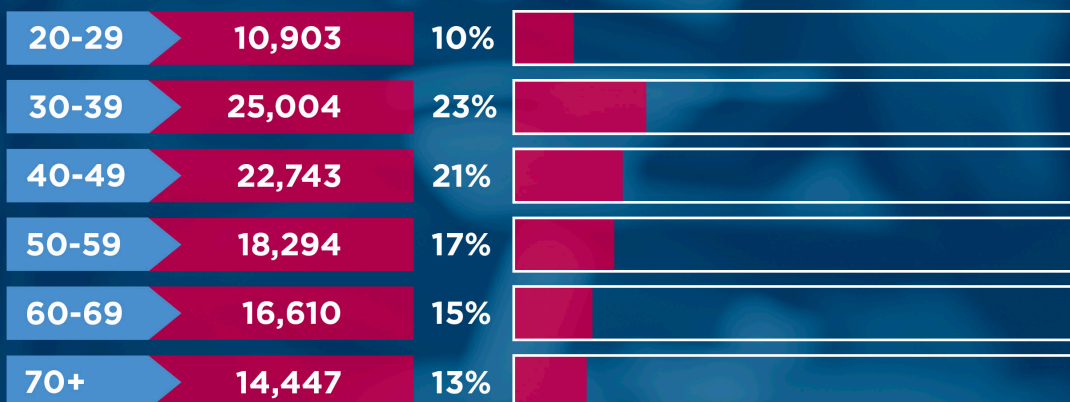
Living Alumni Athletes 1,853 Living First-Generation Alumni 27,677

Top 5 States outside of Colorado	California	2,645
	Texas	2,522
	Florida	1,936
	Arizona	1,639
	Washington	1,222

Top 3 Countries outside of U.S.		
Japan	Canada	United Kingdom
26	24	20

Top 5 Majors
Criminal Justice & Criminology
Psychology
Accounting
Management
Biology

Alumni By Age



Alumni Engagement

2023-2024 Alumni Engagement by the Numbers

The Alumni Association saw a record number of engaged alumni in 2023-2024 with **10,826** unique alumni connecting with the University in some way. Thank you for your continued support and involvement!

\$493,429

Donated to MSU Denver by alumni

Attended an event	1,193
Volunteered	819
Participated in a program, club or group	1,452
Accessed career services	2,279
Made a philanthropic donation	2,345

Age	Total
0-19	1
20-29	1,909
30-39	3,225
40-49	2,299
50-59	1,469
60-69	1,032
70-79	732
80-89	136
90-99	17

Ethnicity	Total	% of Engaged Alums
American Indian/Alaska Native	54	1%
Asian-Pacific	240	2%
Black/African-American	544	5%
Hispanic/Latinx	1,181	11%
White/Caucasian	4,447	41%

Location	Total	% of Engaged Alums
Living in Colorado	9,060	84%
Living outside of Colorado	1,744	16%
Top states outside of Colorado: Texas, California, Florida		

Gender	Total	% of Engaged Alums
Male	4,748	44%
Female	6,071	56%

Graduate Status	Total	% of Engaged Alums
Veteran	748	7%
First-generation college student	4,002	37%



Four students took part in the Alumni Association's scholarship contest during Homecoming, with a total of \$2,500 awarded.

2023-2024 Alumni Events



Scan the QR code for the current alumni events schedule.

Total alumni events: **84**
Total alumni attendees: **1,193**

Total in-person events: **69**
Total virtual events: **10**
Total hybrid events: **5**

2023-2024 Event Highlights

Homecoming 2023

Over 400 alumni participated in at least one of the 16 events during Homecoming 2023. Featured events included: Women of MSU Denver Networking Reception, College of Letters, Arts & Sciences Reception, Tailgate Party, Roadrunners 5k, Alumni Awards Luncheon and Roadrunners Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet.

2nd Annual Roadrunners Authors Book Fair - Jan. 17, 2024

25 Roadrunner authors showcased their published work to over 100 guests at the 2nd Annual Book Fair. This annual event has become a signature experience

for our community which provides the opportunity to highlight our talented alumni authors.

Alumni Weekend - Jan. 19-20, 2024

125 alumni joined us for our 2nd Annual Alumni Weekend at Roadrunners Men's and Women's basketball. The weekend featured campus tours, free admission to the basketball games, social at the games and an Alumni Association-sponsored half-court shot scholarship contest.

Spring Alumni Weekend - April 13-14, 2024

100 alumni joined us for our 2nd Annual Spring Alumni Weekend at Roadrunners

softball. The weekend featured campus tours, free admission to the softball games, socials and a scholarship contest.

Roadrunner Influencer Receptions

The Alumni Association hosted two receptions highlighting unique programs and areas on campus. In the fall, guests were invited to visit the state-of-the-art cybersecurity lab hosted by Richard Mac Namee. They received an exclusive tour and the opportunity to talk with Richard and students in the program. In the spring, they highlighted the senior student art exhibition at MSU Denver's Center for Visual Art. Save the date for an alumni-only art exhibit in 2025!

2023-2024 Alumni Awards

The Alumni Association recognized 14 alumni award winners at the 2023 Alumni Awards Luncheon. Congratulations to the following Roadrunners who have excelled in their profession and their community:



Laura Richardson



Michael Seeley



Rachella Seeley



Adama Evans-Segree



Hadiya Evans



Garrett Chism

Distinguished Alumni of the Year: Gen. Laura Richardson '86

Alumni Philanthropists of the Year: Michael and Rachella Seeley '72

Alumni Volunteers of the Year: Adama Evans-Segree '08 and Hadiya Evans '07

Alumni Campus Employee of the Year: Garrett Chism '06

10 Under 10

- Horacio Borja-Duran '19
- Justin Darnall '19
- Sarena Espinoza '18
- Yvonne Garcia Bardwell '16
- Diana Ibarra '13
- Abby Lundien '17
- Isahar Mendez-Flores '18
- Brenda Rodriguez-Vera '21
- Ezequiel Villanueva-Ruiz '22
- Kayla Wright-Jackson '19



Lifetime Achievement Award

The 2nd Annual Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Roy Alexander at the annual Golden Nest Luncheon on May 3, 2024. Roy is a 1974 graduate who celebrated his 50-year reunion with fellow classmates at the luncheon. A retired Chief Financial Officer, Roy spent his career supporting the Denver community through service to various organizations and boards including the MSU Denver Alumni Association and Community Cabinet.



Honorary Alumni

The Alumni Association Board of Directors granted honorary alumni status to Barbara Grogan, a long-time supporter of MSU Denver. Barb is a passionate advocate for DACA students and has served as chair of the Board of Trustees and as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors.



Michael and Rachella Seeley, pictured with Rowdy and President Janine Davidson, Ph.D., received the MSU Denver Alumni Philanthropists of the Year at the 2023 Alumni Awards Luncheon.

FY24 Financial Report

In addition to the regular expenses of the association for signature events like Alumni Weekends and Homecoming, the primary focus of the board was the completion of the Rowdy the Roadrunner statue, which was installed on campus in January 2024.

The board revised its Finish Line Scholarship fund agreement to allow for more flexibility in offering scholarships to returning students to promote retention, in addition to its original intent of providing degree completion scholarships to students that had previously stopped out. This resulted in 21 scholarships being awarded and a donation to the Barbara Grogan Annual Scholarship.

Alumni Association Program Fund Summary

Beginning balance		\$88,744.10
Revenue	<i>3% Distribution from Foundation</i>	\$16,700.00
	<i>Commission - USI Insurance</i>	\$2,646.98
	<i>Donations</i>	\$1,376.74
	<i>Other</i>	\$85,793.60
Expenses		(\$129,156.13)
Ending balance		\$66,105.29

Finish Line Scholarship Endowment Summary

Beginning balance		\$263,257.04
Revenue	<i>Donations</i>	\$300.00
	<i>Commission - The Commencement Group</i>	\$4,815.80
Ending balance		\$268,372.84

Finish Line Scholarship Distribution Fund Summary

Beginning balance		\$127,854.22
Revenue	<i>Endowment Distribution</i>	\$11,861.11
	<i>Donations</i>	\$306.20
Distributions	<i>21 students/1 fund</i>	(\$31,840.22)
Ending balance		\$108,181.31

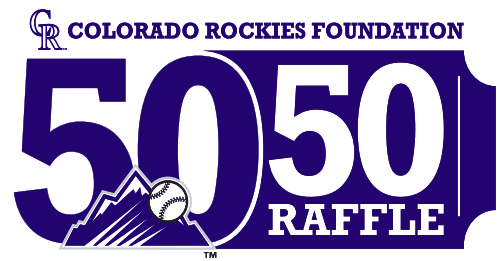
“In 2021, I decided to come back to MSU Denver and finish the degree that I started. I actually ended up pushing back that semester because I had to figure out how to pay for it, and that’s when I found the Finish Line Scholarship. It’s definitely taken a lot off my plate, not having to work that second job when I already work full-time, and just alleviating that stressor.”

Alysha Harlan,
2023 graduate, Finish Line Scholarship recipient



The Rowdy the Roadrunner statue was proudly presented to the University in January 2024.

Colorado Rockies 50/50 Raffle



2023 Season Summary:

Total volunteers: **956**

Total raised for MSU Denver: **\$143,000**

In 2023, the Alumni Association completed its fifth season as the official non-profit partner of the Colorado Rockies Foundation facilitating the 50/50 Raffle at all Rockies home games. The association is responsible for maintaining a Bingo-Raffle license with the State of Colorado in addition to recruiting, training, scheduling and managing all volunteers to sell raffle tickets throughout the games and in exchange, the association donates a portion of the raffle profits back to MSU Denver programs, departments and scholarships. The association splits 50% of the jackpot with the Colorado Rockies Foundation.

Alumni Association Hosts MSU Denver Night with the Rockies

Over 200 Roadrunners joined us for MSU Denver Night with the Rockies at Coors Field on June 21, 2024. Each year, the association hosts MSU Denver-themed nights with the Colorado Rockies, Colorado Avalanche, Denver Nuggets and Colorado Rapids. Watch our event schedule for upcoming dates!



Members of the Club Cheerleading team, Alumni Association Board Members and Rowdy the Roadrunner were recognized on field prior to MSU Denver Night with the Rockies on June 21, 2024

[Click here to learn more about how to volunteer.](#)



[Click here to purchase a raffle ticket online \(must be in the state of Colorado\).](#)



Get Involved

Bird Talk – A Podcast about MSU Denver Alumni, their careers and their lives

Hosted by 2021 graduate Jamie Hurst, assistant vice president for Strategic Engagement, “Bird Talk” is a fascinating glimpse into the lives and careers of the University’s alumni, featuring in-depth interviews highlighting their unique journeys and insights about how their time at MSU Denver shaped their success.

“Bird Talk” offers a diverse range of perspectives and experiences from people such as entrepreneurs, educators, artists and scientists, making it a must-listen for anyone interested in the impact of higher education. New episodes are released on the first of each month.

Roadrunners are encouraged to recommend alumni for future “Bird Talk” episodes. To submit your suggestion or for more information, contact Ruby Matheny, assistant director of Alumni Engagement, at rmathen1@msudenver.edu.

Roadrunner Alumni Networks

790 Roadrunner Alumni have joined one of our existing networks. Roadrunner Alumni Networks are groups of alumni who are drawn together based on common interests and shared experience. Interacting in-person and virtually, these communities encompass all divisions, graduating classes, regions and professions, and reflect a remarkable diversity of concerns and activities. Roadrunner Networks can be based on a variety of things including student activity involvement, professional or career affiliation, identity or geography (regional, state based, etc.). These groups offer many benefits and services to members such as:

- Connecting and networking opportunities
- Professional and personal development
- Education and exploration
- Information and resource sharing
- A sense of community and shared values
- Service to the University

Consider one of our existing networks or reach out to learn how to start a new one!

- Alumni Campus Employee Network
- Black Alumni Network
- College of Business Recent Alumni Network
- Criminal Justice Alumni Network
- Latinx Alumni Network
- LGBTQ+ Alumni Network
- Master of Business Administration Alumni Network
- Master of Professional Accountancy Alumni Network
- Master of Health Administration Alumni Network
- Sport Management Alumni Network
- Veteran Alumni Network
- Women of MSU Denver Alumni Network
- Fort Collins Alumni Network
- Colorado Springs Alumni Network
- Phoenix, Arizona, Alumni Network



Scan the QR code to listen to Bird Talk or follow wherever you get your podcasts.



Scan the QR code for more information on alumni affinity groups.



BLACK ALUMNI NETWORK



VETERAN ALUMNI NETWORK



Ft. Collins Alumni Network



Master of Business Administration Alumni Network