

# LIANE MORRISON

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Education public policy leader and strategist with 18 years of experience focused on initiative design, multi-layered partnerships, project leadership and expansion, stakeholder engagement and rapid COVID-19 response. Led collaboration at the state level, as well as school and school district levels, implementing evidence-based best practices to advance academic achievement and engagement in learning, executing outcomes-based measurement and developing organizational and program budgets. Effective cross-cultural team leader, influencing education leaders at various levels.

### Areas of Expertise:

- Strategy Development
- Project Leadership
- Program Execution
- Management & Leadership
- Policy Implementation
- Community and Parent Engagement
- Stakeholder Negotiations
- Team Development

## EXPERIENCE

### MILE HIGH UNITED WAY

*Senior Director*

*Director*

*Project Manager*

Denver, CO

2021

2019-2021

2016-2018

Co-design and lead United for Schools (UFS), a program to increase school attendance and family engagement so that students and families in under-resourced neighborhoods have access to academic opportunities proven to increase educational outcomes.

- Establish partnerships with district and school leaders across three school districts resulting in multi-layered efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism in seven Title I schools serving 2,600 students
- Cultivate relationships with and regularly convene key stakeholders across early learning and education sectors to validate strategic program direction
- Develop parent leadership programs with community experts and subsequently implemented them in schools to strengthen parent voice
- Conduct neighborhood assessments in four communities to understand root causes of chronic absenteeism for each community, and used outcomes to address economic, racial, and social barriers to school attendance
- Steward partnerships with city and county agencies to enhance wraparound support to families and students
- Direct grants and resource allocations to partner schools in support of program objectives
- Partner with evaluators to ensure robust measurement around each program component
- Build cross-department relationships to support program initiatives
- Collaborate with organizational finance team to develop multi-year program budgets
- Recruit, hire, and manage cross-cultural program staff and support their professional development

Designed and implemented the following three-pronged effort focused on Covid-19 pandemic stabilization and recovery, providing:

- Computers, broadband, and parent technology training so parents can support remote learning, communicate effectively with teachers and schools, and participate in our economy
- Social-emotional learning grants to schools to strengthen the mental health systems and tools available to students, families, and staff
- Client aid to stabilize families by offering rent, utility, and food assistance

**GREAT EDUCATION COLORADO | Denver, CO****Executive Director****2005-2015**

Co-founded an education nonprofit dedicated to harnessing the power of grassroots activism and diverse, inclusive coalitions to stimulate increased and equitable investment in all Colorado public schools, students, and teachers.

- Built a legislative advocacy organization and grew a network of supporters from 400 to 25,000 statewide to advocate for more education funding at the local and state levels
- Facilitated discussions between (and with) legislators and stakeholders, including school administrators, parents, and locally elected officials resulting in new alliances
- Communicated complex public policies, including Colorado's school finance system, to multiple audiences, including legislators, to clarify the issues surrounding education funding
- Identified and recruited a team of senior professionals to develop legislative policy options and state-wide education efforts to increase education funding
- Managed constituent relations to ensure all community voices were engaged in identifying core issues
- Recruited 60 new board members over a 10-year period and created & consulted with multiple board committees
- Led development efforts including individual funder cultivation, grant writing and event planning
- Developed financial objectives and annual budgets and managed monthly financial reports

**Independent Consultant | Denver, CO****1996-1997; 2001-2004**

- Provided international marketing, research and financing options to environmental technology and renewable energy companies

**REGIS UNIVERSITY | Denver CO****Adjunct Economics Professor****1995-1998**

- Taught micro- and macroeconomics to graduate students pursuing an MBA

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY | Washington, D.C.****International Economist****1990-1994**

- Analyzed the economic, political, and financial changes in Eastern European countries during the transition to market-oriented economies
- Evaluated U.S economic and financial policies toward key Latin American and Caribbean countries
- Created briefings for upper-level U.S. government officials used in bilateral and multilateral negotiations

**FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF KANSAS CITY | Denver, CO****Bank Examiner****1984-1988**

- Analyzed the financial soundness of bank holding companies and commercial banks for the Federal Reserve System of Kansas City

**EDUCATION**

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**GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY | Washington, D.C.**

MA-International Affairs (distinction in economics)

**1990****COLORADO COLLEGE | Colorado Springs, CO**

BA-Business Economics

**1984****ADDITIONAL DATA**

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Board Treasurer | SOAR Charter School

Cyclist; swimmer; skier