

BUELL FOUNDATION APPOINTS TWO NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

With ties to rural Colorado and having rich professional experience, the appointees bring diverse backgrounds and added depth of knowledge to the Foundation.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Denver, CO—The [Buell Foundation](https://www.buellfoundation.org) announced today that its Board of Trustees has named two additional board members: Ellen Roberts from Durango, CO, and Douglas Price from Montrose, CO.

Buell Foundation Board Chairman, Reginald Washington, remarked, “As we continue transitioning into new leadership at the Buell Foundation, the Board has carefully considered our priorities in filling these Trustee positions. After a thorough search, we are confident that Ellen Roberts and Douglas Price will bring both depth and breadth that bolsters our focus on enhancing our role in advocacy and strengthening statewide partnerships in early childhood, especially in rural and underserved communities in Colorado.”

Ellen Roberts is an attorney and former Colorado State Legislator from 2007-2016, where she was the sponsor/founder and legislator Co-Chair of the Colorado Youth Advisory Council. She also held high-ranking leadership positions as Senate President Pro Tempore and Chairwoman of the Judiciary Committee, the Wildfire Matters Committee, and the Water Resources Review Committee.



Most recently, from 2017 to 2021, she worked as a Natural Resources Consultant, focused on forest health and watershed protection issues in Southwest Colorado. She developed an innovative conservation finance model known as the Southwest Wildfire Impact Fund. Other pursuits in this area include The Nature Conservancy Colorado Chapter and Mountain Studies Institute of Durango, in addition to Special Counsel for Trout Raley, a Colorado water law firm.

From 1987-2008, Roberts worked in private practice, including as Partner at the law firm Roberts & Steelman, P.C. in Durango. During this time, she also served as a contract attorney for the Ute Mountain Ute of Towaoc, CO and Southern Ute Indian Housing Authorities of Ignacio, CO, as well as having clerked for the DNA People’s Legal Services (Navajo) in Chinle, AZ.

Beyond her professional achievements, Roberts is an active and engaged community member. She currently sits on the Mountain Studies Institute Board of Directors. She previously served on the Board of Trustees at Fort Lewis College in Durango, the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation Board as a founding member, and was appointed as gubernatorial Director at History Colorado.

“It is such an honor to be on the board of the Buell Foundation—a name synonymous with selfless generosity and such meaningful contributions to the entire state’s wellbeing,” Roberts said. “Working on

early childhood issues is a monumental and necessary task for Colorado to remain a healthy and vibrant state for all generations to call home. I look forward to working with a terrific board and staff and being able to bring a rural Coloradan’s perspective and ideas to the table,” she added.

Steve ErkenBrack, Buell Foundation CEO, stated, “Ellen Roberts has been a champion for rural Colorado for more than 30 years. Her repeated, successful elections to the state legislature reflect her understanding of the people and their concerns. She has dedicated her law practice and community work to serving all populations in Western and Southern Colorado. We are thrilled to have her join the Buell Foundation.”

With family history that dates back five generations in Colorado’s agricultural and ranching communities, Douglas Price is a proud native from Montrose. In 1977, while attending the University of Colorado, he began part-time work as a teller at FirstBank and eventually worked up the ladder to President of FirstBank of Boulder, then on to a larger market as President of the Denver operation, and eventually presiding over FirstBank Colorado.



In 1999, motivated to pursue his passion, Price left banking and collaborated with Buell and other Colorado foundations to co-found Educare/Qualistar—a nonprofit that pioneered a standardized rating system for child care facilities that was a predecessor to Colorado’s current licensing system managed by the Colorado Department of Early Childhood.

In 2009, Price became the Chief Executive Officer for Rocky Mountain PBS (RMPBS) and grew the income from \$9 million to \$17 million, with membership also rising exponentially, thus making RMPBS the largest membership organization in Colorado. During his tenure, Price was awarded three Emmys for projects that examined the plight of disadvantaged populations and women in our culture and economy.

Since 2016, Price has called Citizens State Bank his professional home where he is Chairman and CEO of CSBO Holdings—the bank’s parent company. He also has twice served on the Board of the Iliff School of Theology where its mission to shape the culture in positive ways is deeply meaningful to him.

“The Buell Foundation has been an inspiration and a partner in the civic projects I’ve worked upon most of my adult life. Service on the board will allow me in a small way to repay the Foundation for its support and members of the board for their guidance and mentorship,” commented Price.

“Doug Price brings to Buell his long-standing focus on the needs of early childhood, dating back to the 1990s, combined with an outstanding career in business and banking,” said ErkenBrack. “His roots in Colorado are deep and reflect his passion to make this a better state for our children and grandchildren.”

ABOUT THE BUELL FOUNDATION

Founded in 1962, the Buell Foundation was born out of the philanthropic interests of Temple Buell, a noted 20th century architect who designed more than 300 buildings in Colorado and the surrounding region. The Buell Foundation partners with communities across Colorado and is currently focused on grantmaking that supports positive early childhood development and teen pregnancy prevention. Over its history, the Buell Foundation has awarded more than \$200 million in grants and has typically contributed more than 60% of those funds to rural and under-resourced communities.