

GET TO KNOW THE PANEL



EVENT FACILITATOR

Angela Engel, M.A., is a facilitator, writer and educator. She is a force for positive change with more than three decades of experience engaging

communities, catalyzing action and empowering voices. Her books and articles shed light on critical social issues and offer practical solutions.

Engel teaches graduate studies for the at-risk and alternative education program at Marian University preparing future educators to make a difference in the lives of underserved students. As the director of an education nonprofit, Angela has led numerous successful initiatives improving the lives of countless individuals and communities locally and nationally. Through Colorado State University's Family Leadership Training Institute, Angela has empowered over 1,500 people with the skills and knowledge to advocate effectively for their communities.

Whether working with small groups or large gatherings, Engel creates inclusive and inspiring spaces where everyone feels heard and valued. Her expertise in conflict resolution and consensus building helps diverse stakeholders collaborate effectively to achieve shared goals. She brings an authentic voice to the decision-making table, transforms lives through education and advocacy and leaves a lasting positive impact on the communities she serves.



James LaRue is the director of the Garfield County (Colorado) Public Library District. Author of "The New Inquisition: Understanding and Managing Intellectual Freedom Challenges," (2007) and "On Censorship: A Public Librarian Examines Cancel Culture in the US," (2023) LaRue has been a public library director for many years, as well as a weekly newspaper columnist and cable TV host. From January of 2016 to November of 2018, he was director of the Freedom to Read Foundation, and ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. He has written, spoken, and consulted extensively on intellectual freedom issues, leadership and organizational development, community engagement, and the future of libraries.



Kristi Burton Brown is the Executive Vice President at the Advance Colorado Institute. She is the former Chairwoman of the Colorado Republican Party — the first woman to be elected in 40 years and the youngest Chair in Colorado Republican history.

Kristi is a constitutional attorney, focusing on First Amendment and Equal Protection issues and is admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court. She is a former Associate Scholar with the Charlotte Lozier Institute and a current board member of the Boy Scouts' Greater Colorado Council and the Colorado Family Life Center.

As the former managing editor of a news site, Kristi tutors 4th-6th graders in grammar and writing and is a guest host for the Dan Caplis Show on 630 KHOW. She lives with her family in Douglas County.