

Jahi Simbai

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Executive Summary

Strategic STEM workforce development professional with extensive experience leading teams and programs spanning government, academia, and industry. Skilled at forging cross-sector partnerships and delivering impactful workforce strategies that align with organizational priorities. AI-conversant and adept at using Microsoft and other tools for data analysis and interpretation.

Core Competencies

- Workforce Strategy & Leadership
- Talent Pipeline Development
- Building Federal, Academic, and Corporate Partnerships
- Budget Management & Operations Oversight
- Mentorship
- Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach
- Delivering Data-Driven and Informative Presentations

Professional Experience

Senior Manager, Workforce Development & University Partnerships Human Resources | May 2019-Present

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) | U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

- Lead strategic STEM workforce programs spanning K–12 education, collegiate internships, postdoctoral research support, and faculty partnerships
- Integrate and manage operational teams, specializing in increasing productivity and employee professional growth
- Manage programs through changing internal and federal directives and priorities, as well as budget constraints
- Collect and analyze data to find, evaluate, and implement optimized program upgrades and improvements
- Manage operational and program budgets ~\$2M including direct and indirect funds, allowable and unallowable expenditures
- Hiring, onboarding, and off-boarding staff. Developing job requisitions, interview frameworks, performance management
- Awarded Distinguished Member of Operations Staff (DMOS) designation in 2024 for leadership in workforce strategy and national STEM program development

Colorado School of Mines (Mines) / Oct 2000-May 2019

Assistant Dean, Office of Graduate Studies | Jun 2013-May 2019

- Directed graduate recruiting, admissions, and student services, overseeing a \$7.5M+ budget across institutional, state, and federal sources. Guided policy development and technology improvements to streamline enrollment and enhance student success

Director of Graduate Recruiting and Admissions, Office of Graduate Studies | Jan 2006-Jun 2013

- Managed graduate recruiting and admissions

Associate Director, Minority Engineering Program (MEP) | Oct 2000-Jan 2006

- Managed pre-collegiate recruitment programs

Technical Support Representative | Oct 1999-Oct 2000

NCUBE/SkyConnect

- Serviced business-to-business cable customers in digital ad insertion industry

Structural Analyst | Jun 1995-Oct 1999

Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corporation

- Analyzed space structures through finite element modeling and other techniques

Education

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management – University of Colorado Boulder

Bachelor of Science (BS), Aerospace Engineering – University of Colorado Boulder

Board Service & Professional Affiliations

Board Member, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) – 2019–Present

Executive Committee, Secretary 2025–Present

President, National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates (2021–2023)

Board Member, Lutheran Medical Center Foundation – 2019–2023

Commissioner, City of Wheat Ridge, CO Planning Commission – 2019–2022

Select Panels & Speaking Engagements

- NREL Collegiate Visits – what is the DOE, what is NREL and its programs; lab tours
- Presenter, University of Wyoming – Workforce Development in Energy (2025)
- Host, Colorado Science & Engineering Policy Fellows – NREL site visit (2024)
- Panelist, STEM Innovation Forum – Denver, CO (2023)
- Project Peer Reviewer, DOE Building Technologies Office – Washington, DC (2023)
- Panelist, University of Wyoming – DOE Laboratory Panel (2023)
- Panelist, Bureau of Land Management – Workforce Discussion (2022)
- Panelist, Oppenheimer Science & Energy Leadership Program (OSELP) (2022)
- Presenter, Rocky Mountain INFORMS Meeting – Colorado School of Mines (2021)
- Presenter, Frontiers of STEAM Thought Leaders' Discussion Series – FAMU (virtual) (2020)
- Panelist, Montana Department of Energy (DOE) National Lab Day – Montana Tech (2019)