

SISTERS IN ENERGY

Stephanie Knight

For over a decade, Stephanie Knight has been a champion for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. While her initial involvement began informally in the nonprofit sector, Stephanie has carried a passion for her work throughout her career as it has grown and evolved. Often the only woman of color in the workplace, Stephanie experienced a lack of representation that is simultaneously the stem and purpose of her work.



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In 2023, Stephanie achieved many milestones in her role as CEO at Colorado Inclusive Economy. The CIE Annual Summit drew over 300 attendees and featured engaging discussions from a number of panelists including students from GlobalMindED among other industry professionals. CIE was also proud to host equity strategist and author, Tara Jaye Frank, as the keynote speaker of the summit. Additionally, Stephanie's facilitation of safe spaces for dialogue, notably in response to significant events like Dr. Claudine Gay's resignation from Harvard University, highlight her dedication to fostering open and inclusive environments.

Stephanie's impact can be seen in numerous spaces including the energy sector. CIE has been awarded a grant from the Colorado Workforce Development & Working Families Party to provide onsite evaluation of DEI best practices for Colorado companies in the energy sector. In addition, CIE was awarded a grant to present at the first Clean Tech Camp 2024 and lead a session on DEI and creating inclusive culture in the start-up and clean energy sectors. The conference is expected to have 300 attendees.

Motivated by the need to address burnout and the lack of opportunities for people of color, Stephanie draws inspiration from preceding generations while pushing progress for future ones. In 2024, her vision extends toward strengthening programming at CIE and incorporating strategies to increase accountability for businesses. Also, Stephanie plans to collaborate with the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business to refresh its curriculum to center around DEI principals.

This recognition of Stephanie goes beyond her personal achievement. It signifies the important role she has played in driving diversity and inclusion in the energy space and beyond.