

# **CBI**

## **Awards Ceremony**

***October 24, 2018***



**Commitment to Colorado**

Photo by Judy Kinyon  
Crime Information Management Unit

## **Event Overview**

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**Lunch—Served Buffet Style Beginning at Noon**

**Awards Ceremony Opening Remarks—CBI Director John Camper**

**Remarks—CDPS Deputy Executive Director Bec Spiess**

**Award Presentations**

**Photos—Throughout the Event**

**Gift Basket Giveaway—Throughout the Event**



**Photo by Gina Mann  
Pueblo Forensic Services**

## Verbal Recognition

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### CBI FIRST Winners—2017-18

The CBI adopted the core values of Family, Integrity, Respect, Service and Teamwork (FIRST) in 2016. Each quarter, 10 CBI employees are celebrated by being provided a CBI FIRST pin and other recognition. Among the CBI FIRST award winners, one person is selected as Employee of the Quarter. Congratulations to the employees identified as the CBI FIRST winners in 2017-18.

Lance Allen  
Luke Anderson  
Jana Bates  
Arlene Bengé  
Lynda Brinkerhoff-Keller  
Stephen Brumbaugh  
Kara Bynum  
Nichole Burnett  
Judy Carlson  
Mary Clawson  
Sean Edwards

Jeanna Feldmann  
Darla Hackworth  
Jason Hebrard  
Kailee Henson  
Megan Honderd  
Julie Knapp  
Raoul Maes  
Hillary Manger  
Kayleigh Matook  
Justin Maxwell  
Sandi Means

Barbara Mondragon  
Anita Palmerino  
Peggy Pingel  
Cheryl Pool  
Collin Reece  
Caitlin Rogers  
Trent Rundquist  
Heather Sczech  
Nickie Starkey  
Kris Stoch  
Melissa Tafoya

Carrie Thor  
Carol Tschirgi  
Neilsun Valenski  
Denise Vensel  
Dan Volz  
Christie Walker  
Jamie Walsh  
Josh Ward  
Jodi Wright  
Lisa Yoshida  
John Zamora



Photo by Christine Duplan  
InstaCheck Unit

## Verbal Recognition

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### Rocky Mountain Division of the International Association for Identification Award

**Jan LeMay  
Trent Rundquist**

In May, during the 2018 Rocky Mountain Division of the International Association for Identification (RMDIAI) conference, Jan LeMay was honored with the Jay Jensen Distinguished Service Award. Jan's effort in advancing knowledge and professionalism in several branches of the identification sciences is unparalleled. During his career spanning more than two decades, Jan has served as a crime scene investigator, fingerprint and footwear examiner, and teacher. Author of articles, publications and books, Jan is responsible for introducing the standard footwear collection practice used across the country.

The (RMDIAI) Outstanding Achievement Award was designed to recognize individuals for their contributions to the advancement of forensics. In May, during the 2018 RMDIAI conference, Trent Rundquist was awarded the RMDIAI Outstanding Achievement Award for his work as the Technical Leader of the CBI Latent Print and Footwear/Tire Track sections. During Trent's time as Technical Leader, he guided the section through ISO accreditation, trained numerous new fingerprint analysts, and provided valuable leadership to the section.

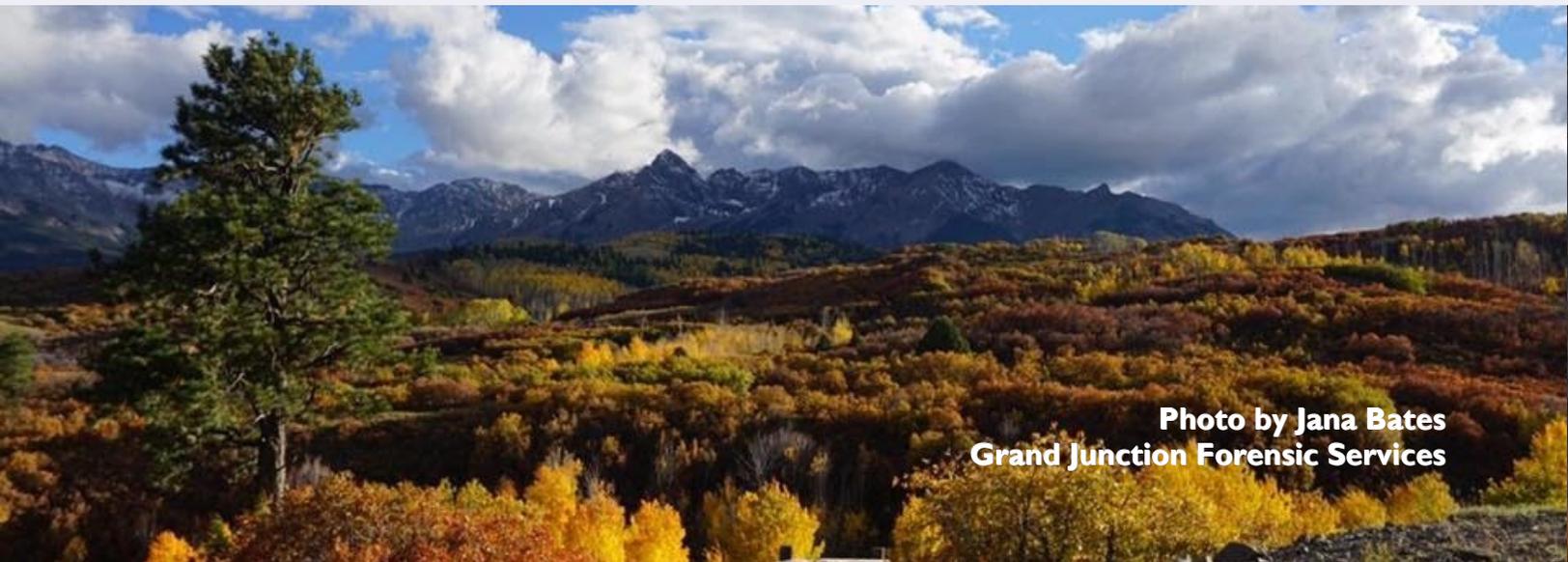
### Unit Citation—CBI Biometric Identification & Records Unit

When citizens contact the CBI Identity Theft and Fraud Victim Assistance program, it is oftentimes because they become aware of crimes listed on their criminal history that do not belong to them. Sadly, this occurs when the victim is arrested for a crime they did not commit.

When this occurs, CBI victim advocates work in concert with members of the Biometric Identification & Records Unit (BIRU) to complete a records challenge. The dedicated BIRU team consistently demonstrates compassion and care as they quickly work to conduct comprehensive fingerprint comparisons, facial recognition assessments, and other techniques to clear a victim's criminal history.

These dedicated professionals go above and beyond to ensure warrants and cases are dismissed, coordinate with court representatives, prosecutors' offices, and law enforcement agencies to ensure that these cases are handled in a way that will allow the CBI to correct the record for the victim.

Additionally, these extraordinary BIRU employees are often able to identify the person who actually committed the crimes and notify law enforcement. This not only helps investigators in solving the original case, but also provides ample evidence of identity theft allowing for new charges to be filed. Without the commitment to excellence and the personal human touch provided by the BIRU team, responding to these victims of identity theft would be much more difficult and time consuming.



**Photo by Jana Bates  
Grand Junction Forensic Services**

## Verbal Recognition

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### Citation—International DNA Hit of the Year Runner-up

#### Chiara Wuensch

Heather Hoffman, a 23-year-old Ft. Collins woman, disappeared while walking home from work at a local McDonald's at the conclusion of her shift in the early morning hours of June 21, 2017. Tragically, seventeen hours later, her body was recovered from Sheldon Lake at City Park in Fort Collins with few leads for detectives. DNA evidence collected from the victim was submitted to the Northern Colorado Regional Forensic Laboratory for testing, and four days later, a suspect was identified in the case.

Chiara Wuensch worked nearly around the clock to produce the DNA report that ultimately led to the CODIS match to a registered sex offender in Kentucky. The suspect in the case was arrested on June 28th. Heather's perpetrator pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Not only is the CBI recognizing the work of Chiara and the rest of the CBI Forensic Services team in this investigation, this case was honored by the Gordon Thomas Honeywell Government Affairs organization as the runner-up for the international 'DNA Hit of the Year' in 2017.

### Citation—Leadership in Creating Black Market Marijuana Team

#### Christian Mohr

In the fall of 2017, the CBI was tasked with crafting a detailed proposal for the development of a newly formed investigative team to combat the illicit cultivation and distribution of black market marijuana across Colorado.

As a member of the CBI Investigations section, Christian came forward to provide exceptional leadership in this process. With minimal resources and abundant determination, he spent countless hours researching, developing, and initiating various components of the project for members of the CDPS and the Colorado Legislature to consider. His work to develop the blueprint for this new CBI investigative team stretched nearly six months, and he performed these duties along with his role as the Agent in Charge overseeing the Bureau's Fugitive and Sex Offender units.

During this entire process, Christian was methodical in his approach in creating a successful business plan for the unit. The project included a strategic alignment/operational impact guide, project risk assessment, implementation strategy and ultimately an executive summary provided to stakeholders.

The Colorado Legislature ultimately funded the CBI Black Market Marijuana Interdiction Team, in large part because of Christian's superior efforts and leadership throughout the planning process.



Photo by Huyen Vu  
Pueblo Forensic Services

## **Citizen Appreciation Award**

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### **Dedication to Raising Awareness for Missing Persons in Colorado—Laura Saxton**

Laura Saxton is a tremendous supporter of law enforcement, and especially of the CBI and its mission to serve on the forefront of providing investigative and analytical assistance for missing persons cases across the state.

Ms. Saxton has been deeply affected by tragedy. In 2013, her daughter, Kelsie Schelling, went missing in Pueblo after traveling to the area to see her boyfriend, Donthe Lucas. Kelsie was pregnant with Lucas's child at the time. Kelsie has never been seen again. After an extensive investigation by the Pueblo Police Department and the CBI, Lucas was arrested and charged in the death of Kelsie in 2017.

With each day that has passed since Kelsie's disappearance, Ms. Saxton has never stopped fighting. She developed an annual memorial walk in Kelsie's honor and she coordinated with the Legislature to create Colorado Missing Person Day, a time when families of the missing come together to remember their loved ones, and to reaffirm their commitment to finding the missing. Additionally, Ms. Saxton serves on the CBI Cold Case Task Force providing leadership and support for missing persons cases across Colorado.

The CBI presents Ms. Saxton with a Citizen Appreciation Award for her tireless dedication to raise awareness and support for families in search of loved ones who are missing.

## **CBI Outstanding Service Award**

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### **CBI Arson Dog Program—Jerry Means**

The CBI established its Arson Dog program in 2000. For 18 years, Jerry and his K9s have been part of the effort to respond to more than 1,593 suspicious fires across Colorado, providing critical investigative information to the public safety community.

Jerry, along with his partners during his career, K9s Erin, Sadie, and Riley, have not only offered investigative support at dozens of fire scenes each year, but also served as superior ambassadors for the program and the CBI. Jerry and the K9s have been featured in children's books, at countless community events, and even on the red carpet in Hollywood. The shining jewel of Jerry's work to increase awareness about the program was the creation of the National Fire Dog Monument. In coordination with local sculptor Austin Weishel, the piece serves as a tribute to the Fire Dog program, and is proudly displayed near the Capitol building in Washington D.C.

We thank Jerry for his service to the CBI and wish him continued success as a member of the Colorado Department of Public Safety Division of Fire Prevention and Control.



**Photo by Wendy Robertson  
Arvada Forensic Services**

## Team Excellence Awards

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### Exceptional Response to Multiple Western Slope Criminal Incidents

**Brooks Bennett**  
**Jeff Brown**  
**Jennifer Dahlberg**  
**Jim Fuller**  
**Julie Fulton**

**Jack Haynes**  
**Julie Knapp**  
**Cynthia Kramer**  
**Breanne Leasure**

**Kayleigh Matook**  
**Rosa Perez**  
**Lincoln Pogge**  
**Collin Reese**

**Matt Richardson**  
**Alex Rugh**  
**Heather Sczech**  
**Denise Vensel**  
**John Zamora**

On March 11, 2018, the Pagosa Springs Police Department requested assistance from CBI Field and Crime Scene agents involving a burglary/homicide incident occurring in the town. Several CBI agents and crime scene responders traveled to the scene, and also received analytical support from the CBI Grand Junction Regional Office. Due to the complexities of the investigation, the team spent multiple days at this scene. Just a few miles away in the county, another group of CBI agents and crime scene responders were called to assist in a murder/suicide investigation.

Later that week, several CBI agents and members of the Forensic Services section were called upon to testify in the murder trial of suspect Chad Nystrom, a case stemming from a CBI-led homicide investigation occurring in Archuleta County in 2017.

Although the demands on the team were extraordinary, they continually pushed forward to provide superior service to not only law enforcement, but also the citizens of southwest Colorado.

### Coordinated Response in Locating a Fugitive of Justice

**Ralph Gagliardi**  
**Gretchen Gebhardt**

**Kellon Hassenstab**  
**Jason Hebrard**

**Travis Kupka**  
**Nicole Pless**

**Raegan Pyles**  
**Matthew Sailor**

In October 2017, a 15-year-old juvenile allegedly stole a car and eluded police in Federal Heights. In an attempt to flee law enforcement, the suspect later collided with another vehicle in a residential neighborhood. The car the suspect struck was driven by a woman who was in the final term in her pregnancy. Due to the trauma of the accident, and injuries to the mother, the baby was delivered a short time later. Tragically, the newborn died.

In a spirit of cooperation with members of the Colorado State Patrol, this CBI team offered assistance to troopers in an effort to locate the suspect in this case. With tremendous determination, the CBI team began the meticulous work of locating this fugitive of justice.

In just one week after the CBI team initiated the comprehensive search for the suspect, he was located and arrested. Due to their initiative, professionalism, and exceptional investigative skills, a dangerous criminal was arrested, and the family can now begin another chapter in their healing journey following this tragic incident.



**Photo by Lance Allen**  
**Grand Junction Forensic Services**

## Team Excellence Awards

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### First-Ever CBI Identity Theft Symposium

**Maggie Fitzgerald**  
**Ralph Gagliardi**  
**Jason Hebrard**

**Hazel Heckers**  
**Tammi Krebs**  
**Bobbie Jo Martinez**

**Peggy Pingel**  
**Traci Schwartzbauer**  
**Devi Suess**

More than 250 investigators from 74 Colorado law enforcement agencies attended the inaugural Economic Crime Symposium hosted by the CBI and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office in April 2018. This event would not have been possible without the extraordinary work of members of the CBI Investigation Section at headquarters. In the months leading up to the event, the CBI team secured the venue, developed a remarkable line-up of speakers, created a marketing plan to notify law enforcement of the event, and countless other details to ensure a successful training.

The keynote speaker for the event was Frank Abagnale. Abagnale's criminal impersonations in his youth were detailed in the Hollywood blockbuster, *'Catch Me If You Can.'* Abagnale shared extensive identity theft/fraud prevention tips, and relayed information to investigators about what to expect with economic crimes both today and in the future. For the remainder of the one-day conference, detectives received information about forensic accounting, resources available to investigate economic crime, cryptocurrency, and other important topics.

Additionally, organizers worked with a local news reporter to cover the event. Features stories about the symposium aired not just the day of the event, but also throughout the weekend to reach a broader audience.

## Medals of Distinguished Service

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### Leadership in the InstaCheck Unit—Dan Volz



As the agent in charge of the CBI Firearms InstaCheck Unit 2014—2018, Dan Volz exemplified the qualities of a tremendous leader throughout his tenure.

Dan's commitment to expediting the hiring process for candidates helped ensure the InstaCheck Unit was fully staffed during its busy seasons. The implementation of schedule changes during high volume periods improved customer service. Dan consistently strived for improvements in efficiency within the InstaCheck Unit, which encouraged teamwork and innovation by the entire team.

Dan was extremely supportive in the development of career goals for members of the InstaCheck team. His vision to reconfigure the structure of InstaCheck created advancement opportunities for the staff, which will have a lasting impact.

During one of the worst hailstorms in Denver history in May 2017, Dan's extraordinary leadership resulted in minimal disruptions to the background check process.

Dan has been described as genuine, attentive, appreciative, and invested, and his hard work, dedication and personal effort will be honored by the InstaCheck Unit for years to come.



**Photo by Kayleigh Matook**  
**Grand Junction Forensic Services**

## Medals of Distinguished Service

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### Research Leading to CODIS Match/Arrest—Denise Mathews



In December 2015, a suspect was transported to jail on a temporary felony warrant, and a DNA sample collected. Due to an incorrect court case number on the warrant, the record was never automatically matched within the processing system, and a year later, the sample was eligible for research and destruction.

Assigned to research the origin of the sample, Denise began an extensive review of the case history. It was complex in nature and contained multiple felony arrests for crimes; however, no other submission had ever come to the CBI for this individual.

Denise continued her relentless research in hopes of finding the missing piece of this puzzle. During the course of the inquiry, she was able to identify the agency responsible for the warrant. After many attempts, Denise identified an official within the agency who confirmed the suspect's felony charge.

The sample was entered into the CODIS system, and just one day later, it matched to the perpetrator of a southern Colorado cold case sex assault and homicide dating back to the 1980s.

Denise's persistence in researching this one single record resulted in law enforcement arresting the alleged suspect in this unsolved case.

### Exceptional Work in the Investigation Section—Kellon Hassenstab



In the fall of 2017, Kellon was named as an agent to serve as part of the enhanced CBI Fugitive Unit along with his other duties in major crimes. The contributions he made in this role have been nothing less than stellar. In that time, he has arrested more than 50 fugitives, many with violent criminal histories and others with sex offenses requiring state registration.

In one particular fugitive search, Kellon and others worked to locate an armed and dangerous sex offender committing crimes across the Denver metro area. As the suspect continued to evade law enforcement, the situation grew more critical. As part of a car theft, the suspect allegedly shot an unarmed man, and later rammed multiple police vehicles in his attempt to avoid capture. The suspect was taken into custody following an officer-involved shooting later that day.

In addition to his work as part of the fugitive team, Kellon serves as a mentor and leader in the Major Crime Unit. When the agent in charge overseeing the Major Crimes Unit attended national law enforcement training for several weeks, Kellon was called upon to serve as acting agent in charge in his absence. Kellon lead by example, and offered exceptional support and guidance to the agents and analysts with whom he worked.



Photo by Admin.

## Medals of Distinguished Service

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### Preventing Millions of Dollars of Losses in Email Scams—Ralph Gagliardi



In the past few years, Ralph has led the charge in protecting Colorado citizens from losing their hard-earned money to fraudsters. In the business email compromise scam, the perpetrators spoof or hack into the e-mail of an organization to initiate a fund transfer to their own accounts from victims of the crime. While the situation would seem hopeless for those who unknowingly transferred thousands of dollars to scammers overseas, Ralph and his team weren't satisfied with this result and instead focused efforts to recover the cash for victims.

One of the strategies has been to work with federal authorities and financial institutions to determine a process to recover the money fraudulently obtained by the suspects. Just because money leaves a bank account does not mean it is instantly 'gone' in the transfer. Through Ralph's leadership and guidance, he and his team have built strong partnerships with bank officials to develop contacts if/when a person is victimized in this type of scam to expedite the process of preventing the money from leaving the United States. In just one year, 36 victims were identified and \$4 million dollars recovered in Colorado. These extraordinary numbers have served as a blueprint of success for other state agencies to follow.

Without Ralph's dedication and leadership, it can be concluded that Colorado residents would have lost millions of dollars without this aggressive approach to stay one-step-ahead of fraudsters in the last year alone.

## Outstanding Employees of the Year

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### Biometric Identification & Records Unit—Gail Steen



Gail's dedication to exceptional service is seen in her interactions with CBI employees and the community alike. Gail is extremely kind and polite to everyone, and is one of the most approachable people in the entire Bureau. She handles many tasks on a daily basis that require her exceptional communication skills with law enforcement agencies, non-criminal justice agencies, as well as civilian applicants over the phone and/or via email. These communications range from basic questions regarding fingerprint submissions, to agencies disputing charges or needing to make changes or corrections, to law enforcement agencies needing to do arrest record expungements, as well as many other things in between. She is always courteous and respectful when communicating with these agencies or customers.

In one instance of many, Gail's eagle-eye approach in reviewing law enforcement agency expungement records resulted in the identification of an error in a criminal history database that, if gone uncorrected, would have continued to impact a victim of identity theft.

Because of Gail's overall knowledge and strong customer service skills, she is the 'go-to' source for questions and information for the entire BIRU. The plethora of knowledge she possesses is a tremendous asset both to the BIRU and to every customer she assists.



Photo by Aaron Koning  
Arvada Forensic Services

# Outstanding Employees of the Year

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## Forensic Services—Heather Szech



In the summer of 2017, Heather completed training to become a Crime Scene Analyst (CSA). Prior to her start as a member of the Crime Scene Unit, there was only one CBI CSA serving the Western Slope. Unfortunately, this resulted in crime scene coverage gaps when the CSA was unavailable due to illness, court testimony, etc. Having a second CSA on the Western Slope has made a tremendous impact in the service the CBI provides to its customers.

In 2018, Heather accomplished several professional development goals, thereby increasing the services provided to Colorado law enforcement agencies. Immediately after being authorized to respond to crime scenes as a CSA, she began studying for the International Association for Identification (IAI) Crime Scene Investigator test and earned that certification in February 2018. She then passed the American Board of Criminalistics (ABC) Drug Analysis certification test in April. In July, she passed the FAA drone pilot exam, which allowed her to serve as a licensed drone pilot for crime scene response.

Drug Chemistry is considered her primary area of focus in Forensic Services. Even with the considerable time she spent in the Crime Scene section, she has continued to complete chemistry casework at a high rate of production.

In addition to producing superior results in the Drug Chemistry and Crime Scene sections, Heather coordinates community outreach events and internal activities including the City of Fruita Halloween Truck 'n Treat celebration, Holiday Cookies for Cops, Police Week, and the CBI Grand Junction Birthday Club.

## Investigations—Kevin Torres



Kevin first joined the CBI as a member of the Crime Scene Unit. He returned to his policing/investigative roots when he was named an investigative agent in the CBI Pueblo Regional Office in 2015.

When the CBI was requested to review a missing person case involving Kelsie Schelling, he stepped forward to help determine if there was anything more to be done in locating the young woman reported missing in 2013. Following his extensive review, he led a briefing with agencies involved in the investigation and offered recommendations and a blueprint for moving forward.

In the weeks and months following the investigative briefing, Kevin worked closely with law enforcement and the DA's office to make progress in the case. He helped lead multiple searches for Kelsie's remains, and continued efforts to gather new information in the investigation.

Kevin is fierce and focused, and works daily to help bring justice to Kelsie and her family. Because of Kevin's exceptional leadership and tireless dedication, the trial for the suspect in Kelsie's disappearance/homicide is set to take place in the coming months.



Photo by Tanya Atkinson  
Pueblo Forensic Services

## CBI Service Awards—2018

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### 35 Years

Jack Haynes

### 30 Years

Pam Buderer

### 25 Years

Alex Rugh

Pamela Schaner

### 20 Years

Darla Hackworth

Jadwiga Teresa Mucha

Audrey Simkins

### 15 Years

Julie Cook

Ronald Franz

Ted DeRosa

Katherine Paige

Patricia Urban

### 10 Years

Jeffrey Bobinsky

Mary Clawson

Sarah Lewis

Stephen Oster

Emily Philip

Regina Potaracke

### 10 Years (cont.)

Carl Tolman

Derrick Trujillo

Huyen Vu

John Zamora

### 5 Years

Lance Allen

Luke Anderson

Nicholaus Baumgart

Shanley Brezen

Peggy Burns

Kiffin Champlin

Samantha Cole

Sean Edwards

### 5 Years (cont.)

Christopher Fennick

Lisa Gonzales

Rachel Harmon

Kellon Hassenstab

Collin Knaub

Aaron Koning

Breanne Leasure

Hillary Manger

Collin Nordgren

Jennifer Rosser

Justin Schonlaw

Heather Sczech

Kevin Torres

## CBI Promotions—2018

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Nicholaus Baumgart—InstaCheck-Tech IV (Supervisor)

Ted DeRosa—Admin-Asst. Director Support Services

Matthew Fisher—InstaCheck—to Tech IV (Supervisor)

James Fuller—Investigations—to Agent in Charge

Timothy Martinez—Investigations—AIC of Gaming

Jadwiga Teresa Mucha—Manager of BIRU

Chris Schaefer—Investigations—to Deputy Director

Daniel Volz—Investigations—to Assistant Director

## CBI Retirements—2017-18

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Judy Carlson—BIRU—12/31/17

Pat Crouch—Investigations—1/31/18

Carol Crowe—Forensic Services—10/31/17

Ted Mink—Investigations—2/28/18

Patricia Penn—Admin—9/30/17

Mary Schleicher—Forensic Services—5/31/18

Carol Tschirgi—BIRU—6/30/18



Photo by Lynda Brinkerhoff-Keller  
Arvada Forensic Services

## **Award Certificates**

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**If being honored today, please pick up your certificates at the table in the gym prior to the start of the ceremony.**

## **Acknowledgments**

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Thank you to the family and friends of the CBI for attending the 2017-18 Awards Ceremony.  
Special thanks to the following people for helping making today's event possible:

- CBI Executive Team
- CDPS Executive Director Stan Hilkey
- CDPS Deputy Executive Director Bec Spiess
- Laura Apodaca
- Erick Bryant
- Rachel Harmon
- Kati Paige
- Bernie Sena
- Paula Williams

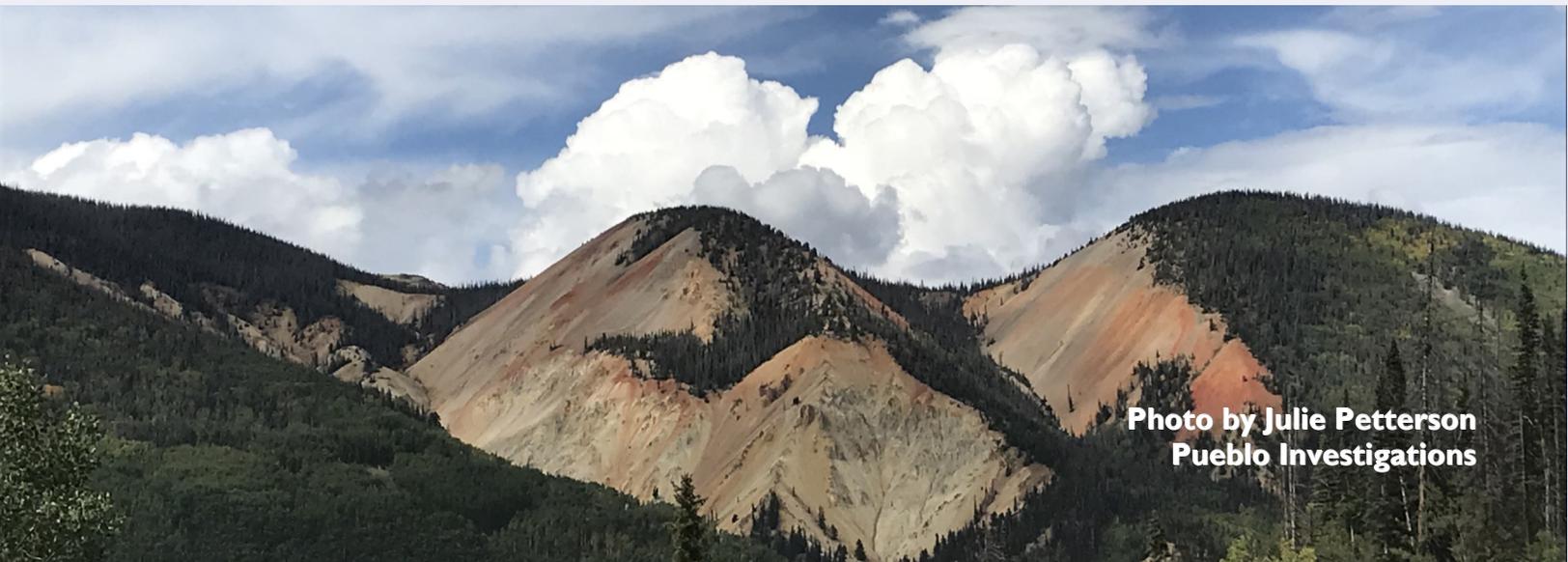
## **CBI Awards Board Members**

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**Christine Duplan  
Kellon Hassenstab  
Rachel Harmon**

**Kailee Henson  
Tammi Krebs  
Penny Mastin**

**Ruth Strauss  
Derrick Trujillo  
Paula Williams**



**Photo by Julie Petterson  
Pueblo Investigations**

# CBI Vision & Mission

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## **Vision**

Through leadership and collaboration, we strive to be an innovative workforce dedicated to raising our level of excellence to meet Colorado's public safety needs.

## **Mission**

To pursue justice and ensure a safer Colorado by providing excellence in background and criminal investigations, forensic services, and the management of statewide criminal justice information.

# CBI Core Values

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## **Family**

***We care for each other.***

Supporting each other in creating an exceptional work environment and encouraging a healthy work-life balance.

## **Integrity**

***We do the right thing.***

Acting with honesty, honor, and transparency; never compromising the truth.

## **Respect**

***We treat others how we expect to be treated.***

Operating in a spirit of cooperation with our fellow employees, our customers, and our community, embracing diversity and each other's unique talents.

## **Service**

***We are dedicated.***

Committed to serving the people of Colorado with excellence.

## **Teamwork**

***We work together.***

Collaborating inside and outside the bureau to maximize our impact on public safety.



**Photo by Amber Miller  
Arvada Forensic Services**