



NEWS

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Governor appoints one new trustee, reappoints second

Grand Junction, CO – Governor Bill Ritter has appointed Douglas Price, Denver businessman and the new president of Rocky Mountain PBS, and reappointed longtime education activist Lena Elliott to four-year terms on the Mesa State College Board of Trustees.

“We are pleased to welcome Doug Price to the board and know he will bring valuable insight to the decisions that the boards makes,” said Mesa State President Tim Foster. “And of course, we couldn’t be happier to have Lena stay with us. Her passion for Mesa State and her institutional knowledge and history make her an incredible asset to the board of trustees.”

Price is appointed to the seat formerly held by Thomas Kaesemeyer of the Gates Foundation. Kaesemeyer did not apply for reappointment.

Price in January was selected as the new president of Rocky Mountain PBS. He is the founding chairman of the Board of Directors of Qualistar Early Learning and one of the founders of Educare Colorado, a nonprofit agency dedicated to improving childcare. Formerly president of First Bank of Colorado, Price said he decided after a 22-year banking career, to focus his attention on establishing an early care and education system for the children of Colorado.

He serves on the Board of Directors of the French American Foundation in New York and on the Board of Trustees for the Committee for Economic Development.

Price earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Colorado with magna cum laude honors and attended the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington.

Lena Elliott is a community and volunteer organizer, activist and fundraiser. She has served as a Mesa State trustee since 2004. During her watch, Mesa State has grown both physically, academically and in enrollment. For more than four decades, she has been active in public education with the Mesa County Valley School District 51, Mesa State, the State Board of Community Colleges & Occupational Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

Elliott served eight years as a gubernatorial appointee to the Commission on Judicial Discipline. She is a past chair of the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce and of the Grand Junction

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. She is a former member of the Mesa State College Foundation board of directors and the Colorado Riverfront Commission.

Her fundraising activities have benefited many organizations including local schools, District 51, Mesa State College, United Way of Mesa County and St. Mary's Hospital.

Elliott has been widely honored for her civic contributions. She and her husband, Carter, are renowned for their leadership in tennis both locally and statewide. Mesa State College named its tennis courts in their honor. The Western Colorado Community College's culinary program restaurant, Chez Lena, is named for her. The Elliotts have eleven adult children. All are college graduates, and eight now work in education.

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