

## Speaker Biographies – Investment & Partnerships



### **Moderator: Eric Drummond**

*Chief Executive Officer and Founder*  
Innovation Corridor

Eric Drummond is an entrepreneur, business development ecosystem builder, and a former partner at one of the globe's largest international law firms, now with 48 offices in 22 countries. He has more than 25 years of business, and complex administrative law experience, including co-founding his own boutique law firm, with a focus in emerging technology, telecom, next gen digital architecture and alternative energy issues. Drummond has been recognized internationally in Who's Who in American Law, SuperLawyer, and Martindale Hubbell's Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. Drummond moved to Colorado in 2003, and after serving on City Council, in 2007, was elected Mayor of a small community in Colorado in a four-way race by the largest margin in a contested Mayoral race in the history of the city. During his term in office, the city was recognized by Fodor's Travel Guide as "One of the Coolest Small Towns in America". He also has represented the U.S. Department of Energy in the nation's \$32 billion Section 1705 Loan Guaranty Program and led the development of the then-largest High Concentrating Solar PV generation plant in the world, as well as conducting diligence on a novel fuel plant utilizing the two-stage catalytic conversion of municipal waste to create fuel alcohol for jet fighter aircraft. Drummond was appointed to Colorado's Renewable Energy Development Team by the Governor in 2011 and in 2012, he was asked to assist in creating the National Renewable Energy Lab's (NREL) Energy Fellows Institute, where he founded the Clean Energy Generation program and, ultimately, served as Expert-in-Residence and Co-Managing Director. An advocate of innovation, job creation, and the business community, he was appointed in 2013 by the President of the Senate to the Board of Colorado's Venture Capital Authority, the State's premier seed and early stage institutional venture fund and currently serves as the Board Chair. In 2014, Drummond was appointed to the 5-member Foundation Board of Directors of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) in Boulder, Colorado. UCAR manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the nation's premiere federally funded research lab in weather forecasting, climate analysis, and the earth sciences. In 2019, Drummond agreed to serve on the US Department of Commerce-NIST Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC) Smart Regions Leadership Council and accepted an appointment as an Advisor to the Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) VAG-STEM Innovation Network. Drummond is also a founding Board Member of the Colorado Clean Energy Found, a new "chartered" Green Bank. In 2020, Drummond was appointed to Colorado's post-pandemic Economic Stabilization and Recovery Council, where he co-founded Energize Colorado and serves as a Board Member and Principal Advisor. In 2016, Drummond founded the Innovation Corridor. The Innovation Corridor is a unique B2B technology enhancement and acceleration platform resting on four pillars 1) co-anchor national labs (NREL and NCAR), both with leadership-class supercomputers (including the fastest supercomputer in the world dedicated to advanced energy research); 2) Fortune 500 companies; 3) academic institutions and entrepreneurs; and 3) local governmental entities and federal agency partners. In July 2019, on behalf of the Department of Commerce, NSF and NASA, the Innovation Corridor launched the nation's Department of Commerce-NIST GCTC Supercomputer Modeling and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Cluster for Smart Cities and Regions. He received his Undergraduate Degree in Philosophy (emphasis in

	<p>Symbolic Logic and First-Order Predicate Calculus) from the University of Texas at Austin and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.</p>
	<p><b>Richard Adams</b>  <i>Director of the Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurship Center</i>  National Renewable Energy Lab</p> <p>Richard is the Director of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a Department of Energy (DOE) National Laboratory managed by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy. The IEC is externally focused with a mission to identify gaps in the clean energy/cleantech ecosystem; and to utilize the resources of the Lab, and/or the resources of partners to help fill those gaps. In this role he oversees the Innovation Incubator (IN2), a unique and highly successful technology incubator in partnership with Wells Fargo, and the Shell Gamechanger Accelerator powered by NREL (GCxN). His team also conducts the NREL Industry Growth Forum, and manages the Investor Advisory Board and relationships with the financial community. He also manages programs dedicated to regional and national incubators and the clean energy and cleantech startup communities. Richard is a leading expert on cleantech/clean energy commercialization, entrepreneurship and investment; and is regularly invited to participate as a speaker at international and U.S. events. He draws on his 30 years of international experience with small, medium, and large corporations across a broad range of industry sectors. He is recognized as a strategic thinker, skilled operational leader, and outstanding communicator able to influence all levels of an organization; and as a proven driver of organizational performance. He is the author of “Results Ladder” - a model for successful strategic planning and execution. Before moving to the United States, Richard lived and worked in Australia where he founded and ran Arts Capital, an investment bank and held a variety of senior positions in financial services institutions including Rothschild and Westpac Banking Corporation.</p>
	<p><b>Brian Paul</b>  <i>Business Transformation and COVID Response Leader</i>  TEKSystems</p> <p>As a Business Transformation and COVID Response Leader, I have been working with States, Local Governments, Higher Education Entities and Fortune 500 Corporations to help them with the challenges of reopening safely. I am responsible for helping guide our partners through the complex processes, supporting technologies and actionable analytics needed to adhere guidelines and safely return to work. My deep experience working with Fortune 100 companies around the globe to develop and implement sophisticated and efficient business solutions has allowed me to quickly grasp the complexities of responding to COVID. In addition to helping my partners drive business value through technology enabled business process improvements, I enjoy being a husband, father, grand-father and “Big Brother” of a West Point Graduate (Big Brothers and Big Sisters of North Texas program). I also own and work a small farm to provide fresh vegetables to a local</p>

food pantry. I am a co-owner of a dog grooming salon and am active in my community. My wife, family and friends often refer to me as a “fixer” because I am internally driven to help others and fix problems. Representative partners include T-Mobile, AT&T, Bank of America, Citi Bank, FIS and PayPal.



**Eric Parrie**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
COVIDCheck Colorado

Eric Parrie is CEO of COVIDCheck Colorado, a social benefit enterprise dedicated to delivering a safe return to community and the most proactive, equitable response to COVID-19 in the country. Before moving to Colorado, he was a strategic advisor and teacher leading the historic turnaround of Louisiana's lowest performing high school, which now ranks annually among the top-growth high schools in the state, while serving a 90% FARL and 30% special needs and ELL student population. While teaching, Eric led the nationwide publication of a book of his students' writing in partnership with Dave Eggers and Kiese Laymon and was honored with multiple teaching awards. Beyond the classroom, Eric has served as a consultant on multi-million dollar projects in the private, for-profit, and non-profit sectors, including the reform of public contracting in the City of New Orleans, the establishment of a principal training institute in Texas, and the development of public school finance solutions in Connecticut and Colorado. Eric was a leader in the Obama campaign in Pennsylvania in 2008 and built and led teams that achieved historic results in fundraising and grassroots action in the 2018 Governor's race and 2020 Senate race in Colorado. Eric speaks three languages and has served as editor for books from major publishing houses in France and the United States. He is a board member for global and national non-profits including Libraries without Borders and Let's Innovate through Education. Eric holds a BA in Political Science from Tulane, a Masters in French and Comparative Literature from the Universite de Nantes (France), and a JD from Yale Law School.



**Peter Adams**  
*Executive Director*  
Rockies Venture Club

Peter Adams is co-author of *Venture Capital for Dummies* (John Wiley & sons, 2013) and serves as the Executive Director of the Rockies Venture Club, the longest running angel investing group in the U.S. His broad investment experience also includes being Managing Partner of the Rockies Venture Fund I, L.P. (an early stage venture capital fund), and the Pandemic Impact Fund (supporting solutions for pandemics now and in the future), founding the Colorado Life Science Angels group, and leading Impact Investing conferences for the past eight years. Peter serves as an Officer on the Board of the Angel Capital Association, the North American association of professional angel investing groups. His professional career comprises over 30 years of business experience in corporate leadership (CIO and Economics Director) and entrepreneurial endeavors (CEO/Founder). Peter served as Adjunct Professor at Colorado State University, where he taught the Capstone strategy course for the Executive MBA program in Denver. He founded the Rockies Venture Institute, the Women's Investor Network, and BizGirls, a non-profit CEO

	<p>Development Program for young women. Peter holds a BA Degree from Colorado College and an MBA from Regis University.</p>
	<p><b>Chong Lin</b>  <i>Senior Program Manager, Customer Product Growth, DER Grid Services</i>  National Grid</p> <p>Chong is a Senior Program Manager with National Grid in the Customer Product Growth division. In this role, he manages the REV Smart City demonstration project in Schenectady, New York. Drawing on several years' experience and passion in technology, energy efficiency, community outreach, and energy consulting, Chong is focused on testing and developing smart city solutions that will create value for our communities. Before rejoining National Grid in 2017, Chong worked for 4 years for a diverse range of organizations, including ICF where he worked as an account manager helping buildings in New York City to develop strategic roadmaps to increase energy efficiency and resiliency. Chong holds an M.Sc. in Environmental Science and Policy from Clark University.</p>