



Empowering Women in Business

2026 Impact Report

Launched in 2023, the CU Denver **Empowering Women in Business Program (EWiB)** is helping advance the next generation of women leaders and their allies through an immersive curriculum designed to build confidence, cultivate leadership skills, and connect students with a powerful network of over 90 influential professionals. Students actively engage with mentors, industry leaders, and peers through collaborative workshops, in-class learning experiences, lectures, and an end-of-semester Signature Symposium.

EWiB is equipping students—women, men, and non-binary—to become powerful allies and sponsors who can collectively and effectively address workplace challenges. By combining theoretical knowledge with practical skill-building and direct professional exposure, students are gaining a comprehensive toolkit to advance careers and help transform business environments.



Program Growth and Student Success

100%

Graduation Rate

164* students have completed the semester-long course.

** as of spring 2026*

6

Schools & Colleges

Student representation from outside the Business School grew from 13 percent to 45 percent, including students from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering, Design and Computing, College of Arts & Media, and College of Architecture and Planning.

133%

Enrollment Increase

since the program's inception in Fall 2023.

11%

Non-Female Participation

Gender diversity among students in the program has expanded, with 11% of total student representation since program inception identifying as male or non-binary.



Increased Opportunity

The course was approved for graduate-level cross-listing in March 2025, and students who complete EWiB alongside the FINTECH course are now eligible for a micro-credential.



Community Engagement & Investment

100%

Increase in Involvement

Community involvement doubled since the start of the program, from 50 to more than 100 participants, including mentors, coaches, guest speakers, and Steering Committee members.

\$2.9 million

In Philanthropic Support

Gifts to EWiB from individuals and corporations include \$2.46 million for the EWiB program fund, \$179,000 for EWiB scholarships, and \$250,000 for faculty fellowships.

Governance & Curriculum Excellence

15

Committee Members

EWiB established a 15-member Steering Committee, which meets biannually to guide curriculum and program development.

94%

Course Modules Updated

Collaborative efforts with instructors, Steering Committee members and community industry experts allows for continuous improvement ensuring the program reflects evolving practices for career readiness and success in a rapidly changing workplace.

Signature Learning Experiences

Case studies, emotional intelligence assessments, and the end-of-semester signature symposium were cited as among the most impactful components. Students also praised the course for its transformative effect.



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This class has been one of the most impactful experiences of my college career.

— Amelie Koestler
Spring 2025

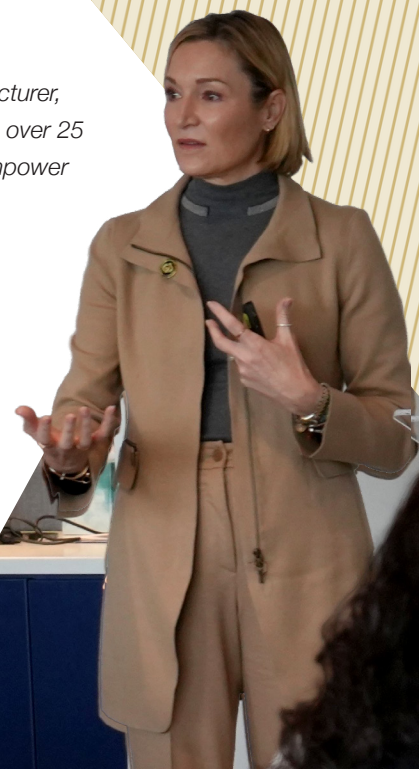
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I'm honored to support the Empowering Women in Business program as a mentor, lecturer, and investor. CU Denver helped me launch a government and finance career that has spanned over 25 successful years, and I give back by investing my time, expertise, and financial resources to empower the next generation of women leaders.

I'm witnessing tangible impact. Students are developing essential leadership capabilities and durable skills—critical thinking, strategic communication, and confidence-building—that will drive their career success for decades to come. My investment ensures more women can access this transformative experience, gaining confidence and building lifelong networks of colleagues and mentors. These students are the future of women's leadership in business, and I'm proud to play a role in launching their careers.

Ellen Zentner '95

Chief Economic Strategist and Global Head of Thematic and Macro Investing, Wealth Management
Morgan Stanley



Student Impact & Outcomes

98%

Career Advancement

Nearly all participants reported at least one career advancement attributed to completing the EWiB course.

45%

Increase in Confidence

Program participants experienced a 45 percent increase in how they feel their confidence in communication improved over the course of the program.



In-Course Learning Gains

- » 86 percent confidence in inclusive leadership.
- » 46 percent understanding of allyship and sponsorship.
- » 33 percent clarity in career goals and advancement strategies.
- » 79 percent built supportive networks through course access to mentors and coaches.



New Skillsets

Participants report that top skills gained from the program include:

- » Networking
- » Mentorship
- » Personal Branding
- » Leadership
- » Emotional Intelligence
- » Salary Negotiation



Learn more about Empowering Women in Business at:
business.ucdenver.edu/empowering-women-business-ewib-course

“ I never would have had the courage to send the request letter if I had not taken EWiB.

– Karli Montini
Fall 2023



Financial Support for Student Success

EQ assessments and coaching funded by program gifts provide personalized leadership development.

Course materials and expert-led sessions are fully funded, ensuring no additional cost to students.

The signature symposium is supported by donations, celebrating student achievements and connecting them with the broader EWiB community.



Future-Forward Vision

Expand to three sections per semester, targeting undergraduate and graduate students in Business and Liberal Arts.

Enhance the student experiential learning component where student teams analyze real-world challenges and present their findings at the EWiB Signature Symposium.

Continue to expand the longitudinal analysis to track career-building impact for EWiB alumni.

Create an alumni ambassador program inviting alumni to return as guest speakers and mentors, creating a cycle of giving back.



THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting the Empowering Women in Business program. If you would like to discuss more ways to make an impact, please contact:

Brendan Hagerty

Senior Director of Development
Business School
917-742-1681
brendan.hagerty@ucdenver.edu

business.ucdenver.edu



University of Colorado **Denver**