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Academic Affairs Faculty Biographies

Mitra Watts – Dean of Academic Affairs

- **Employed Since:** 1982
- **Education:** Master of Arts, Leicester Poly Technical; Masters and PhD in Architecture, Herriot-Watt University, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland.
- **Professional Industry Experience:** The Colorado Institute of Art , Faculty, Denver, CO;
- **Industry Awards/Honors:** Professional member of Interior Design Council, Industrial Design Society of America and American Society of Interior Design; award in environmental design (England); award for poster design (Arizona); award for Trophy Design from the Royal Society of Art, Iran.
- **Special Achievements:**

Janet Tackett – Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

- **Employed Since:** 1981
- **Education:** Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (Education), Regis University, Denver, CO; Bachelor of Arts in Visual Communication, Loretto Heights College, Denver, CO
- **Professional Industry Experience:** The Colorado Institute of Art , Faculty, Denver, CO; Tackett Design, Principal, Denver, CO; Point Communications, Designer, Denver, CO; Unit 1, Inc., Designer, Denver, CO; Curt Brogren Advertising Design, Assistant Designer, Denver, CO
- **Industry Awards/Honors:** Art Director's Club of Denver, Gold, Silver, and Bronze
- **Special Achievements:** Colorado Private School Association (CPSA), Educator of the Year, Art & Design

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Rosalind Grenfell - Academic Department Chair, Fashion Retail Management

- **Employed Since:** 2007
- **Education:** Master of Science in Clothing, Textiles and Related Art with a minor in Business Administration; Bachelor of Science in Clothing, Textiles and Related Art with a minor in Business Administration; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia
- **Professional Industry Experience:** 16 years of college instruction teaching a variety of classes in fashion marketing and management as well as fashion design, illustration, textiles and historic costume.

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Director, School of Culinary Arts - vacant

John Ciciora - Academic Department Chair, Industrial Design

- **Employed Since:** 1997
- **Education:** Bachelor of Science in Product Design, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL
- **Professional Industry Experience:** Nexterra, Director of Industrial Design and Human Factors, Non-profit – Design of space habitats, Boulder, CO; Perispace Inc., President – For-Profit design of space habitats, Lakewood, CO; Johnson Engineering Corp., Vice President, NASA Prime Contractor, Boulder, CO; Martin Marietta, Habitability Design of Spacecraft, Denver, CO
- **Certifications/Licensure:** Certified Professional Ergonomist
- **Special Achievements:** U.S. Patents – Joystick controlled interface for disabled drivers, Materials Compactor, Two-speed transmission for materials compactor
- **Professional Memberships:** Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA); Rocky Mountain Chapter Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

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Thor Metzinger - Academic Department Chair, Digital Media Production, Video Production, Visual Effects & Motion Graphics

- **Employed Since:** 2001
- **Education:** Master of Fine Arts, Memphis College of Art, Memphis, TN; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design, Memphis College of Arts, Memphis, TN
- **Professional Industry Experience:** The Art Institute of Colorado, Assistant Director of Media Arts & Animation, Denver, CO; Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design, Full Time Faculty, Denver, CO; Nano Pierce Technologies, Freelance Designer, Denver, CO; Intercell International Corporation, Freelance Designer, Denver, CO; The Library Pub /

Creekside LTD, Freelance Designer, Boulder, CO; The Salvation Army – Corporate Partners, Freelance Designer, Memphis, TN

- **Industry Awards/Honors:** 1998 Communicators Award of Merit; 1997 Communicators Award of Merit; 1997 City of Wheatridge – Certificate of Appreciation
- **Special Achievements:** Co-Founder/Vice President of Heart Studio Arts & Wellness Center – 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization; Producer/Director for Matsukawa Kyoguko Taiko Drummer American Tour 2004 – DVD Documentary
- **Professional Membership:** Colorado Calligrapher's Guild; Colorado Film & Video Association (CFVA)

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Lansford Holness - Academic Department Chair, Graphic Arts, Advertising, Interactive Media & Design, Media Arts & Animation

- **Employed Since:** 2008
- **Education:** Master's Degree in Visual Communication from the Birmingham Institute of Art and Design in Central England. Postgraduate certificate in Further and Higher Education from Manchester Metropolitan University and postgraduate degree in Computer Aided Design from Staffordshire University. Lans' earned his undergraduate degree in Fine Art from Staffordshire University.
- Lans taught design and technology courses at Sutton Coldfield College of Further Education and South Cheshire College of Further Education. Assistant professorships of art and design at both The University of Findlay in Ohio and Labette Community College in Kansas.
- **Special Achievements:** Exhibitions Core Gallery; Aperture Gallery
- **Professional Memberships:** Art Directors Club of Denver; ACM SIGGRAPH

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Dr. Bob Studinger - Academic Department Chair, Video Production, Digital Media Production, Center for Professional Development

- Bob has been a professional musician and composer most of life, working in both traditional studio environments and with digital multimedia audio software systems. He has written music for numerous radio/TV ads, nationally acclaimed symphony orchestras and ballet companies, and has taught digital video and multimedia development since 1998.
- As Dean of the School of Technology for 6 years, Bob oversaw numerous initiatives and projects in the video programs, as well as new curriculum changes designed to meet the needs of regional video and audio employment markets.

Mary Ann Thornam - Academic Department Chair, Interior Design

- **Employed Since:** 2000
- **Education:** Bachelor of Science in Home Economics, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
- **Professional Industry Experience:** The Firm, a consortium for design, Owner/Interior Designer, Denver, CO; Aiello Associates, Associate/Interior Designer, Denver, CO; US Axminster, Northeast Regional Manager, New York, NY; Contract/Freelance, Independent Interior Designer, Denver, CO; The Walters Companies, Interior Designer, Denver, CO; Design Works, Interior Designer, Denver, CO
- **Industry Awards/Honors:** 2004 NEWH Humanitarian; 2003 NEWH Support Award
- **Special Achievements:** 2004 NEWH National Delegate; 2001-2002 NEWH Parliamentarian; 1998-2000 NEWH President; Board Member ASID
- **Professional Memberships:** Allied Member, American Society of Interior Design (ASID); Network of Executive Women in Hospitality (NEWH) Rocky Mountain Chapter

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Frank Varney – Academic Department Chair, Photography

Employed Since: 1985

Education: Master of Fine Arts in Photography, Rockport College, Rockport, ME

Professional Industry Experience: Storage Technology, Photography Department Manager, Louisville, CO; Re/Max International, Freelance Client, Denver, CO; General Electric, Freelance Client, Schenectady, NY; Tallant La Pointe Advertising, Freelance Client, Denver, CO; Frank Varney Photography, President, Denver, CO

Industry Awards / Honors: The Educated Eye – Photo Exhibit; Emmanuel Gallery; Visions Two Contemporary Colorado; Photography – Colorado Photographic Arts Center

Professional Publications: Scientific American Digital News; Der Spiegel; Elle; Glamour; Family Circle; New York Times; Ladies Home Journal; First for Women Americana

Professional Memberships: American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP); National Association of Photoshop Professionals; Society of Photographic Educators

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