

Biographical Sketch

J. Kent Hutcheson, Ph.D.

Dr. Kent Hutcheson is the founder of Colorado UpLift, a non-profit organization dedicated to building long-term, life-changing relationships with urban youth. Dr. Hutcheson is a Denver native who was recognized in high school for receiving the prestigious Denver Post "Gold Helmet Award" as the scholar-athlete of the year in Colorado and a Teen All-American football player.

After high school, Dr. Hutcheson attended and graduated from Wheaton College with a major in sociology. He completed a year of graduate studies in psychiatric social work at Florida State University before moving to Asia in 1964 with his wife, Diane. The Hutchesons spent twelve years overseas developing a leadership institute for young people, and returned to the US in 1976 to continue youth work in the States.

In 1982 Dr. Hutcheson founded Colorado UpLift and currently serves as a Board member and President Emeritus. In its 25 years of existence, Colorado UpLift has evolved into a distinguished youth organization working in the Denver Public Schools with support from Denver's top business leaders, countless community partnerships and a volunteer guild of 120 individuals. UpLift has received several public recognitions, including UpLift student winners of the Metropolitan Mayor's and Commissioners' Youth Award as well as the El Pomar Youth Human Service of the Year award in 2001.

In 1989, Dr. Hutcheson received his Ph.D. through Columbia Pacific University. In 2007 he received the Robert E. Crawford Achievement Prize for outstanding youth work from the National Recreation Foundation. He is married to Diane, his wife of 40 years, and has three grown children, Shauna, Jon and James as well as four grandchildren, Emily, Nathan, James "Swift" and Scout.