



The Up & Up

Showcasing Colorado's #localgov Superstars

Kelly Houghteling | Assistant Town Administrator | Wellington

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

Educational Background:

B.A. of General Studies in Sociology & Leadership and an MPA from the University of Kansas.

Where was your first internship and/or local government gig?

Part-time internship in the City Manager's Office at the City of Lawrence, KS.

How do you recharge/practice self-care?

I feel very fortunate to live in Colorado and spend my weekends fly fishing, hiking with my husband & dog, reading, sewing, and watching my favorite sports teams.

Why local government?

The ability to make a lasting impact in the community. And do work that matters.

PROFESSIONALLY SPEAKING....

If you could change 1 thing about your professional development choices to this point, what would it be?

Trying to drive organizational change too quickly. I need to constantly remind myself of George Frederickson's article, "Public Leadership as Gardening" he states, "Changes in the garden, as in public organizations, tend to be incremental...It is not unusual, in the rhythms of gardening, for a particular plan or experiment to fail the first or second season. But persistence pays."

What advice would you give to someone just starting his/her career in local government?

Don't wait for an invitation to lead.

What's your proudest moment of your career so far?

The ribbon cutting for the Railroad Quiet Zone in Windsor. I served as the grant manager, project lead, and liaison to outside contractors and the Federal Railroad Administration on the design/build of the TIGER V \$3.3 million Quiet Zone project. This project took five years to complete and was a huge win for the community.

How did you learn to embrace failure?

Learning to make failure my fuel. And fuel is a powerful driver.

FAST FACTS:

Favorite Colorado Spot: A sunny morning in the Poudre Canyon, with the peaceful sound of the river, and the only angler for miles.

Favorite Book: The Buddha Walks into the Office

Childhood Dream Job: Veterinarian

Most Unusual Item in your Office: Emergency supply of mac & cheese for late night board meetings.

One Item on your Bucket List: Fly fishing in South America.