



VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

UNITED IN DISCOVERY

READY 
Catalyst Program

ALAINA G. LEVINE

Alaina G. Levine is an award-winning professional speaker, STEM career coach, science writer, corporate comedian, TEDx speaker, speaking coach, and author of 3 books. Recently honored as the Johnson Lecturer in Science Communications at Penn State University, Levine is the President of Quantum Success Solutions, and travels the world as a keynote speaker, sharing how scientists and engineers can craft customized, joyous, and authentic Unicorn Careers.

Levine has delivered 1000+ speeches, workshops, and webinars, and has spoken on 5 continents and in 35 US States for clients in 15 nations. She is also a prolific science journalist and columnist, and her hundreds of articles have appeared in *Science*, *Nature*, *Scientific American*, *National Geographic News Watch*, *World Economic Forum*, and *Smithsonian*.

Previously, Levine managed the Professional Science Master's in Applied Science and Business and taught Entrepreneurship for Scientists to graduate students at the University of Arizona as an Eller Entrepreneurial Scholar. She studied at the American University in Cairo as a US Department of Defense Boren Fellow and holds bachelor's degrees in mathematics and anthropology from the University of Arizona.

The Colorado State University Office for The Vice President for Research presents **READY**, an initiative of the *Catalyst Program*. **READY** events prime CSU researchers, scholars, and artisans to cultivate innovative partnerships and pursue high-reward opportunities.

Please Join Us for

A Day with Alaina G Levine: a READY Event

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Lory Student Center, Ballroom D & Never No Summer Ballroom
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado



[Click here to register!](#)

AGENDA

Keynote: The Exquisite Fabulousness of Reframing Failure as Fuel

- 9 – 10:15 am | LSC Ballroom D

Keynote Q&A / Ask Alaina Anything!

- 10:15 – 10:45 am | LSC Ballroom D

Speak to Spark: Public Speaking Masterclass to increase confidence, influence, and fat stacks of funding

- 11 am – 12pm | LSC Never No Summer Ballroom

Exploring Ambitious Collaborations and Funding Opportunities

- 1 – 2 pm | LSC Never No Summer Ballroom

Workshop: Branding for CSU Nerds

- 2 – 2:45 pm | LSC Never No Summer Ballroom

Workshop: Networking for CSU Nerds: Find and Grow Win-Win Collaborations

- 3 – 4 pm | LSC Never No Summer Ballroom

Informal Networking

- 4 – 5 pm | LSC Ramskeller Pub

Questions? Please contact Research Acceleration Office Director [Dinaida Egan](#).



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Keynote: The Exquisite Fabulousness of Reframing Failure as Fuel

9 – 10:15 am | LSC Ballroom D

There is one thing for certain in our lives and projects: at some point, we will fail. We will face a challenge we cannot easily navigate or a professional loss we seemingly cannot rectify. Whatever the loss or failure, there are ways to manage and achieve success from challenges, as long as we plan ahead for these challenging times. In this energetic session, we will discuss why failure can be absolutely fabulous in our science and careers, and how to create mechanisms and processes so that we can spot, address, learn from, and move on from failure. Our conversation will provide real strategies and tactics that can be applied in the current uncertainty we are facing in the US. Let's fail forward and reframe failure to fuel innovation! In this session, participants will:

- Gain a data-driven framework to reframe and shift failure into growth opportunities for your organization, team, and project
- Learn techniques to identify where and when failure could occur and train yourself and your team to implement a strategy to enable success in a challenge
- Discover a process-oriented approach to navigating any kind of professional failure, loss, or challenge
- Understand the lesson of failure to make us stronger and more agile, creative, communicative, and ultimately more victorious in our jobs and contributions to society

Keynote Q&A / Ask Alaina Anything!

10:15 – 10:45 am | LSC Ballroom D

Speak to Spark: Public Speaking Masterclass to increase confidence, influence, and fat stacks of funding

11 am – 12pm | LSC Never No Summer Ballroom

Public speaking is one of the most utilized skills, and also one of the most feared. But if we are to build relationships that advance scholarship and society, understand and serve our community, and help our team grow and champion our expertise and knowledge, we need to improve our public speaking abilities. But #spoilerAlert: it's not as hard as it may be perceived! In this fun session, participants will:

- Learn the essence of what makes a great speech
- Explore techniques to improve clarity of messaging
- Gain an understanding of a simple formula to shift every presentation into a powerful presentation
- Discover how to reduce speaking anxiety and connect with the audience



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Exploring Ambitious Collaborations and Funding Opportunities

1 – 2 pm | LSC Never No Summer Ballroom

With all the changes happening in funding, leadership, and policies in the US right now, you might be wondering how you can grow your career and advance your scholarship at CSU. In this conversation and Ask Me Anything, explore ways to apply entrepreneurial thinking to find and leverage ambitious collabs and funding opportunities. Learn to apply a model to uncovering hidden opportunities in non-traditional ecosystems and sectors, such as foundations and industry, and gain insight into how to bring interdisciplinary teams together for even more innovation.

Workshop: Branding for CSU Nerds

2 – 2:45 pm | LSC Never No Summer Ballroom

A brand is not a logo, cartoon character, or tagline. At its core, it's a promise of value. Both organizations and individuals have brands, and yours should be a promise to deliver excellence, dependability, and expertise in whatever you do. Once you have identified the key components that constitute your brand, you need to promote them to attract new and innovative collaborations and collaborators. In this session, gain insight into how to clarify and articulate your brand to advance your career and your scholarship, and learn surprising mechanisms to promote and keep your brand fresh in the minds of colleagues and decision-makers.

Workshop: Networking for CSU Nerds: Find and Grow Win-Win Collaborations

3 – 4 pm | LSC Never No Summer Ballroom

In this dynamic and engaging workshop, learn exactly what networking is and how to do it. Networking is the most honorable endeavor in which you can engage, because at its heart is the spirit of generosity. With this foundation in mind, we will discuss how to find people, what to say and when to say it, and how to improve your networking with data-driven strategies. In this session, participants will:

- Discover novel ways to connect with colleagues and cultivate partnerships to advance your professional, career, and organizational goals
- Develop an understanding of the principle of generosity as the cornerstone of networking
- Reframe networking as a value-driven experience that solves a problem for another party
- Gain specific verbiage, strategies, and tactics that ensure networking is realistic, easy, simple, and even fun

Informal Networking

4 – 5 pm | LSC Ramskeller Pub