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New community-driven speaker showcase gives audiences and event planners a chance to experience speakers live before hiring them.

AURORA, Colo., September 22, 2026: Nine speakers have been selected to take *The Proving Stage* on Friday, October 2, 2026, in Aurora. Sixteen speakers auditioned for nine positions covering Leadership, Artificial Intelligence and Mental Health. Each will deliver a 20-minute presentation before a live audience and industry professionals.

Selected speakers are **Kristin Goodwin, James Hennis and Andi Simms** in Leadership; **Paul Herbka and Jon Cook** in Artificial Intelligence; and **Carey Overstreet, David Otey, Victoria Wright and Brian Dixon** in Mental Health. Only one will be awarded the title: ***Most Hirable Speaker***.

The Proving Stage is produced by Marty Dickinson, a Colorado business owner and speaker, a national member of the National Speakers Association, current NSA Colorado board member and founder of the five-year weekly, virtual, international speaker showcase event called Speakers Speak LIVE.

“AI-produced video can make almost anyone look like a great speaker,” Dickinson said. “The industry needs more places where speakers simply get on stage and prove what they can do while giving people who hire speakers the chance to experience them live before putting them in front of their audiences.”

The Aurora event is a prototype that Dickinson plans to expand into other states. The event is also open to the public, giving attendees practical ideas they can put to use from presentations on Leadership, AI and Mental Health.

Admission will benefit two selected charities, **Food Bank of the Rockies and Pack the Future**. Event information and registration are available at **ThePROVINGStage.com**.

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