

**Linda Meric, Executive Director**  
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**Linda Meric** is the Executive Director of 9to5, National Association of Working Women, a multi-racial membership organization founded in 1973 to strengthen the ability of low-wage and low-income women to win economic justice through grassroots organizing and policy advocacy on workplace and safety net issues. Linda helped found 9to5 Colorado in 1996 and served as the chapter's Director until the Fall of 2004 when she became 9to5's national Executive Director. Under Linda's leadership, 9to5 has won important victories across the country on issues of work-family, anti-discrimination, wages, good jobs, unemployment, child and health care, public assistance and transit access.

Linda is based in 9to5's Denver office and continues to support the 9to5 Colorado chapter on local organizing, policy, coalition-building and leadership development work. She was the chief public spokesperson for the successful 2006 ballot initiative to raise Colorado's minimum wage and was a co-chair and chief spokesperson for Colorado's successful effort to turn back a 2008 anti-affirmative action ballot measure.

Linda is an accomplished trainer, and has taught Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Awareness and Prevention at Metropolitan State University for the past 15 years. She has trained thousands of women and men about what they can do at work and through the legal system if they experience sexual harassment, and has provided training and consulting services on sexual harassment, discrimination and other workplace issues to dozens of non-profit organizations and businesses. Linda contributed to the 1999 revised edition of "The 9to5 Guide to Combating Sexual Harassment", and co-authored three chapters in "Women: Images and Realities, A Multicultural Anthology". She has served as an expert witness for the court on sexual harassment in employment.

Linda is recognized by media and policymakers across the country as an expert spokesperson on issues related to women in the workplace, good jobs, work-family flexibility, equal opportunity, anti-poverty programs, sexual harassment, and organized labor. Her op-eds are frequently featured in the Huffington Post and other publications, and are available on 9to5's website at [www.9to5.org](http://www.9to5.org). She is a regular guest on *The Union Edge* nationally syndicated radio show, and been interviewed by the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Congressional Quarterly*, *Fox News* and many others. She is regularly asked to provide testimony to federal and state legislative and administrative bodies regarding these issues.

Before 9to5, Linda spent 20 years as a labor and community organizer in Colorado. She served on the International Steering Committee of Teamsters for a Democratic Union and, in 1984, was the first woman elected as the Principle Executive Officer of a Teamsters local union in the Rocky Mountain region. Linda also spent 7 ½ years as an organizer and representative for the Service Employees International Union, working primarily with women janitorial workers in downtown Denver, the Denver Tech Center and the Denver airports. In addition to her labor union organizing, Linda has a long history of community organizing experience in Colorado.

Linda has a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Political Science from Duke University, and is fluent in English and Spanish. She completed the Rockwood Leadership Institute's *Leading from the Inside Out* year-long fellowship in 2009, has received specialized training from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on employment discrimination, and has successfully completed the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) for Social & Behavioral Research Investigators.

Linda has received several awards for her work with, and on behalf of, low-income women. In 2006, Linda was awarded the Denver Women's Commission first annual Community Service Award, the Colorado Women's Agenda Foremother Award, and the Community Resource Center Legend Award (Social Justice category). In 2007, she received the Women's Foundation of Colorado Be Bold Award. In 2009, she received the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado's Advancing Equality award.

Linda was appointed by the Governor and Speaker of the House to serve two terms on the Colorado Pay Equity Commission and also serves on a number of committees and boards, including the Jobs With Justice National Workers' Rights Board; One Fair Wage steering committee; Center for Community Change Putting Families First advisory council; American Forum national editorial board; National Committee on Pay Equity; National Partnership for Women and Families' paid sick days and family leave task forces; Work Family Strategy Council; steering committee and co-chair of the Colorado Unity equal opportunity coalition; and Colorado Department of Labor and Employment task forces on unemployment insurance, misclassification and workers compensation.

Linda lives outside of Denver with her husband; she has an adult son, step-son, three grandsons and one granddaughter. She enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, basketball, reading, cooking and listening to jazz.