



# COLORADO

Department of  
Higher Education

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative approves six new local scholarship proposals**

DENVER, March 31, 2020: The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship (COSI) Initiative board approved six proposals that will provide more than \$1.5 million in scholarships for Colorado students.

The COSI board awarded \$1,551,219 to match locally-fundraised scholarship dollars one-to-one during the second round of awards for 2019-2020. This funding supports more than 651 students across the state.

“It is important, now more than ever, to continue to support our students and deliver scholarships that have an impact on our students’ daily lives, said Dr. Angie Paccione, executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. “COVID-19 may have changed the way we all learn and work, but the financial need as a result of the pandemic is increasingly important to Coloradans and will continue in years to come.”

The scholarships are multi-year awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, depending on program and financial need, and some students will begin to receive their scholarship as early as this fall.

“Our team is working to ensure our partners and foundations have funding, resources and designs to continue delivery of scholarships and supports regardless of physical location of students and counselors,” said COSI Senior Director Shelley Banker. “Additionally, COSI is actively discussing how funds can be responsive to Colorado’s unexpected economic situation in alignment with the Department’s goals of degree completion and COSI statutory guidance and mission.”

The six awards represent four counties (\$1,376,220) and two institutions of higher education (\$174,999).

#### County-Based awards:

- “I Have A Dream” Foundation on behalf of Boulder County: \$243,735
- YouthPower365 on behalf of Eagle County: \$36,898
- Pikes Peak Community College Foundation on behalf of El Paso County: \$678,617
- Red Rocks Community College Foundation on behalf of Jefferson County: \$416,970

#### Institutions of Higher Education:

- University of Colorado - Boulder: \$92,577
- University of Colorado - Colorado Springs: \$82,422

### **About the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative**

The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (Scholarship Initiative) was created to increase the attainment of postsecondary credentials and degrees for underserved students in Colorado. The project addresses this challenge in two ways: accessibility and affordability. To increase accessibility, COSI funds programs that will help prepare students for postsecondary education, as well as support them through completion. To increase affordability, COSI provides matching funds for community scholarships.

**About the Colorado Department of Higher Education**

Working with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, we support students, advocate and develop policies and to maximize higher education opportunities for all. The Department believes every Coloradan should have an education beyond high school to pursue their dreams and improve our communities. Read the CDHE master plan [Colorado Rises](#).

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