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Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative approves 29 new local scholarship proposals

DENVER, May 31, 2017 – The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) board approved 29 local scholarship proposals worth \$2.5 million to counties, institutions of higher education and workforce development organizations. One-to-one matches of community and state funds will grow the tuition support for student scholarships to a total of \$5 million.

“Thanks to the generosity of our partners, we’ve made more than 4,700 scholarships available for Colorado students,” said Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. “We’re eager to expand our success to more counties and public institutions as we focus on making higher education more accessible and affordable for every Coloradan.”

This was the fourth and final COSI proposal review period for 2016-2017. A new round of funding will open again in August 2017, allowing applicants to apply for a portion of the \$7.5 million in matching scholarship funds available in 2017-2018.

“In addition to our larger counties and institutions, the team worked diligently with smaller communities to ensure all areas of the state planned to continue their participation,” said Shelley Banker, director of the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. “The team provided a significant amount of technical assistance to encourage applications and participation to grow support for Colorado students.”

The 29 awards represent 32 counties (\$2,155,034), six institutions of higher education (\$232,058) and three workforce programs (\$113,000). Scholarships are multi-year awards ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000 depending on program and financial need. The majority of the funds are available to students over the next two to four years.

Recipients and awards

County-based awards:

- Arapahoe Community College Foundation on behalf of Arapahoe County, \$634,196
- I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder on behalf of Boulder County, \$263,972
- Colorado Mountain College Foundation on behalf of Chaffee County, \$14,549
- Western Colorado Community Foundation on behalf of Delta County, \$49,314
- Arapahoe Community College Foundation on behalf of Douglas County, \$129,611
- Colorado Mountain College Foundation on behalf of Eagle County, \$40,118
- Fremont Community Foundation on behalf of Fremont County, \$48,599
- Colorado Mountain College Foundation on behalf of Grand County, \$9,691
- Western State Colorado University Foundation on behalf of Gunnison, Hinsdale, Ouray, Saguache, and San Miguel Counties, \$32,372
- Colorado Mountain College Foundation on behalf of Jackson County, \$2,000
- Jeffco Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Jefferson County, \$457,013

- Morgan Community College Foundation on behalf of Kit Carson, Lincoln, Morgan, Washington and Yuma Counties, \$97,802
- Colorado Mountain College Foundation on behalf of Lake County, \$10,231
- Fort Lewis College Foundation on behalf of La Plata and Montezuma Counties, \$59,045
- Northeastern Junior College Foundation on behalf of Logan, Phillips, and Sedgwick Counties, \$43,302
- Colorado Northwestern Community College Foundation on behalf of Moffat and Rio Blanco County, \$17,294
- Aspen Community Foundation on behalf of Pitkin County, \$2,000
- Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation on behalf of Pueblo County, \$210,685
- Colorado Mountain College Foundation on behalf of Routt County, \$14,033
- Colorado Mountain College Foundation on behalf of Summit County, \$19,207

Institutions of higher education:

- Colorado State University – Pueblo Foundation on behalf of Colorado State University – Pueblo, \$34,971
- Fort Lewis College Foundation on behalf of Fort Lewis College, \$13,167
- Aurora Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Pickens Technical College, \$8,672
- University of Colorado Foundation on behalf of University of Colorado Boulder, \$79,282
- University of Colorado Foundation on behalf of University of Colorado Denver, \$85,603
- Western State Colorado University Foundation on behalf of Western State Colorado University, \$10,363

Workforce:

- Colorado Council for Black Nurses, \$18,000
- Mile High United Way, \$15,000
- Lutheran Medical Center Foundation on behalf of SCL Health Colorado and Front Range Regions, \$80,000

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, the Scholarship Initiative funds programs that will help prepare students for postsecondary education, as well as support them through completion. To increase affordability, the Scholarship Initiative will provide tuition support via matching funds for community scholarships.

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) is committed to reducing the attainment gap, which is the gap between Coloradans who traditionally go to college and Coloradans from demographic groups who are historically less likely to go to college. CDHE is working toward that goal through a variety of ways, including addressing college affordability through programs like the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. To inquire about forming a scholarship partnership, please contact [Shelley Banker](#) at 303-974-2673.

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