

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Megan McDermott, Director of Communications

Office: 303-974-2495, Mobile: 720-394-3205, megan.mcdermott@dhe.state.co.us

Scholarship Initiative announces funding for 19 grant recipients to assist Colorado students

DENVER, Dec. 7, 2016 – The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (Scholarship Initiative) has awarded 19 community partners approximately \$3.2 million to continue programs the Scholarship Initiative began supporting in 2014. The 18-month grants will provide continued support for programs that help prepare students for postsecondary education and support them through completion.

“Funding support like this in our rural area is a huge springboard and provides teachers with the necessary equipment, training and supplies to build strong programs,” said Shawna Magtutu, counselor at Delta High School. “The generosity and support from the COSI grants has opened doors to help create more options for our graduates. The initial work helped us create and sustain a successful pipeline in health sciences, and further funding will continue to expand our pathway options in STEM engineering, computer programming, digital media & journalism and aquaponics to name a few.”

In the first round, \$6.8 million was awarded to 28 programs, which report serving more than 14,000 students directly and impacting more than 15,500. More than 90 percent of these students came from low-income homes and were students of color.

“Our board has been impressed by the accomplishments of our Legacy partners,” said Jay Hardy, chair of the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative Board of the first cohort of grantees awarded in 2014. “These programs were able to demonstrate success with our first round of funding, and it was important to us to allow them to continue that momentum.”

Grantees:

- Aurora Public Schools Foundation - \$105,000
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Pueblo - \$150,120
- Colorado Challenge - \$140,000
- Colorado Mountain College - \$240,000
- Colorado State University Pueblo - \$31,732
- Delta County School District - \$105,000
- Denver Scholarship Foundation - \$1,142,246
- Englewood Schools, Zero Dropouts, AVID, and Arapahoe Community College - \$140,000
- Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) - \$38,000
- Goodwill Industries of Denver and Denver Urban Scholars - \$105,000
- I Have a Dream Foundation of Boulder County - \$140,000
- Latino Community Foundation - \$140,000
- Mile High United Way, Bridging the Gap - \$57,546
- Pikes Peak Community College, Harrison School District, Discover Goodwill, and Pikes Peak Workforce - \$210,000
- Red Rocks Community College and Warren Tech - \$111,488
- The Bridge Project - \$26,666

- Trinidad State Junior College - \$139,975
- University of Northern Colorado - \$99,688
- Westminster Public Schools - \$96,280

About the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative

The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (Scholarship Initiative) was created to increase the attainment of postsecondary credentials 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 provides tuition support via matching funds for community scholarships. For more information, visit www.coloradoscholarshipinitiative.org.

###