



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Higher Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Scholarship Initiative announces 12 new grant recipients to assist Colorado students**

DENVER – June 23, 2016: The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (Scholarship Initiative) announces the addition of 12 new organizations as Community Partner Programs. The two-year grants provide funding for programs that will help prepare students for postsecondary education, as well as support them through completion. Partners will receive awards ranging from \$50,000 - \$75,000 annually for two years.

Beginning in 2014, \$6.8 million was awarded to 28 programs serving more than 14,000 students and directly impacting more than 15,500. More than 90 percent of these students come from low-income homes and are students of color. The Scholarship Initiative will award \$800,000 to New Partner Programs in fiscal year 2016-2017, approximately \$2 million in continuing funding to the first round grantees, known as “Legacy Partners” and \$450,000 toward collective impact initiatives across the state.

The new Community Partner Program grantees are:

- Business and Schools in Collaboration (BASIC) - \$75,000
- Coldharbour Institute and Western State Colorado University - \$70,000
- Colorado UpLift - \$75,000
- Community College of Aurora and Aurora Public Schools - \$54,000
- Emily Griffith Technical College - \$75,000
- Front Range Community College, Thompson School District, and AVID - \$75,000
- INSPiRE - \$50,000
- Kids At Their Best - \$75,000
- Northeastern Sedgwick County Economic Development Corp. and Colorado Economic Developers (NECO) partnership - \$70,000
- Success Foundation and Weld County School District 6 - \$75,000
- The Education Foundation for the St. Vrain Valley and Collegiate Crossings - \$50,000
- YESS Institute - \$50,000

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 is committed to reducing the “attainment gap,” which is the gap between Coloradans who traditionally go to college and Coloradans who are historically less likely to go to college. The Department of Higher Education is working toward that goal through a variety of ways, including addressing college affordability through programs like the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative.

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