



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Colorado Department of Higher Education to visit Red Rocks Community College
for scholarship award presentation**

DENVER – October 20, 2016: Colorado Department of Higher Education will visit Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) for a check presentation on behalf of the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative’s award of more than \$79,000 to Red Rocks Community College Foundation on behalf of Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Park Counties, and Red Rocks Community College, and more than \$500,000 to Jeffco Public Schools Foundation on behalf of Jefferson County.

WHO: Vanecia Kerr, commissioner, Colorado Commission on Higher Education; Diane Duffy, chief operating officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education; Denise Delgado, executive director, Jeffco Public Schools Foundation; legislators, RRCC leadership, and other dignitaries

WHAT: Colorado Opportunity Scholarship check presentation to RRCC Foundation and Jeffco Public Schools Foundation

WHEN: Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Red Rocks Community College, Arvada Campus,
5420 Miller Street, Arvada, CO 80002

The university and foundation partners with local counties, in this case— Clear Creek, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park counties to provide student support services on campus coupled with matching scholarship dollars. The money is matched 1:1, providing more than \$1,158,000 in new scholarship dollars for students in this local area.

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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