



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scholarship Initiative and Quarterly Forum partner up again, providing \$150,000 in scholarships

DENVER – April 28, 2016: The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (Scholarship Initiative) and Quarterly Forum (QF) announced a plan to partner again, now providing scholarships to Lamar Community College.

The Lamar Community College Foundation will receive \$150,000 in scholarship funds (\$75,000 from the Scholarship Initiative, \$75,000 from the Quarterly Forum) and will begin to distribute the scholarships in the 2016-17 academic year, significantly helping an estimated 10-20 students.

QF - a Denver-based leadership organization with more than 100 emerging executive members - was the first to commit funds to the Scholarship Initiative, with a commitment in 2014 of \$1 million over 10 years.

“The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative tremendously values its partnership with QF. It’s an example of how the business community and public sector can team up to reinvest in our communities and create future leaders in Colorado,” said Shelley Banker, Deputy Director, Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative.

This is the second scholarship program the Quarterly Forum has grown alongside the Scholarship Initiative, the first was Pueblo Community College with \$150,000 in scholarship funds aimed at awarding 19 degrees by 2018. This program has been a tremendous success with 94 percent of the original students in the program still pursuing their degrees and on-track for completion, a significant focus of QF’s partnership with the Scholarship Initiative.

Both scholarship programs focus on first generation students and fulfilling local workforce needs. For Lamar Community College, those specific degree programs include career and tech education such as nursing/allied health and welding, and teaching programs.

“The economy in Prowers County affects the entire Colorado economy and businesses statewide,” said Ryan Heckman, Quarterly Forum’s Chairman. “Our community of leaders is committed to providing scholarships that will help Coloradans get the skills they need to get the jobs they want. We are proud to provide this support to a community that represents our agricultural and pioneer heritage.”

Only 76 percent of Prowers County residents have completed high school and only 22 percent hold an associate degree or higher; compared to the statewide statistic of 90 percent of Colorado residents having completed high school and 45 percent having earned an associate degree or higher.

Founded in 1937, Lamar Community College (LCC) provides its more than 1,000 students with wide-ranging transfer, career and technical offerings. Located on the golden plains of southeastern Colorado, LCC has developed a special concern for the educational needs of Prowers, Baca, Kiowa, and Cheyenne Counties. Its unique programs, small class sizes, dedicated staff, and idyllic setting make it a preferred educational destination for the region and throughout Colorado.

The Scholarship Initiative and Quarterly Forum will formally present the scholarship award to Lamar Community College on May 12 at the University of Denver at their quarterly breakfast event series.