



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Higher Education

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Megan McDermott, Director of Communications

Office: 303-974-2495, Mobile: 720-394-3205, [megan.mcdermott@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:megan.mcdermott@dhe.state.co.us)

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**Colorado Mesa University Foundation named 2017 Quarterly Forum Scholarship Recipient**

*The \$150,000 award will fund student scholarships at Western Colorado Community College*

DENVER – March 30, 2017: The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative named the Colorado Mesa University Foundation its 2017 Quarterly Forum Scholarship Recipient today, awarding \$150,000 in scholarships for Western Colorado Community College students.

Competing against four other candidates at a “Shark Tank” presentation earlier this month, the Colorado Mesa University Foundation impressed the Quarterly Forum Board of Directors with their plan to develop first-generation leaders and connect programs to local workforce needs. The award includes a \$75,000 gift from the Quarterly Forum and a matching grant from COSI.

“On behalf of our members, QF is proud to invest in WCCC’s Career Pathways Program that will provide new career pathways for first-generation college students,” said Quarterly Forum’s co-chair, Ryan Heckman. “We are also inspired to encourage innovation in postsecondary education, particularly in underserved communities with great potential like Grand Junction.”

The Quarterly Forum will present WCCC with the award during their annual scholarship award breakfast on April 6, 2017 at the University of Denver. The ceremony will take place at 9 a.m.

**About the Quarterly Forum**

Quarterly Forum is a Colorado-based leadership organization that connects, educates and inspires the state’s best emerging community leaders. The organization has an 18-year history of providing a place for developing executives to dream more, learn more, do more and become more by fostering strong ties among the business, government and nonprofit sectors in Colorado. QF is a nonpartisan and by-invitation membership-based community that represents diverse industries including healthcare, energy, agriculture, private equity, nonprofits, professional service providers, restaurants, consumer products and services, hospitality, real estate, building products, media, technology and telecom. Members range from young executives to the Vanguard Members, who are at the pinnacle of their careers.

**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 Dept. 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.

To inquire about forming a scholarship partnership, please contact Shelley Banker at 303-974-2673 or [shelley.banker@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:shelley.banker@dhe.state.co.us).

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