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Morgan Community College Foundation named 2018 Quarterly Forum scholarship recipient

The \$150,000 award will fund student scholarships at Morgan Community College

DENVER – May 1, 2018: The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) named Morgan Community College (MCC) Foundation its 2018 Quarterly Forum (QF) Scholarship Recipient last Wednesday, awarding \$150,000 in scholarships for their 2Gen Mentor-Scholarship program.

Competing against four other community colleges at a “Shark Tank”-style competition called “The Pitch,” Morgan Community College Foundation impressed a voting bloc with their plan to encourage full-time attendance among minority and first-generation students. The initiative would support part-time students with outside obligations through a family-engaged, mentor-scholarship program. Partnering with the local workforce center, MCC would also help recent graduates enter the workforce or transition to a four-year institution. The award includes a \$75,000 gift from the QF and a matching grant from COSI, totaling \$150,000.

“Investing in rural Colorado and homegrown talent is critical to our success,” said Gov. John Hickenlooper. “Community colleges like Morgan Community College provide students the opportunity to gain skills and pursue a variety of careers. Quarterly Forum is a great partner in raising funds and awareness for innovative programs.”

On top of the pitch competition, Wednesday’s event featured a leadership panel that included Gov. Hickenlooper, University of Denver Chancellor Rebecca Chopp and Boettcher Foundation’s CEO & President Katie Kramer. Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, facilitated the panel. The leaders discussed how workforce and education is changing, and how the public, private, and social sectors can partner to support Coloradans in a dynamic economy.

“On behalf of our members, QF is proud to invest in MCC’s innovative program that will provide new career pathways for students in rural Colorado,” said QF co-chairman Ryan Heckman. “There is nothing more important to us than supporting leadership development in Colorado, and we are inspired to invest in strong communities like Fort Morgan.”

About the Quarterly Forum

Quarterly Forum (QF) is a Colorado-based leadership organization that connects, educates and inspires the state’s best emerging community leaders. The organization has a 19-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. Over the past four years, QF has partnered with COSI to donate \$150,000 annually to community colleges. QF also runs three fellowship programs, including: the Colorado Governors Fellowship, McKinsey Academy @ QF and the Social Enterprise Fellowship. 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.

Working with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the Colorado Department of Higher Education advocates, develops policies and supports students to maximize higher education opportunities for all. Their mission is guided by the belief that every Coloradan should have an education beyond high school to pursue their dreams and improve Colorado communities.

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

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