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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 Opportunity Scholarship Initiative approves five new local scholarship proposals**

DENVER – Jan. 2, 2019: The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative board approved five proposals that will provide more than \$1.6 million in scholarships for Colorado students.

The COSI board awarded \$1,665,250 to match locally-fundraised scholarship dollars one-to-one during the first round of awards for 2018-2019. This funding will support more than 2,200 students across the state, including community college students, students from Denver and Weld counties and former foster youth.

The scholarships are multi-year awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, depending on program and financial need, and most students will receive the scholarship within the next two to four years.

“This is the fourth year COSI has offered matching student scholarships, which continue to be a lifeline for students especially those living in our rural and remote regions,” said Dan Baer, executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. “This funding helps extend our support to every county and public institution in the state and supports our goal of giving each student has the opportunity to pursue a strong future and help rebuild the middle-class.”

The five awards represent two counties (\$899,271), three institutions of higher education (\$689,479) and two workforce programs (\$76,500).

County-based awards:

- Denver Scholarship Foundation on behalf of Denver City and County: \$622,557
- Greeley-Weld Urban Enterprise Zone Fund on behalf of Weld County: \$276,714

Institutions of Higher Education:

- Colorado Community College System, Colorado Mesa University, and Technical College of the Rockies (formerly Delta Montrose Technical College): \$689,479

Workforce Programs:

- Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges: \$61,500
- Mile High United Way: \$15,000

Counties, workforce programs and institutions of higher education interested in applying for matching funds can find application materials, dates and available amounts on the [Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative website](#). The next letter of intent deadline is **Friday, Jan. 4**. To inquire about forming a scholarship partnership, please contact [cosi\\_info@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:cosi_info@dhe.state.co.us).

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, COSI funds programs that will help prepare students for postsecondary education, as well as support them through completion. To increase affordability, COSI provides matching funds for community scholarships.

**About the Colorado Department of Higher Education**

Working with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, we advocate, develop policies and support students to maximize higher education opportunities for all. The Department believes every Coloradan should have an education beyond high school to pursue their dreams and improve our communities. Read the CDHE master plan [Colorado Rises](#).

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