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## COLLEGE IN COLORADO LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE TO HELP ASSET STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

New resource available to help eligible students without U.S. documentation pursue higher education

DENVER- College In Colorado has launched a new website,

www.CICColoradoASSET.org, to help Colorado students and their families understand the Colorado ASSET legislation. The ASSET (Advancing Students for a Stronger Economy Tomorrow) bill was passed by the Colorado legislature in 2013. It allows for eligible students without documentation to pay in-state tuition rather than out-ofstate tuition at Colorado public institutions, as well as receive the College Opportunity Fund stipend.

Some features of the new site include: an eligibility calculator, scholarships for undocumented students, detailed information about the Colorado ASSET process, resources for educators who assist students who may qualify for ASSET, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) resources, and more. In addition to the website, College In Colorado has devoted one of its staff members to assist Colorado students, families, and educators with ASSET questions and the college process.

"This ASSET website will provide tailored information for students without documentation who may not otherwise pursue higher education, and is a great complement to our main website, CollegeInColorado.org," said Dawn Taylor Owens, College In Colorado's executive director. "CICColoradoASSET.org is another that College In Colorado and the Department of Higher Education are working to break down barriers, and increase the number of our own Colorado students pursuing postsecondary education and entering the Colorado workforce."

So far, 956 students have enrolled in Colorado's public institutions of higher education under ASSET. This figure reflects the program's inception in summer 2013 through fall 2014. The College In Colorado hosted website will allow for this number to

increase over the following years, and provide more students with resources to pursue and complete a degree in higher education.

For more information about Colorado ASSET, please visit <u>www.CICColoradoASSET.org</u>.

## About College In Colorado:

Colorado ranks in the top five states nationwide for the greatest number of degree holders per capita, yet only one in five Colorado ninth-grade students will earn a college degree, ranking the state in the bottom quartile nationally. College In Colorado was initiated by the Department of Higher Education (DHE), which serves the citizens of the state of Colorado by promoting access to, affordability of, and success in higher education for all students. College In Colorado is charged with helping all Coloradans explore career and education pathways, break down barriers to postsecondary attainment, and create a plan for their postsecondary and workforce success. A cornerstone of the campaign, www.CollegeInColorado.org, offers a onestop resource to help students and parents plan, apply and pay for college.

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