Local High Schoolers Support Students in Need

Five very deserving students have the opportunity to advance their community college education through help from a local nonprofit started by two high school students. Helping the Homeless Colorado is a non-profit organization that was founded by Alyssa Gorkin and Matine Khalighi when they were in middle school. This organization focuses on improving the quality of life for the people experiencing homelessness and empowering the youth of Colorado to make positive contributions to support the homeless population.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, Helping the Homeless Colorado generously provided funding for scholarships to benefit CCCS students who have demonstrated great persistence in succeeding in school despite daunting obstacles of homelessness and poverty. Scholarship awards ranged from $1,000-5,000, making a truly significant difference for the students receiving the scholarships.

"I will go above and beyond what is expected of me to show how appreciative I am of this Scholarship..."

One Helping the Homeless scholar shared how this scholarship has impacted her future. “I will go beyond what is expected of me to show how appreciative I am of this scholarship. This will help me and my son in ways that I can’t even imagine. I can’t express how much gratitude I’m experiencing at this current moment, it’s unfathomable. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.”

Together, the Foundation and Helping the Homeless Colorado, are working to ensure a lack of housing and resources does not prevent CCCS students from fulfilling their desire to attain a higher level of education.
Upskilling Rural Communities with Workforce Scholarships

In an effort to address Colorado’s rural workforce development gaps, Pinnacol Assurance awarded the Foundation a $50,000 grant to fund the Pinnacol Scholars Program. This program was created to provide scholarships to students who intend to work in rural communities and are enrolled in high-need industries such as nursing, machining and other skilled trades.

Eighty-six percent of Colorado employers say that skills gaps are a threat to their business, according to a Colorado Succeeds survey. When jobs are unfilled, economic growth is stunted and communities and individuals are not able to thrive. The skills gap is even more pronounced in Colorado’s rural communities, which face significant challenges attracting and retaining talent.

Pinnacol Assurance identified the Colorado Community College System as a key partner in training highly-skilled workers in rural communities due to its focus on career and technical education and statewide reach.

The 2019 Pinnacol Scholars Program scholarships were awarded to students pursuing degrees in rural communities near Alamosa, Cortez, Craig, Durango, La Junta, Lamar, Larimer County, Longmont, Pueblo, Rangely and Trinidad.

One scholarship went to Cassandra Mathews Larch, who is enrolled in the nursing program at Colorado Northwestern Community College in Craig. Larch, originally from Rifle, Colorado, is no stranger to the needs of a rural community. She plans to work as an emergency department acute care nurse in the rural mountain town of Meeker. "I plan on staying and working in a rural area because it feels more like home," said Larch. "The connection between the people is gold. I get to provide exceptional care for the locals — this brings me great pleasure, as I know they will get the care they deserve."

Thanks to the Pinnacol Scholars Program, Larch can finance a portion of her dream. “This lifted a huge weight off my shoulders so that I could work less and focus more on school,” said Larch.

THE FOUNDATION WELCOMES

The Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges continues to celebrate successes, largely driven by the support we receive from community members, donors, and volunteers. We have been honored to have several individuals volunteer to join the Foundation Board. The Foundation thanks these new board members for their commitment to our mission:

Lance Bolton, President, Pikes Peak Community College
Fred Colen, Board Member
Rollie Heath, State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education
The Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges takes pride in the responsible stewardship of funds raised and strives to limit administrative and fundraising expenses to direct as much as possible to programs that advance the CCCS mission.

84% PROGRAM
7% ADMINISTRATION
9% FUNDRAISING

About the Foundation

The Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges seeks to advance the mission, vision, goals, and objectives of the Colorado Community College System. Specifically, the Foundation develops partnerships with community stakeholders and actively seeks contributions from public and private sources to make scholarships available, to advance key programmatic initiatives, and to support institutional priorities. The Foundation also provides support and professional development to the 13 CCCS colleges and their foundations.

Portfolio Performance

As of June 30, 2019, the Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges’ investment portfolio was valued at $3,709,356. The investment portfolio represents a combination of endowed funds (totaling $3,123,952) and the Foundation’s reserve account (totaling $585,404). Over fiscal year 2019, the Foundation received $373,997 in new gifts to the endowment.

Portfolio Market Value

[Chart showing portfolio market value by fiscal year from FY10 to FY19]
## DONORS

### $500,000 or More
- Colorado Department of Higher Education’s Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative

### $100,000 – $499,999
- The Anschutz Foundation
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- The Stone Family Foundation

### $50,000 – $99,999
- Colorado Garden Foundation
- Pinnacol Assurance

### $10,000 – $49,999
- Carolina Biological Supply Distance Learning
- Credit Union of Colorado
- Colorado PERA
- FleetPros
- HealthONE
- Helping the Homeless
- Colorado Virtuoso Sourcing Group

### $1,000 – $4,999
- Kathryn Albright
- Presley Askew
- Michael Beasley
- Brainfuse
- Cal State
- Center Family Foundation
- Dr. Melissa B. Cermak and J. Adam Cermak
- Desire 2 Learn
- Dominion Foundation
- EAB
- EScience Labs
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- Tyrone and Sophie Greenfield
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- US Bank

### $1-$999
- Anonymous (10)
- Erin Allen
- Stacie Amaya
- Julie Briggs
- Lisa Brown-Roberts
- Danielle Bundy
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- Heidi Dineen
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- Laura DuClos
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- Chancellor Joseph Garcia
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- Lisa H. Grefrath
- Terry Hindsman
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- Christinne Johnson
- Kelsey Jones
- Lauren Jones
- Bill and Mavis Kacena
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- Michael Macklin
- McGraw-Hill Education
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- Molly Moats
- Denise Mosher
- Mary Nero
- The NROC Project
- Dr. Tina Parscal
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- Eric Thompson
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- Nancy Wahl
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