CCCS and the Foundation aim to enrich lives, nourish communities, and grow our economy by building a competitive workforce and well-educated citizenry. This year, through funding from the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI), we had an unique opportunity to advance those objectives through a dollar-for-dollar matching grant.

To encourage students to complete postsecondary credentials in high-wage, in-demand fields, the grant prioritized awarding scholarships to students seeking credentials in a workforce or CTE pathway. Priority areas included Healthcare and Behavioral Health; Energy, Natural Resources, Infrastructure, and Engineering; Professional and Technical Services; Education; Business Operations; and Construction and Skilled Trades.

This opportunity provided a natural fit, as CCCS oversees Colorado Career and Technical Education (CTE), which prepares students to enter the workforce in high-wage and high-demand occupations through business and industry-aligned career pathways.

As a matching grantee, COSI’s support brought together friends and partners with an interest in strengthening Colorado’s workforce. We are grateful for the individuals and companies that provided a gift to support workforce scholarships. Through the support of COSI and these partners, the foundation awarded $80,000 in workforce scholarships for the 2020-2021 academic year. Matching donors included Jandel Allen-Davis, ANB Bank, Comcast, Jim Johnson, Merritt Aluminum and Trailers, Kogar Propst, Stratospere Group, and Wagner Equipment.

The Foundation has a similar matching opportunity available through COSI for the coming year, and welcomes participation from additional interested partners. For more information on how you can make a gift in support of our workforce scholarship initiative, contact the Foundation.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1987, the Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges advances the mission, vision, goals, and objectives of the Colorado Community College System. Specifically, the Foundation actively seeks contributions from public and private sources to make scholarships available statewide, advance key programmatic initiatives, provide training and support for CCCS college foundations, and develop partnerships to implement state of the art programs that meet the workforce needs of the 21st century.
The Foundation added a new scholarship opportunity to its portfolio for 2019-2020. Generously supported by the Stratosphere Group, these scholarships are specifically for students pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) credentials across CCCS’s 13 colleges. Stratosphere Group is a Colorado company that helps businesses launch and accelerate their digital technologies. Founder and CEO Scott Chrisbacher has a particular interest in STEM after spending his career in the aerospace and defense industry. He views the changing workforce in this industry as creating great opportunities for the next generation of STEM workers.

When asked why he supports the Colorado Community College System, Chrisbacher said, “Scholarships can help people find an affordable way to obtain and develop the skills and knowledge they need to move forward in life, whether their goal is to land a good paying job in our community or to position themselves to extend their education at the university level.” Scott believes that community college is an onramp to a great future, offering accessibility and opportunity.

The Foundation is excited to partner with the Stratosphere Group to offer scholarships that encourage students to pursue pathways in STEM programs and become the technology leaders of today’s digital age.

PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

As of June 30, 2020, the Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges’ investment portfolio was valued at $3,955,962. The investment portfolio represents a combination of endowed funds (totaling $3,388,036) and the Foundation’s reserve account (totaling $567,926). Over fiscal year 2020, the Foundation received $435,478 in new gifts to the endowment.

FOUNDERING STUDENT SUCCESS

Too often we find that barriers outside of the classroom impact students’ success. Many of our students experience basic needs insecurities such as accessing food, housing, mental health services, and other resources. While our colleges provide the education and skills individuals need to earn a livable wage, enhance economic opportunity, and improve their standard of living, these goals can only be achieved if we focus on the entire student experience.

A generous gift from the Mistler Family Foundation will enable CCCS to participate in the #RealCollege Survey which reveals the lived experiences of students outside of the classroom. The survey will be launched in 2020-2021, allowing us to gather student data across our 13 colleges. Survey results will help CCCS better serve our students through programs that will promote their success both inside and outside of the academic environment.
DONORS

$500,000 +
Colorado Department of Higher Education’s Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative

$100,000 – $499,999
The Anschutz Foundation
Stone Family Foundation

$50,000 – $99,999
Kenneth King Foundation
Pinnacol Assurance

$10,000 – $49,999
Credit Union of Colorado
Colorado Garden Foundation
Colorado PERA
Colorado Trust
HealthONE
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Mistler Family Foundation
Rose Community Foundation
Harvey and Audrey Rothenberg
Stratosphere Group
Virtuoso Sourcing Group
Wagner Equipment

$5,000 – $9,999
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LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

You can make a significant impact at the Colorado Community College System and ensure your legacy with a planned gift. Legacy gifts provide a meaningful and lasting way for you to support our next generation of students. For more information on how to customize your strategy, please contact the Foundation.