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Community Partners Give \$2.3 Million Boost to Denver Public Schools' \$7 Million STEM Grant

Denver among Nation's Top Awardees of Federal Grant; More than 30 Public, Private Agencies Add to Investment in Improving Career and Technical Education

Denver -- President Barack Obama announced Monday that Denver Public Schools is one of only 24 agencies nationwide to receive a Youth CareerConnect grant from the US Departments of Labor and Education. The \$7 million grant is among the largest grants awarded through the program. Through the work of the DPS Foundation, the Denver community has stepped up to add to this investment in dramatically improving career and technical education—with a special focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs—by providing a \$2.3 million match to the federal grant, raising the grant total to \$9.3 million. DPS is one of six agencies nationwide to receive the highest grant amount of \$7 million.

Eight Denver high schools will benefit from the Youth CareerConnect grant, which will expand career and technical education programs focused on the following industries: engineering, health and medicine, digital careers, finance, information technology, energy and manufacturing.

"It's wonderful to see our community step up to support such an impactful investment in our schools and our students," said DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg. "With this major federal grant and the additional support from our community partners, our high schools will be able to provide our students with the rigorous technical education that will prepare them for college and many of today's most promising careers. These career fields are a burgeoning part of the economy, and we need to open the doors for our students to the colleges and career opportunities that will get them ready for a successful career in these fields."

The Youth CareerConnect grant will expand programs that provide opportunities for students to participate in a paid internship or job shadow and complete a capstone project that demonstrates how they applied the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom to their workplace-based learning experience. DPS will also work with

workforce investment partners to provide career fairs and summer industry academies.

“This is about getting our students ready for college and equipping them with the skills necessary to pursue high-skill college and career tracks,” Boasberg added. “Our schools are committed to ensuring each of our students has the skills and knowledge to achieve their career and college goals.”

As part of the grant investment and via the DPS Foundation, more than 30 community partners, from both public and private sectors, have committed \$2,333,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to fund the implementation of the new STEM-related curriculum pathways. Community support for the grant came from a cross-section of businesses, higher education institutions, city offices and community and statewide organizations. A list of partial funders includes QEP Resources, Campos EPC, RK Mechanical, Metro State University of Denver, Community College of Denver, Arapahoe Community College, Red Rocks Community College, the City of Denver, Colorado Technology Association, Colorado Advanced Manufacturing Alliance and Colorado Bioscience Institute. For a full list of funders, please visit www.dpsfoundation.org.

The eight high schools that will gain expanded programs via the Youth CareerConnect grant are:

Abraham Lincoln High School
CEC Middle College
East High School
Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College
George Washington High School
West Career Academy
High Tech Early College
John F. Kennedy High School