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### **Denver Public Schools Foundation CEO Leaving to Assume Leadership Role with Colorado Mountain College**

**Denver** – After leading the Denver Public Schools (DPS) Foundation, DPS’ fundraising partner, for the past six and half years, President and CEO Kristin Heath Colon announced Wednesday that she will be leaving the DPS Foundation later this fall to assume a leadership role with Colorado Mountain College (CMC). Colon will assume the role of Vice President for Advancement and Foundation CEO with CMC. Colon first joined the DPS Foundation as President and CEO in March of 2009.

“Under Kristin’s tremendous leadership these past six plus years, the DPS Foundation has raised nearly \$81.9 million, and helped us leverage an additional \$100 million to support Denver’s students and programs,” said DPS Superintendent Tom Boasberg. “I am forever grateful to Kristin for her leadership, tenacity and passion, which has helped to spearhead critical work being done in DPS to ensure every child succeeds. She will be deeply missed.”

As leader of the DPS Foundation’s strategy, operations and fundraising efforts, Colon grew the Foundation’s support of DPS students exponentially with annual revenue increasing from \$6.6 million in 2009 to \$15.3 million, and total assets growing to \$14.8 million -- both increases of more than 130% since 2009. The growth in revenue, as well as a growth in number of donors and volunteers has garnered national attention, with the DPS Foundation ranked among the top five school district foundations in the country.

“To work alongside Superintendent Tom Boasberg, DPS educators, our incredible DPS Foundation staff and Board of Directors, past and present -- and the Denver community, toward our shared goal of ensuring every child succeeds, has been a true privilege and one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career,” Colon said.

Colon has deep roots in supporting public education. The move to Colorado Mountain College, returns Colon to higher education, as she held myriad fundraising roles for the University of Colorado Foundation, serving the Athletic Department for over 14 years. As Vice President for Advancement and Foundation CEO at CMC, Colon will oversee fundraising efforts for the multi-campus college as well as the college’s marketing, communications, public information office and alumni relations.

“I strongly believe that having access to a quality and affordable education is the civil rights issue of our generation. Both DPS and CMC are leading the way in making a difference for our community and our youth. It’s an honor to have been asked to join President Hauser, someone whom I have known and respected a long time, and her team to bring our collective energy and passion for this work to the CMC communities,” Colon said of her new role. “The CMC region has held a special place in my heart for many decades. My family and I look forward to making it our official home.”

“We are thrilled to be bringing on board an accomplished leader like Kristin Heath Colon, with her years of development and advancement experience in both higher education and K-12,” said Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser, president and CEO of Colorado Mountain College. “Along with the CMC Foundation Board and Chair Patty Theobald, we welcome Kristin and look forward to sharing many future successes with her.”

[The DPS Foundation Board of Directors](#) will establish a process to identify the next President and CEO to succeed Colon later this fall.