







#### Dear Friend of the DPS Foundation,

Denver is among our country's most vibrant urban cities, with a thriving economy and a rich culture of arts and intellectual exchange. It is a much sought-after place to live for people of all ages, including families with school-aged children. Our community demands and deserves a top-notch public school system for our children. Access to a quality education for all of Denver's students is a critical reason thousands more families continue to choose Denver Public Schools (DPS) to steward their children's education. It's why DPS continues to be the fastest growing urban school district in the country. Our future depends on the investment we make as a community today to provide a high-quality education for every child for generations to come.

Your support of the DPS Foundation is helping to push forward this important work to make Denver's school system the best in the country. Your gift is at work, and the work being done in DPS is recognized nationally. We thank you for your dedication to the lives of Denver's students and to the quality of our public education system and our collective future.

DPS continues to reach milestones in its quest to become the best public school district in the country. Under the direction and vision of the Denver Plan 2020, DPS students have shown dramatic improvement over the rest of the state in every core subject area. In the past six years, on-time graduation rates have risen by 24 percentage points while dropout rates have been cut in half. As the largest school system in Colorado, DPS serves more than 90,000 students – a 24 percent enrollment increase in the past 10 years.

Despite our progress and growth, we can't ignore the difficult truths and incredible challenges urban school districts face. Closing the opportunity gap between our affluent and non-affluent students continues to be an urgent priority. Only six in 10 third-grade students are proficient readers. Research continues to show that third-grade proficiency is one of the key indicators of high school on-time completion. Our goal is to ensure every child is reading at grade level, and 100 percent of our students are graduating from high school on-time and ready for college, career and life.

You play a critical role in this growth and progress as part of a powerful community-wide movement to ensure the strength of our public school system. Thanks to supporters like you, we raised more than \$15 million in 2014-15 for DPS students and schools. We are pleased to highlight some of this past year's success stories in the pages that follow.

With your help, we're empowering school leaders to identify, evaluate and replicate the highest-performing and most exciting new innovations; and we're expanding core programs proven to have measurable impact on the lives of our students. Together, we will achieve our shared vision: **Every Child Succeeds!** 

Along with the DPS Foundation 2015-16 Board Chair Craig Umbaugh, we thank you for your commitment to Denver's students.

Sincerely,

Kristin Heath Colon

President & CEO, Denver Public Schools Foundation

Brooke Brown

2014-15 Board Chair, Denver Public Schools Foundation

Tom Boasberg

Superintendent, Denver Public Schools

. Q. Bourte



Literacy is tied to everything we do in life. The power of literacy lies not just in the ability to read and write, but more so in a person's capacity to apply these skills to effectively connect, interpret and discern the intricacies of the world in which we live.

With the support of the community, the Denver Public Schools Foundation funds innovative literacy strategies for students of all ages to ensure every child is reading at grade level and prepared to be a lifelong learner. These literacy programs allow children to build the confidence and skills they need to become strong readers and future leaders.



Only six in 10 third-grade students are proficient readers. Research continues to show that third-grade proficiency is one of the key indicators of high school on-time completion.



Through the DPS Foundation's School Partners Program, more than 700 community members spent 6,000 hours reading with students one-on-one, increasing students' confidence in literacy.





# A to Z Fund Prepared Students for the DPS Shakespeare Festival

Each year, more than 5,000 students from across the metro-area celebrate the works of Shakespeare at the annual DPS Shakespeare Festival, the oldest and largest student Shakespeare festival in the country. Using the works of Shakespeare, students from Munroe Elementary were challenged to acquire new vocabulary, make connections to their own cultural heritages, and incorporate critical and imaginative thinking. In addition, students were provided a forum to demonstrate their talents as performers. Preparing for the Shakespeare Festival enhances literacy and brings out the artist, actor and leader in each of our kids.

In my classroom, 100% of my students speak English as a second language, so one of the things we struggle with is expression when speaking. Learning the works of Shakespeare has really helped them to excel. We used the A to Z Fund grant to bring in actors for extra practice sessions, a performance, and to purchase brand-new costumes, which really boosted their confidence when performing.

-Rachael Nyberg-Hampton, Teacher at Munroe Elementary



## A to Z Fund Provided Skiing Lessons for DPS Students!

I had never been skiing before. I always thought it would be really hard, but my ski teacher showed me lots of cool techniques to make it easy. I know to "french fry" and "pizza" to control how fast or slow I go. I also learned to move like a snake and lean when making sharp turns. I am pretty good at skiing now! Most of the class was afraid of skiing — they were able to overcome their fear because of these lessons. It was so awesome, and the teachers were just so amazing and fun!

-Daijah, 5th Grade, Gust Elementary



# Strengthening the Pipeline to Success through Career and Technical Education

DPS has set out on an ambitious path to dramatically improve how we're preparing students for college and career. By implementing a pipeline of Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, DPS is preparing our future leaders for the very jobs that are in highest demand in Denver – ensuring that we are strengthening our city, and our students' futures.

CTE pathways involve worked-based learning. Students have the chance to gain hands-on workplace experience and mentoring, including job shadows, career fairs and summer industry academies, in addition to their targeted classroom curriculum.

# Student Spotlight: Amanda CEC Middle College of Denver

I love attending CEC Middle College of Denver where I am currently studying in the health program. So many opportunities are offered to me, and I know the school has the best intentions for us students. I am really eager to continue learning more and to determine if I will specialize in a specific field or be a general physician. The hands-on activities at the job shadow were really interesting, and the professionals who came in were so passionate about their work. They are the people saving lives every day – how rewarding! I can't wait to help people live better.



# Donor Spotlight: Donna Lynne, a Champion for STEM and the DPS Foundation

My commitment to the DPS Foundation is both a personal and a professional investment. I believe providing high quality public education is a social justice issue, and all students – regardless of their socioeconomic status, ethnicity or where they are from – should be afforded an opportunity to go to a great public school. The DPS Foundation enriches the lives of young people by enabling school opportunities students wouldn't otherwise have the chance to participate in, such as afterschool programs and arts education.

When I came to Denver to work for Kaiser Permanente, I recognized that Kaiser was a big supporter of many community-based activities. It was important for me to bring my passion to community giving. I'm a believer and supporter of CTE to help connect our young people to the next step in their lives – whether that is a CTE career or a college degree. Kaiser is a large employer in the Denver-metro area. I have a desire to hire people from our community, and our commitment to CTE and STEM helps to connect students to these careers.

One of my passions is that all children must be healthy in order to learn well.

Kaiser's work has helped to provide health care and instill healthy habits for DPS students. It's an area we can help with – and we do this through our commitment and investment in DPS and the DPS Foundation.

Donna Lynne has been a longtime supporter of the DPS Foundation. Under her leadership, she has helped forge a strong partnership between Kaiser and the DPS Foundation. Most recently, Kaiser awarded a three-year, \$650,000 grant to DPS to support CTE pathways in the health and bioscience fields at four DPS high schools. Donna Lynne has served on the DPS Foundation's Board of Directors since 2007, and served as the Board Chair from 2011 to 2013.



**Donna Lynne**, Group President, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. & Kaiser Foundation Hospitals President, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Colorado, with her husband Jim Brown and DPS students at the Achieve Gala.

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## The SCHOOL PARTNERS PROGRAM

creates meaningful partnerships between Denver's local businesses/community organizations and DPS schools to contribute to the success of every DPS student.



In 2014/15, 73 active School Partners had a tremendous impact on 42 DPS schools.



Over \$125,000 in direct financial and in-kind support was contributed to DPS schools.





The School Partners Program is a collaboration between the DPS Foundation, Mile High United Way and DPS.

School Partners provide a combination of volunteer time, in-kind contributions and financial resources to meet the specific needs of their partner school.



## Partner Spotlight: PricewaterhouseCoopers

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) is a champion for public education, having established an ongoing partnership with Columbian Elementary, hosting multiple days of service and school supply drives. As a literacy champion, they also have provided two consecutive years of grants to the DPS Foundation for the Each One Teach One literacy program and also participate in Power Lunch, an in-person weekly reading program that pairs volunteers with DPS third-grade students.

At PwC, we have a desire, as well as a responsibility as business leaders, to take actions that have a lasting, positive impact on the communities in which we work. As a result, PwC is committed to providing opportunities for its people to participate both in firm-sponsored community events and activities, as well as giving employees the time they need to lend a hand to organizations and causes to which they feel a personal connection. The Power Lunch program allows PwC partners and staff the opportunity to give back in a meaningful way, on a regular basis to an important cause – youth education. The strength of our community as a whole is tied

-Nina Nelan, Tax Director at PwC

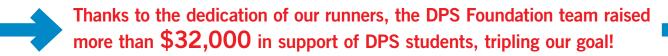
to the strength of each of its individuals.

**Congratulations to Nina Nelan**, National Points of Light award winner for her role in coordinating Power Lunch volunteers at PwC! Points of Light is the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service – mobilizing millions of people to take action and change the world.



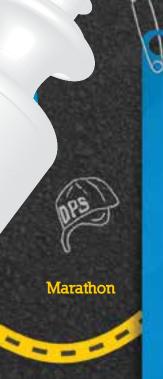
## Colfax Marathon Team Hits Record-Breaking Total

For the third year, the DPS Foundation was a Charity Partner of the Colfax Marathon, and had a team of 165 runners participating in various races the weekend of May 16-17. This was more than just a race for these runners; it was an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our DPS students. In addition to running, team members raised money in support of DPS students and schools.



Funds raised by the Colfax Marathon will help us reach our vision of Every Child Succeeds, making our community a better place to live, today and long into the future.







Just keep running and go for home! That was my motto when training for the Colfax Marathon. I ran for the DPS Foundation Colfax Marathon team because I love DPS! I am a junior at East High School, and I love being an East Angel for so many reasons. I appreciate our diversity, my classes are rigorous and challenging, and I have so many opportunities to be part of various clubs, activities and sport teams.

I selected the DPS Foundation as my Charity Partner because of the support that's been provided to me while at East. It was fun to challenge myself when training and when fundraising! It was difficult for me to step out of my comfort zone and ask for money, because I didn't want to be annoying to my friends and family. But, I am so happy that I did it! I know the money goes right back to support Denver schools, and that's all the motivation I need!

# Achieve Gala raised \$975,000 for DPS students, our best year yet! It was an incredible evening, and we are honored and humbled by this show of support.

Please join us in thanking the many talented and inspirational DPS students who participated in this year's Achieve Gala. The student speakers and performers made the night unforgettable for the nearly 1,000 guests and exemplified how critical community investment is to our students.



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# Student Spotlight: Raymond Pryor, Achieve Gala Keynote Speaker, 2015 East High School Grad

I chose to pursue my entire education in DPS because I know the quality of education I am getting. I knew that in DPS, I could have every opportunity to connect my interest with discovery and my potential with success. My dream is to have an impact in public education whether as a teacher, counselor, policymaker, or social entrepreneur. I want to invest in the next generation of DPS students because I am so grateful for the investments that have been made in me.

That's why I dream of a career in support of education.



We are so grateful for the support of our Gala Chairs. Thank you to Elaine Gantz Berman, former board member for DPS, DPS Foundation and the State Board of Education; Leanna Clark, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and the Anschutz Medical Campus; and Bain Farris, former President and CEO of Saint Joseph Hospital, for your dedication and support of DPS students and schools!

## SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, April 21, 2016

ACHIEVE GALA 2016
A Fundraiser to Support Denver Public Schools

#### Join us for the 2016 Achieve Gala fundraiser.

Each and every one of us is personally capable of creating possibility for the more than 90,000 students in DPS. With your support, we can continue to accelerate our progress and provide resources and opportunities to help every student graduate prepared for college or career. Together, we can reach our vision of Every Child Succeeds.

Visit dpsfoundation.org/achieve to learn more.

# I Give for Team DPS Employee Giving Campaign Raised \$150,000 for DPS Students!

In addition to the work DPS educators do every day to help Every Child Succeed, nearly 500 educators from across DPS joined together to support the fifth annual employee giving campaign, raising \$150,000 for DPS students! We extend our heartfelt thanks to all educators who donated, team captains for leading the charge, RICOH for donating the printing of campaign materials, and to Superintendent Tom Boasberg and the Salah Foundation for their generous matches.

500 DPS Educators



RAISED

**\$150,000** 

Together,
DPS team
members have
generously
donated more
than \$415,000
to support our
students since
the campaign
started in 2010!

**Congratulations** to the second annual MVP award winners, Newlon Elementary, Skinner Middle School, and South High School (schools that earned the highest participation in the campaign).

## SAVE THE DATE: November 2, 2015





## The sixth annual I Give for Team DPS employee giving campaign launches.

The DPS Foundation invites all educators across DPS to make a charitable contribution to support programs and resources that make a huge difference for our students.

Visit dpsfoundation.org/teamdps to join!



## Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets

#### REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

#### **Contributions:**

Family and grant-making foundations & organizations	\$10,619,000
Corporate & corporate foundations	3,241,000
Individuals	463,000
Local government & agencies	70,000
In-kind	40,000
Special events, net	865,000
Investment income	57,000

Total revenues, gains and other support \$15,355,000

#### **EXPENSES**

Program services & grants	\$14,103,000
Management & general	596,000
Fundraising	666,000

#### Total expenses \$15,365,000

Change in net assets	\$(10,000)
Net assets, beginning of year	6,790,000

Net assets, end of year \$6,780,000

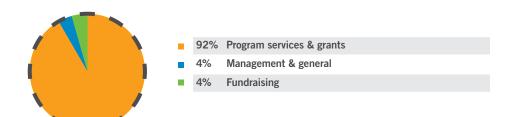
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Denver Public Schools Foundation received an unmodified opinion by independent auditors Kundinger, Corder & Engle, P.C. for the year ended June 30, 2015. The complete Independent Auditor's Report on Financial Statements is available upon request.

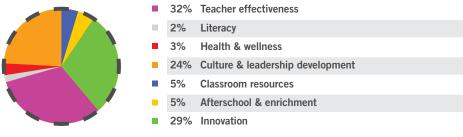
#### **TOTAL REVENUES**



#### **TOTAL EXPENSES**



#### **GRANTS FUNDED**



\$14,001,000 in grants funded

# **Donors** 2014/15

#### \$250,000 or more

Anonymous (1) The Anschutz Foundation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation The Colorado Health Foundation The Janus Foundation Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Colorado The Wallace Foundation

#### \$100,000 to \$249,999

Anonymous (2) Colorado Rockies Charity Fund, a McCormick Foundation Fund Kroenke Sports Charities / Kroenke Sports and Entertainment, LLC The Piton Foundation Rose Community Foundation

#### \$25,000 to \$99,999

Anonymous (1) **BBVA Compass** Marcy & Bruce Benson D Tom Boasberg D Campos EPC, LLC D Carson Foundation D

Connie Burwell White and William W. White Foundation D Denver Broncos Football Club The Denver Center for the Performing Arts The Denver Foundation Denver Post Charities, a McCormick Foundation Fund Elaine Gantz Berman & Steve Berman Gen Youth Foundation Hoopla Inc. D Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center IMA Financial Group The LARRK Foundation Noble Energy QEP Resources. Inc. Kristin & Blair Richardson RICOH Kim & Rob Roberts D The Salah Foundation Suncor Energy Sutherland Foundation, Inc. D Target

UMB

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#### \$10,000 to \$24,999

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#### \$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous (2) Alpine Bank Baseball Tomorrow Fund Lindsey & Doug Begland D

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Larry H. Miller Charities



SEED - the Society for Educational Excellence in Denver - is the DPS Foundation's major individual giving society.

Gifts of \$2,500 and above made by individuals, family foundations, donor advised funds and individually owned businesses are included in SEED. These passionate champions are committed to transforming K-12 education for all children in Denver Public Schools to ensure that Denver reaches its highest potential.

For questions, please contact Mary McGee, Senior Director of Major Gifts, at (720) 423-3897, or mmcgee@dpsfoundation.org.

#### \$5,000 to \$9,999 (continued)

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Semple, Farrington & Everall, P.C.

Cari & Eric Riedlin

Stan Siefer D



# Donor Spotlight: Christine DeRose, a Champion for DPS

DPS is a school district where we can make a difference because of its size and structure. When you add the current administration, the dedicated teachers and principals, and the DPS Foundation, our giving is very impactful. We can all see the fruits of our labor. We can be more hands-on.

How we give money to schools makes an impact on students' lives – we are very thoughtful of how it helps and who it's helping. It's easy to write a check, but it's harder to look closely at how we are using the funds we have and how they can have maximum impact.

I think the things going on in Denver are really incredible. DPS is awesome. DPS and the DPS Foundation are doing cutting edge work that will change students' lives in the most positive way possible. It's changed my life just being involved — maybe even more so than the students.



Christine DeRose, a Society for Educational Excellence in Denver (SEED) donor, is a longtime supporter of the DPS Foundation, and has served on the Board of Directors since 2013. Christine serves on the A to Z Fund committee, which is charged with the important task of determining which schools and classrooms will be awarded A to Z Fund grants. Christine DeRose's company, DeRose Investment Group, and RBC Capital Markets & Wealth Management were also Presenting Sponsors for the Union des Grands Crus de Bordeaux Wine Tasting for the past two years. Each year, the event raised more than \$70,000 for DPS students!

Stadium Management
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Strear Family Foundation D
TIAA-CREF
University of Denyer

Kendra Valis Black
& Eric Black
Vectra Bank Colorado
Travis Webb
Western Dairy Association

WhiteWave Foods
Janice & Dee Wisor

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Lisa Zoeller & Craig Umbaugh

#### \$1,000 to \$2,499

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James White

Alvssa & Michael Whitehead-Bust

Xanterra Parks & Resorts



### Donor Spotlight: Leslie Juniel, DPS Culture Equity and Leadership Team (CELT)

I Give for Team DPS because DPS is a gift to me; this work is a gift to me. It's a privilege and an honor to be part of such dynamic and transformative work! I've spent most of my life in DPS, and I am proud to represent five living generations of DPS graduates and attendees. I can personally attest to the impactful work taking place here.

At every step of my life's journey people have provided me with support, encouragement, belief and confidence. We each have an obligation to leave the world a better place than how we found it. For me, DPS is that small part of the world. We all have a role to play to ensure the DPS legacy lives on forever. This is my personal responsibility and commitment, so I give to the campaign.

I'm passionate about the work we do in DPS. It is my hope that every person in DPS is appreciated and valued for the skills, abilities, talents and treasures they possess. Wow! We are fortunate to have such a diverse group of individuals who have chosen DPS. I am confident that the contributions we as educators make each day have impact and will ultimately help us reach our vision of *Every Child Succeeds*!





#### \$500 to \$999

Anonymous (2)

Christy & Dave Alberts

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Josh Allen

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Andrew Baker

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As AmeriCorps Members, we support DPS because we find education to be an opportunity to help the students and families of DPS succeed. Our two years of serving has allowed us to gain a greater understanding of what life looks like for our students and families and helps us better serve them in the future. We were motivated to join and fundraise for the Colfax Marathon team for two reasons; one was the personal challenge of leading a more healthy and active lifestyle, and the second was to help support the DPS Foundation which makes literacy programs like Power Lunch possible.

This was our first time fundraising for a nonprofit organization. One of the reasons we had a successful campaign was due in part to asking our network early, staying active and connected, and showing them why their donation would be so impactful. We also attribute our success to the tremendous amount of support that we received from our department, friends and family, who share in our mission and ultimately helped us surpass our goal. Being a part of the DPS Foundation's Colfax Marathon Team was a fun and rewarding way to support DPS students. Plus as a top fundraiser for the team, we got to designate \$1,000 to Columbine Elementary to help improve their reading room and ensure that children's literacy is a priority!



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### Partner Spotlight: Noble Energy, a Champion for Colorado's Future Workforce

For us, it's a passion to help the next generation be more successful than we are," said Noble Energy Senior Vice President Chip Rimer. "This is one of the many reasons why Noble Energy supports DPS students.

In partnership with the Denver Broncos, Noble Energy's "Red Zone" campaign raised \$40,000 for DPS students. When the Broncos moved the ball inside their opponents' 20-yard-line, a \$1,000 donation was given! Noble Energy also gave DPS students a oncein-a-lifetime experience to attend each Broncos home game and be down on the field.



Noble Energy is a champion for DPS, contributing financial and volunteer support to several DPS schools. Employees participate in Power Lunch, a weekly reading program, which pairs a volunteer with a young reader. In addition, more than 1,000 students received brand-new backpacks filled with school supplies.

Today while I was stuffing backpacks I was reminded how excited I used to get when I got new school supplies," said Ben Dillon, Noble Energy's Vice President of Communications and Government Relations. "I am just so glad we were able to provide students with the tools they need to be equipped to learn. Noble Energy has a vested interest in serving DPS because we want DPS students to have the programs that encourage and support them to explore and understand technical careers.

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