



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

New Endowment Partnership with D51 Foundation

In February 2015 the Mesa County School District's foundation, D51 Foundation, voted to establish an endowment with our Community Foundation. D51 Foundation was established several years ago in response to significant budget cuts in order to attract additional funds to improve student learning.

The board wants to encourage people who care about public education to consider naming WCCF/D51 Foundation Endowment in their will or estate plans. This "extra" funding can help the District introduce new technologies and expand student learning above and beyond what government funding provides.

To learn more about D51 Foundation, visit www.d51foundation.org.



D51 School Board President Greg Mikolai used a drone to take a photo of the Palisade



Delta High School graduates received their awards at the 2015 Senior Scholarship Breakfast

Community Foundation commits \$616,000 in college scholarships to 76 graduating students

Spring 2015 has been a very busy time for our Scholarship Program team here at the Western

Colorado Community Foundation! We are pleased to announce that we have committed \$616,000 in scholarships, to be paid over four years, from 36 different funds. These scholarships support 76 graduating seniors from high schools across the many counties we serve.

2015 marks our first year using an on-line scholarship application process. While this was new for our staff, donors and review committees, we feel it was a great success. Students can now complete a common application and upload supporting materials via our website; they are then automatically considered for all the scholarships for which they are eligible. On-line applications greatly improve the efficiency of our process as we grow and add more scholarship funds.

Scholarship funds are a tremendous

High School graduating class during commencement festivities on May 11, 2015. Mr. Mikolai reminded the graduating seniors that this drone technology was not even dreamt of when he graduated high school, and that young people today will be learning and deploying all sorts of new technologies in the future.



Beyond the Classroom Delta County School District Foundation supporting outdoor science education for students

Delta County School District has been working hard to develop a new experiential science program. With teacher input, 4th and 5th grade teachers and students have been provided with hands-on science activity boxes, reaching over 600 students this past year. In addition, with the help of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife's Teach Environments Naturally (TEN) program, over 2000 students applied classroom concepts in the field, and almost 70 teachers have benefited from professional development classes.

These special outdoor education projects have received generous support from our Community Foundation as well as the Delta-Montrose Electric Association/Touchstone Energy, Delta Wal-Mart, the Frances R. Dewing Foundation, and a number of private donations from grateful families.

investment in young people. With the cost of college education rising steadily and worries about student debt burden growing, private scholarships offered through our community foundation can help a young person's dream of a college education come true.



Carl S. is one of 76 students receiving a scholarship from our Community Foundation. A graduate of Fruita Monument High School, Carl plans to study engineering at Cal Poly, and hopes to one day work for Tesla.



The Lunch Lizard is launching on June 1st! The food truck will be covering a five-stop route from 11 AM to 1:30 PM Mondays through Thursdays in June, bringing free hot lunches to parks and neighborhoods in Orchard Mesa and other high-need areas in our community. The program is sponsored by School District 51 Nutrition Services and the meals are fully reimbursed by the USDA Summer Food Service Program.

Our Community Foundation made a \$50,000 grant to the School District to purchase the used food truck for this pilot mobile summer meal program.



Reflections from the Executive Director

Graduating high school seniors are celebrating their educational accomplishments. Many are preparing to go off to college and continue their formal education. This graduation season is extra busy, and special, for me with my youngest child graduating from high school. Next year my husband and I will be transitioning to Empty Nest and making tuition payments for two children in college. Parents make many sacrifices to raise their children, culminating in helping pay for a college education. As a community, we can help young people further their education by providing private scholarships. Our Community Foundation has many donors who appreciate the opportunities their college education has provided them and want to help others fulfill their potential. We invite you to consider the gift of education and fund scholarships for young people in our community. We also invite you to consider supporting K - 12 education through our endowed funds for public school districts. Education is a tremendous gift to give to the next generation.

- Anne Wenzel

Do you care about kids and their education? Interested in leaving a bequest or estate gift to support public education in Mesa County or Delta County or any other county in Western Colorado?

Contact our office to learn more about charitable legacy planning, 970-243-3767.



The Western Colorado Community Foundation is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations by the Council on Foundations.

Vist our Website
