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Colorado colleges, universities partner with Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs

Colorado colleges and universities offer more than \$400,000 in scholarships March 29 to Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year winner and finalists

DENVER — Eight Colorado colleges and universities are awarding more than \$400,000 in scholarships March 29 to this year's Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year winner and finalists.

Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs, located in communities statewide, enable young people, especially those who need Clubs most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Being selected Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

The winner will be announced at a special reception the evening of March 29 that will include remarks from Gov. John Hickenlooper, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia and Attorney General John Suthers. This year's finalists are from: Alamosa, Centennial, Colorado Springs, Craig, Denver, Greeley, Ignacio, Montrose, Pueblo and Wellington.

"We are most appreciative to Colorado's institutions of higher learning for their support of Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs and providing scholarships to help our members attain their goals," said Julie Mordecai, executive director of the Colorado Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs.

The total amount of scholarships for Youth of the Year finalists more than quadrupled this year.

The following colleges and universities are providing scholarships to this year's Youth of the Year winner and finalists:

- Colorado State University - Fort Collins (*four-year scholarship for tuition and fees*)
- Colorado State University - Pueblo (*four-year scholarship, all expenses*)
- University of Colorado - Boulder (*four-year scholarship for tuition and fees*)
- University of Colorado - Colorado Springs (*two four-year scholarships, all expenses*)
- Adams State College (Alamosa) (*four-year scholarship, all expenses*)
- Mesa State College (Grand Junction) (*\$1,000 per year per Youth of the Year finalist*)
- Metro State College (Denver) (*\$1,000 per Denver city winner*)
- University of Northern Colorado (*four-year scholarship*)

Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs are located in low-income, rural and underserved communities statewide and offer a range of programs year-round designed to ensure that all club members graduate from high school on time, ready for a post-secondary education and a 21st-century career. These programs include a dropout prevention program; homework help and tutoring; and a program based on research showing that students do better in school when they spend non-school hours engaged in fun, academically beneficial activities

Colorado Boys & Girls Clubs serve, on average, 3,672 young people a day at 41 sites in 23 cities. Clubs reach out to kids who cannot afford, or may lack access to, other community programs. Annual membership dues are low, averaging \$10 to \$20 per year. Boys & Girls Clubs rely on a range of funding, including member dues, individual and corporate donations, foundation grants and government funding.

About the Colorado Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

The Colorado Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs represents 16 organizations with 41 sites. The clubs provide safe, positive centers staffed with youth development professionals, who mentor and teach the youth they serve. Key programs emphasize leadership development; education and career exploration; community service; technology training; financial literacy; health and life skills; the arts; sports/ fitness; and family outreach.

About Youth of the Year

Being selected Youth of the Year is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club member can receive. The title recognizes outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community and Boys & Girls Club, as well as personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

VIDEO: Learn more about this year's Youth of the Year finalists: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsRVYgp9BNM>

Photo/interview opportunities:

Tuesday, March 29

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Youth of the Year Recognition Lunch (Denver Athletic Club, 1325 Glenarm Denver)

Former House Speaker Terrance Carroll is the emcee at a special luncheon where youth get to bring a mentor who has impacted them. At this lunch, they'll discuss who and what has made a difference in their lives.

**** 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.: Youth of the Year event with special guests: Gov. John Hickenlooper, Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, Attorney General John Suthers, 40+ lawmakers and representatives from 9 colleges/universities that are providing scholarships. Governor speaking at 5:45 p.m. Youth of the Year announced around 6:15 p.m.**