

***For Immediate Release***

**The Women's Foundation of Colorado Names Award-Winning Journalist and Documentarian Soledad O'Brien as Keynote Speaker for 2015 Annual Denver Luncheon**

*O'Brien to Speak on Her Commitment to Uncovering and Producing Stories That Look at Intersecting Issues of Gender, Race, Class, Wealth, Opportunity, and Poverty*

**DENVER (May 6, 2015)** – The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) announced today that Soledad O'Brien will be the keynote speaker for its [Annual Denver Luncheon](#) on **October 14, 2015** at the Colorado Convention Center. O'Brien is an award-winning journalist and documentarian who is dedicated to uncovering and producing provocative stories that look at the intersecting issues of gender, race, class, wealth, opportunity, and poverty.

The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Annual Denver Luncheon is one of the state's largest annual gatherings for diverse sectors and communities who support women and girls on their paths to economic self-sufficiency. The luncheon carries a long-standing tradition of hosting well-known keynote speakers who bring current messages that inspire shared understanding and collective action among attendees.

"Soledad O'Brien will use a gender lens to magnify the relevant issues of our day and invoke awareness of how we can all make a difference in undoing systemic barriers and creating opportunities for women and girls to reach their full potential," said Lauren Y. Casteel, President and CEO of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. "Ms. O'Brien is one of today's most exciting, engaging storytellers and she will enrich our luncheon with her passion for helping women and girls build bridges between obstacles and opportunity."

In 2013, O'Brien and her husband started the Soledad O'Brien and Brad Raymond Starfish Foundation, which provides young women of color with the resources necessary to help them succeed. She also launched Starfish Media Group, a multi-platform media production and distribution company that targets a diverse global audience through impactful topics that define our time. O'Brien was the originator of CNN's *Black in America* and *Latino in America* documentary series, which are among CNN's most successful franchises. In each of her endeavors, O'Brien continues to deliver empowering stories while highlighting systemic inequality and challenges.

Since 1987, The Women's Foundation of Colorado has been a leader in conducting research, impacting public policy and education, and investing in community partnerships throughout the state that impact its ability to change the lives of women and girls. The Foundation's Annual Denver Luncheon is its signature event and raised more than \$850,000 in 2014.

-more-

## **About the WFCO Annual Denver Luncheon**

**Who:** The Women’s Foundation of Colorado  
**What:** Annual Denver Luncheon with Keynote Speaker Soledad O’Brien  
**When:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 / 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
**Where:** Colorado Convention Center – Denver, CO  
**Attendance:** 1,900 guests expected

Tickets are on sale at [www.wfco.org](http://www.wfco.org). For table sales and sponsorship opportunities contact Shayna Braunstein, Annual Fund Officer, at [shaynab@wfco.org](mailto:shaynab@wfco.org) or 303-285-2967.

Many thanks to our corporate partners: [FirstBank](#), presenting sponsor; [DaVita Healthcare Partners](#), Inc., presenting podium ask match & VIP evening reception sponsor; [MillerCoors](#), podium ask match sponsor; [Vladimir Jones](#), speaker sponsor; [Western Union Foundation](#), program sponsor; and [CBS4](#), [Comcast](#), and [The Denver Post](#), media sponsors.

### **About The Women’s Foundation of Colorado**

In 2014, The Women’s Foundation of Colorado granted more than \$1.3 million to dozens of agencies in communities across the state, achieving the highest level of granting in its history. Since 1987, WFCO has invested more than \$13 million in Colorado communities.

The mission of The Women’s Foundation of Colorado is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential. We are committed to boldly leading systemic change to advance economic opportunity for all women and girls in Colorado; using research to build knowledge and guide action; building philanthropy that supports and champions women and girls in Colorado; demonstrating and promoting inclusiveness and commitment to a diversity of people, partners and ideas; and creating strategic partnerships throughout the state to service our mission.

###