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Young Professionals Board Provides Dozens of Scholarships to Colorado Students in Inaugural Year

The ACE Scholarships Emerging Leaders Network, a Denver-based young professionals group, raised over \$50,000 for deserving Colorado students in its inaugural year as an ACE Scholarships fundraising board.

"We set out to fulfill a promise to ACE and the families that it serves," says Jeffrey Cole, ELN Cofounder. "That we were able to exceed our goal of raising \$30,000 and have a direct impact on our neighborhoods in Denver is a special feeling. Our success is a testament to the incredible individuals on our board and our shared belief in ACE's mission." By engaging over 200 Colorado donors, the ELN nearly doubled its annual goal, raising over \$50,425 for local K-12 scholarships. The success of the group solidifies its place as the fifth committee supporting ACE Scholarships, a Denver-based nonprofit that provides tuition scholarships to children from low-income families.

Formed in January 2019 by Jeffrey Cole, Harry Williams, and Emily Buretz, the ELN set out to engage Denver young professionals committed to giving back to their community. Through a number of events such as the ELN Golf Tournament and the support of existing ACE Scholarships events such as its popular Annual Lobster Bake, the ELN found success in connecting with like-minded leaders who support bettering Colorado communities through the power of educational choice.

"We are beyond grateful for the hard work the ELN puts into helping Colorado kids," says Brittani Johnson, ACE Scholarships Vice President of Colorado Development. "The members of the ELN are incredibly committed to ACE, and the money they raised in their first year will help dozens of deserving families send their children to the school of their choice." This year, ACE Scholarships celebrates its 20th Anniversary, holding a strong presence in the education space in Colorado as well as the seven additional states the organization serves. With the help of the ACE Scholarships boards and their generous donor base, ACE Scholarships has been able to provide over 7,000 children with scholarships this school year alone—2,512 of whom live in Colorado. But according to Johnson, there is still work to be done: "There are nearly 10,000 open desks in our Colorado partner schools. Desks that deserving kids are eager to fill."

The ELN will focus on the continued growth of the network, with lofty goals to raise \$100,000 in 2020. "I'm excited to increase our fundraising efforts and mature as a philanthropic arm of ACE," says Cole. "We're well equipped for success in year two, and are excited about the opportunity to create a lasting impact on the Denver community for years to come."

To join the Emerging Leaders Network or to support ACE Scholarships, please contact ACEELN@acescholarships.org or visit acescholarships.org/ELN.

About ACE Scholarships

ACE Scholarships is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides children of low-income families with scholarships to private schools in grades K-12. ACE Scholarships was founded in 2000 with a vision to give every child access to a quality education and has since awarded over 42,000 scholarships worth more than \$102 million across eight states. To qualify for an ACE scholarship, a family must meet the income requirements for the federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program.