

# Colorado Women's Education Foundation

2015 Annual Report



## From the CWEF Board of Trustees

Evolution and modernization define the 2015 fiscal year for the Colorado Women's Education Foundation (CWEF). This 2015 annual report is filled with board announcements, recent accomplishments, new partnerships, and personal profiles showcasing the Foundation's successes and achievements. CWEF is pleased to document its impact, value, and accountability, as well as taking a moment to express its deep gratitude to our supporters, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and scholarship recipients. The Board of Trustees is pleased to share its most significant endeavors accomplished by the Foundation during this past fiscal year.

## Minimum scholarship amount

At its August 28, 2014, board meeting, CWEF's Board of Trustees approved a motion for a minimum scholarship amount and a total yearly distribution amount. Included in the discussion was the impression that having more recipients can increase the ripple effect, however, having more recipients can lower the amount of each scholarship. A board member suggested, "A \$1,000 scholarship feels more impactful." This philosophy prompted the adoption of a \$1,000 scholarship minimum per recipient with a total yearly distribution of \$10,000.

## Helping women through memorial donations

Memorial donations are charitable donations made in honor of someone who has died. Memorial donations made to CWEF are a powerful way to give the gift of education and economic self-sufficiency to women in the name of a loved one. At a loved one's passing, it can be suggested that donations be made to CWEF in lieu of flowers or gifts. Memorial donations provide tax benefits for one's generosity and provide a legacy for many generations to come.



With a total donation of \$1,000 or more, your loved one will be recognized by listing his/her name in CWEF's annual reports and on CWEF's website page "Named Scholarship Sponsors." It is also possible to have a link to a memorial PDF page with more information about your loved one. On page 8, please read Wendy L. Ishii's memorial page. Wendy asked that when she passed all donations go to education and all her clothing go to women's shelters. Contributions in Wendy's memory funded a scholarship in 2015.

## Consider serving as a Trustee

You can make an impact by contributing your time and talents as a CWEF Board of Trustee! CWEF is currently accepting board applications. Please email the office manager at roxanne@cwef.org for an application.

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## **Foundation Board of Trustees**

CWEF benefits from a group of collaborative board members who are committed to fulfilling the mission and cause of the Foundation. These women are intelligent, forward thinking, dedicated, and willing to engage and work hard to grow CWEF. As volunteers, they bring a wide variety of skill sets and behave in a way that makes the whole greater than the parts. The tangible benefits of all their efforts are demonstrated in the number of women the Foundation is able to serve and the amazing achievements of these outstanding scholarship recipients.

## The CWEF Board of Trustees

Colleen A. Miller, President Karen McGee, President Elect Nancy Litvak, Treasurer Connie Herschbach, Secretary Barbara Ford, Historian Mary Beth Hill, Trustee Tarrah Lee Speer, Trustee

## **CWEF Staff**

Roxanne Brickell-Reardon, Office Manager (half-time)



Left to right: Connie Herschbach, Mary Beth Hill, Tarrah Lee Speer, Barbara Ford, Colleen Miller, Nancy Litvak, and Karen McGee.

## **CWEF Bids Board Treasurer Farewell**

Thank you to Mary Gonsior, member of the Board of Trustees, who resigned her position as treasurer on October 20, 2014. Mary was transferred to Wichita, Kansas, with her job and will be greatly missed. Her contributions to the board and the foundation were timely and extensive.

Mary wrote in her resignation letter, "It is with great sadness that I am officially tendering my resignation today. Even though I wanted to stay a part of the Colorado Women's Education Foundation (CWEF), it just isn't practical. It is very hard to stay connected

from afar. I will never forget the "mighty six" Women of Power that I was so lucky to work with for several years.

You all taught me a lot about the value of education for all women and I look forward to carrying this forward in Wichita.

CWEF is well on its way and it is joyful to know that we have some amazing new women that have joined the board. I wish you all the best! I will be forever grateful for your friendship, kindness, encouragement, inspiration, and tenacity!"

"The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience."

- Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1909)

## **New Trustees Join CWEF**

The CWEF Board welcomes two new trustees and is appreciative of the abundance of expertise, skill, and vitality they will bring to the organization.

**Mary Beth Hill** 

Following her participation in the Colorado Women's Education Foundation's (CWEF) first successful Legacy of Learning, Wine, Cheese and Chocolate event, Mary Beth joined the CWEF Board of Trustees in early 2014. Inspired by a current trustee's "... passion and dedication to the mission," Mary Beth "jumped at the opportunity" to join the board.

Along with her enthusiasm for continued education, Mary Beth attributes her career success to "...devoted mentors and a generous network of professional associates and friends." Graduating from the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor's of Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing, Mary Beth worked primarily as a sales manager for imaging companies in Phoenix, Chicago, and Denver. Eventually she discovered a way to combine her passion for cheese with her sales expertise, and landed in California wine country as a



seasonal educator for Robert Mondavi Winery. This transition facilitated her move into sales within the food industry where she circled back to Wisconsin working for Cierllo Fine Foods and Seymour Dairy Products. By mid 2011, Mary Beth opted to continue her cheese trajectory and moved back to Denver ultimately accepting a position as Cheese Specialist for Italco Food Products.

Mary Beth's advice, participation, and networks were integral to the amazing success of CWEF's second Legacy of Learning, Wine, Cheese and Chocolate event in March 2015. The event was expanded to include many more vendors and two guided tasting sessions including wine, cheese, and chocolate perfectly paired for guests. Mary Beth put her heart and soul into this event creating an exceptional experience for everyone!

"It is not fair to ask of others what you are not willing to do yourself."

~ Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

Fortunately, CWEF secured Mary Beth's array of talents along with her enthusiasm for helping "...women achieve their dreams of continued education and business opportunities" until mid 2015. After traveling back and forth from Denver to Phoenix, Mary Beth ultimately made the decision to officially move and launch a cheese business as she is "...especially driven to share the story of artisan cheese with customers and business partners."

Mary Beth's contributions to CWEF's mission are greatly appreciated, as well as her many delicious cheese samples! We wish Mary Beth all the best in Phoenix for a successful business venture!

## **New Trustees Join CWEF**

## **Tarrah Speer Lee**



Tarrah first discovered CWEF through her involvement with the Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce (CWCC). CWEF, as a member, ran a small advertisement in CWCC's annual Business Magazine

about its upcoming *Legacy of Learning*, *Wine*, *Cheese and Chocolate* fundraising event. Tarrah contacted CWEF's office manager with a goal to help financially sponsor the event through her position as the Denver Integrated Plastic Surgery (DIPS) Practice Manager. With DIPS as an event sponsor, she and several coworkers attended the event and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Soon after the event, Tarrah completed the CWEF Board of Trustees Member Application form. In her cover letter, she shared, "I am looking forward to the opportunity of being a part of this inspirational organization. I meet, connect, and network with hundreds of women each week. I have contacts in multiple industries and sectors. All of these attributes can be used to promote and grow awareness of the Foundation and secure more donations to empower more and more women to pursue education and a career."

With excitement and enthusiasm, Tarrah Speer Lee joined the CWEF Board of Trustees in the spring of 2014. As she was in the process of joining the board, Tarrah shared her belief, "in the power of education—not only to help women continue to rise up in the professional world, but also to empower them personally in their own lives and help them to gain confidence in themselves." Tarrah's commitment to education shows in her own educational background, which includes a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from the University of Kansas and a Master of Business Administration from Webster University.

In addition to her commitment to education, Tarrah is also passionate about health, fitness, and nutrition. She is an award winning health and fitness expert, radio show host and co-owner of nutrition and fitness company, OpFit. Tarrah's health advice can be found in Women's Health magazine, Women's First magazine and Denver Herlife magazine and could be heard on her Denver Nutritionista radio program on Friday mornings. Prior to her position as Practice Manager for Denver Integrated Plastic Surgery, Tarrah was Director of Fitness and served as Interim Director of Operations at the Institute for Healthy Living in Longview, Texas.

Tarrah brought with her a wealth of social media and marketing experience and as a result of her interest for the power of its reach; she helped propel CWEF toward more use of social media. CWEF's second *Legacy of Learning, Wine, Cheese and Chocolate* event in March 2015 was thoroughly promoted using social media. Tarrah continues to assist with ideas for social media, as it remains an important avenue of communication for CWEF.

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy."

~ Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)

## **CWEF Engages With Social Media to Widen Audience**

With the addition of several new Trustees, the discussion surrounding CWEF using various forms of social media tools was elevated. Tarrah Lee Speer, in particular, was knowledgeable and possessed much experience in the realm of social media. Tarrah was tapped to prepare a preliminary report and presentation to help educate other Trustees about the different forms of social media.

Some of the questions Tarrah was charged with considering were:

- 1) How does social media fit with the professional image of CWEF?;
- 2) What is the value of social media, in particular Facebook?;
- 3) What are the benefits, advantages/disadvantages, best use of, and why invest the time?;
- 4) What are some checks and balances to integrate, along with an approval process for content/pictures?; and
- 5) What are some realistic time demands?

Armed with the answers to these questions and more, informed decisions could be made about what kind(s) of social media CWEF would use in the future, or not. As well, it quickly become apparent the Trustees needed to create a policy document pertaining to social media that would be added to CWEF's Board of Directors Manual (BODM). The board made the decision to engage the professional services of consultant, Marianne Pestana, with Marketing, Publicity & Social Media Excellence to build a basic social media platform for CWEF.

Marianne emphasized how the use of appropriate social media can elevate CWEF's visibility and validity. She was able to deliver a social media refresh and clean up on CWEF's Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter accounts. She also shared the goal of

creating a fan base for CWEF and an overall publicity goal for announcing fundraising events and connecting with donors. To that end, guidance was provided to the office manager for uploading CWEF's email contacts to MailChimp and how to create advertising campaigns using this simple email marketing software.

MailChimp is well suited for small nonprofits. There are no usage fees and is free as long as there are fewer than 2,000 subscribers. It gives users the ability to save contact lists for use later on. There are a number of easy options for designing, sending, and saving templates and then provides simple options for sharing them through personal emails and on social networks such as Twitter or Facebook. Using MailChimp, CWEF's entire list of fans was sent the announcement about the Legacy of Learning Wine, Cheese and Chocolate fundraising event more efficiently, effectively, and professionally.

Lastly, Marianne created a customized Code of Conduct for Social Media for CWEF. This important code of conduct document serves as the social media policy document for CWEF's BODM. It is read and signed by all board members and employees. Go ahead; check CWEF out on social media!



## CWEF Featured on Far More Colorado TV Show

On Saturday, November 22, 2014, Nancy Urlich, host and co-producer of the *Far More Colorado* Cable TV show, interviewed Colleen Miller, CWEF Board President, and Jillynne Jensen, a 2014 CWEF scholarship recipient. Nancy asked insightful questions and together Colleen and Jillynne did a terrific job of conveying CWEF's story and its importance in empowering women



through education. Jillynne shared examples of how the scholarship felt like an investment in her, providing a renewed sense of self-confidence and personal validation.

Far More Colorado is a public affairs interview program highlighting people of interest to Coloradans. An invitation was extended to CWEF to be featured after the show's host participated in one of CWEF's fundraising events. The program's mission is to feature people making a difference here in Colorado. Bill Freud films and produces the 28-minute show at Denver Open Media studio in Denver. The interview aired in January 2015 and is available for viewing on the website www.farmorecolorado.com and on CWEF's website www.cwef.org on the About Us page.



Far More Colorado Host Nancy Ulrich interviews Colleen Miller from the Colorado Women's Education Foundation (CWEF) **cwef.org**, which provides scholarships and other assistance to women who are typically non-traditional college students. Also on the show is Jillynne Jensen, a 2014 CWEF scholarship award recipient.

## **Named Scholarship Sponsor**

## Wendy L. Ishii In Memoriam (1949–2015)

by Conrad "Mac" Ishii

Wendy Ishii was a single mother for 12 years and during those years she taught in Omaha, Nebraska. During this same time period she earned her Master's Degree in Education. Wendy then moved to Colorado and married me. After our marriage she taught second grade in Douglas County Public Schools.

If you were to look up the definition of a second grade teacher in the dictionary, Wendy's picture would be there! She was totally dedicated to making sure her students knew how to read, as well as knowing all their math facts. Wendy was an avid reader herself, reading two to four books per month.

Wendy's dedication to teaching and education included putting in long hours before and after the school day. She was the first in the building in the morning and the last to leave in the evening. Preparation was very important to Wendy. Included in her preparation were untold dollars of her own spent to buy supplies to meet the needs of her students. Just ask our tax accountant!)

During Wendy's many years of teaching in Douglas County Public Schools, she had the opportunity to coach and mentor numerous student teachers, helping to shape the next generation of educators. Wendy viewed her teaching position as a professional...she always dressed professionally for her students. (Just ask any salesperson at Nordstrom's!)

Because of her own hard work and success in life, Wendy felt that all women could and should strive to reach their goals through education. She was always smiling and lit up any conversation with her positive attitude. Wendy was the most caring and giving individual I have ever known...she would give you the shirt off her back.

Wendy loved to travel. We traveled the world and experienced many cultures and historic sites. This was her goal after retirement. She was the BEST WIFE AND MOTHER! Wendy asked that when she passed all donations go to education and her clothing go to women's shelters.

## Contributors in Wendy's memory



Robert Biggs
Judy & Jay Bilyeu
Mary Brendis
Robert & Patricia Day
Patricia & Robert Defeyter
Barbara & Jon Elliott
Larry & Barbara Gearke
Judith Gunson
Allen & Vicki Harrimon
James Hinrichs
Conrad Ishii
Thomas & Andrea Olson
Tecia Smith
Betty White Ttee
Margaret Wood

Conrad, Wendy's husband, sent several letters along with donation checks in Wendy's memory. In one letter he wrote, "Wendy, my wife, was a teacher for 40 years and placed a high value on education for all. Hopefully these funds will help someone in need."

In another letter, Conrad wrote, "These donations are in memory of Wendy L. Ishii, donated by her fellow book club members. This is a group of active and retired teachers who meet monthly to discuss their book of choice. They are a close, caring, fun loving group that has met together for many years. As teachers their value of education speaks loudly for their donations to the Colorado Women's Education Foundation in memory of Wendy."

## Continuing Support from the Steven B. Achelis Foundation

## My daughter chose CWEF for a second year

Steve Achelis of the Steven B. Achelis Foundation located in Salt Lake City, Utah, sent a letter to CWEF dated June 2, 2014. In it he shares, "Thanks for the email correspondence. As I mentioned, my 22-year-old daughter in Colorado again selected your foundation. I have enclosed a check for \$3,000. Thanks for working to make the world a better place."



## This time I'm selecting CWEF

Upon receiving CWEF's 2014 Annual Report, featuring an article titled My Daughter Chose CWEF, Steve wrote back very positively after sharing the article with his daughter. In a letter he wrote, "Thanks for forwarding the blurb about my daughter selecting CWEF. She graduated from CU Boulder last year and is now living in California. This year, I'm selecting your organization. I have enclosed a check for \$3,000."

CWEF is incredibly grateful for the continuing support from Steve and his daughter through his foundation! The Steven B. Achelis Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. Steve formed the foundation in 1990 as his tithe to help make the world a better place. Steve's Foundation is a small private foundation with limited resources. Typical grants



range between \$500 and \$5,000 with an average grant of \$2,000. Total annual grants are approximately \$50,000. You can read more about the Foundation at www.stevesfoundation.org.

You are educated.
Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life.
Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world."

- Tom Brokaw (born 1940)

## **CWEF Updates Its State-of-the-Art Website**

CWEF's website is essentially its front door, the entrance for website visitors to discover and experience the Foundation and its great work. And first impressions are significant! In an effort to continue reflecting and presenting CWEF's comprehensive story to website visitors and donors, updates and modifications have been made to the website.

New pages, content, and pictures have been added to the website, as well as eliminating and changing a few pages and taking much better advantage of the precious real estate on the home page. A drop down menu was added under the "Sponsors" tab creating three new pages, which enable recognition for different kinds of sponsors—those for scholarships and for events. There are two new pages recognizing CWEF's historical Endowed Scholarship Sponsors and Named Scholarship Sponsors. As well, the Event Sponsors page offers a location to recognize, into perpetuity, these critically important champions of CWEF's fundraising events.

Ways to Give

> Individual Giving

> Corporate Giving & Sponsorships

> Planned Giving

> Vehicles For Charity

Two new images were added to the website in the "Ways to Give" and "Sponsors" call out boxes on the home page. Both of these fresh images reflect diversity and inclusivity.

The old "Resources" tab, which contained no content, was replaced with a "Reports" tab, which creates a more prominent location for links to CWEF's Annual Reports. Otherwise, annual reports were buried at the very bottom of the home page under "Quick Links" and often users could not find them. Other enhancements include adding a "field" to the "Contact" page for users to complete asking to be notified of future CWEF events and opportunities. An events plugin was

purchased and installed to enable event registration and ticket sales for future fundraising events.

We now have a newly created Endowed Scholarship Sponsors page. Carol Grever, Diamond Endowed Scholarship Sponsor, composed a thoughtful quote to add to the page. She shared, "As a former teacher and business owner, I'm acutely aware of the impact of education on



women's eventual success and self-esteem. Offering substantial scholarship help to women of non-traditional student age fosters economic independence that benefits individuals, their families, and entire communities. This worthy mission inspired the Diamond Endowed Scholarship Fund of \$100,000 in 2000 and sustains my continued investment in the Colorado Women's Education Fund." This picture of Carol was also included in the section.

All of these amendments and improvements were made in conjunction with CWEF's Webmaster, Kelly Calderon, the original developer of the website. Kelly specializes in website development for nonprofit organizations. We are excited for you to experience all the revisions on CWEF's site. Check them out for yourself at www.cwef.org.



## **CWEF Signs Up With AmazonSmile Foundation**

The AmazonSmile Foundation offers a unique fundraising opportunity for nonprofit organizations such as CWEF. When customers shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to a selected charitable organization. As a registered 501(c)(3) organization, in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service, CWEF is able to sign up and benefit financially from customers selecting and bookmarking it when they are shopping.

CWEF advertises this great fundraising tool by displaying the logo, with a link, on the home page of its website. As well, specific gift and holiday shopping occasions are highlighted in CWEF's Facebook and Twitter posts. For CWEF supporters it is an easy way to provide the gift of education enabling women to reach their full potential and make a real difference in their lives!

## What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile,

## Support Colorado Women's Education Foundation.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com





the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to a selected charitable organization.

## **Colorado Women's Education Foundation is a "Registered Organization"** with AmazonSmile. To qualify it must be a public charitable organization registered and in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization and meeting all other eligibility requirements.

## What is the AmazonSmile Foundation?

The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(c) (3) private foundation created by Amazon to administer the AmazonSmile program. All donation amounts generated by the AmazonSmile program are remitted to the AmazonSmile Foundation. In turn, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates those amounts to the charitable organizations selected by our customers. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; they are not deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile.

## Is there any cost to charitable organizations or to customers?

No. There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

The Colorado Women's Education Foundation (CWEF) awarded \$11,000 in scholarship funds to eleven outstanding and high-achieving women. Applicants must be attending accredited educational institutions of higher learning or vocational training in Colorado, be at least 25 years old, and demonstrate academic potential, financial need, career goals, leadership skills, and community involvement. Some of these women have moving life stories, which can complicate their struggles to achieve and complete their educational goals.

The review of each set of scholarship applications continues to be challenging and yet very rewarding for the CWEF Board of Trustees. The trustees review the applications and award scholarships without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual preference. The selection process is difficult given the number of applications the Foundation receives and the high



quality of achievement portrayed by these women. Trustees find it uplifting and inspiring for the future to financially invest in worthy and talented women working towards economic self-sufficiency through education.

Please enjoy learning more about the recipients who received awards for the scholarship deadline of May 31, 2014. They are

an amazing group of women achieving their educational goals with some financial assistance from CWEF! In half of the cases, privacy requests limit the information we can publish about these recipients. One scholarship recipient prefers no information is shared about her. CWEF respects her decision for no publicity.

**Amanda** (Mandy) graduated Magna cum Laude in 2011, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology. Although Mandy completed her undergraduate degree with high honors, physical limitations resulting from cancer treatments prevented her from finishing her studies within the typical four-year time frame. At the tender age of five, Mandy was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), then relapsed at age seven with Central Nervous System Leukemia, and again at age twelve with ALL, which ultimately led to a bone marrow transplant. According to Mandy, "I am beyond proud and thankful that I survived, there are however consequences that I live with every day." A degree in Geology at her university requires a fiveweek course where students spend three and half weeks "...conducting field work involving rigorous hiking on rugged, uneven terrain," noted her professor in his recommendation letter. He went on to describe her approach to the course as one exuding a "positive attitude and a lot of determination." Struggling with the choice between teaching or becoming a museum curator, graduate school is Mandy's next academic goal. The CWEF scholarship award will help fund the Chemistry prerequisite for acceptance to the Geology graduate program. In another glowing recommendation letter, a mentor wrote, "Mandy's goal in college was to learn and grow academically, but also to grow beyond the label of cancer survivor."

Cristen graduated Summa cum Laude in 2010 from Saint Mary's College with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Communications Studies. Determined to "...continue learning and working in education...," Cristen is pursuing her academic goal of becoming a university professor by attending the University of Colorado (CU). Enrolled in the Department of Sociology's PhD program, Cristen

received CU's Feminists in Sociology, Betsy Moen Mathiot "Walk the Talk" Award and the Department of Sociology Special Topics in Sociology GPTI Fellowship in 2014. Along with her extensive professional, departmental, and community service, Cristen co-authored an article in the journal Gender & Society, and solo authored an article currently under review, entitled "Religion and Ambivalence in the Lives of Catholic College Students." In anticipation of her dissertation research expenses, Cristen plans to use the scholarship funds to offset her student fees. Her mentor at CU describes Cristen as "...a joy to work with: she works harder than any student I have ever had, she is intellectually gifted, and she is always professional, yet she has a funny and easygoing personality."

**Jessica** currently works as a nursing assistant with the elderly during their infirmity, but aspires to attend nursing school and eventually work with children. Enrolled at Aims Community College, Jessica started taking classes in late 2012. Her career interests have "...always revolved around health care" and making "...a difference in the lives of individuals who experience acute and chronic health problems." Determined to overcome a learning disability, Jessica acknowledges her situation and goes the extra mile by finishing assignments early and often taking advantage of extra credit opportunities. Fortified with a strong support system

of family, friends, and mentors, she is ready to share her passion and commitment for helping others by continuing her education. Jessica strongly feels that her primary purpose in life is "...to help those in need of health care assistance." Recently, Jessica was accepted

into the National Society of Leadership and Success Program. A teacher and mentor noted in her recommendation letter, "Wherever Jessica goes in life, she will have a positive impact on those around her."

**Jody** currently attends Naropa University as a student in Contemplative Psychology. Her academic journey began more than a decade ago when she attended a community college in Maryland. After accumulating 32 credit hours, Jody applied and was accepted to Naropa University. Due to personal and family challenges, Jody struggled to "make ends meet" and juggle the responsibilities of motherhood with her class load. Living with relatives for a year enabled her to move across the country and continue her academic career at Naropa. Unfortunately, providing for her family still presented major challenges, which almost led her back to Maryland had she not discovered a housing program called Family Self Sufficiency. Jody's goal to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology stems from her own life experience and challenges associated with being a single parent. She aspires to attend graduate school and eventually work in assisting young mothers regarding their education and career goals. Jody hopes "... one day to inspire young, single mothers to never give up on themselves, that however far off a dream may seem, it's possible if you keep trying; if you give it one more semester, you never know what amazing blessing can come into your life."

Jones graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the University of Colorado (CU) in 2012. Her GPA of 3.9 along with several scholarships and memberships in both the Alpha Lambda Honor Society for Anthropology and The National Society for Leadership and Success facilitated her entry into the field of archaeology. As with many professions, Jones soon discovered that a Master's degree or higher was necessary



Jones working at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs archaeological field school. This site is on the university campus and represents stone tool-making activities by indigenous groups throughout the Archaic period (5000 B.C.-500 A.D.).

to obtain a permanent, well compensated position. Jones was accepted into the Anthropology graduate program at CU in 2013 and completed her first year with a GPA of 4.0. During the summer of 2014, Jones participated in "...archaeological lab work in Jalisco, Mexico, with a group of students from CU Denver as well as archaeologists from Europe and even China!" As a recipient of the Alice DeBoer Named Scholarship in 2015, Jones wants "...to continue Mrs. DeBoer's legacy by inspiring other women to continue their education, no matter what age." At 46-years young, Jones' specific interests lean toward Mesoamerican archaeology along with teaching, fieldwork, and of course publishing articles and books. Jones believes "...that archaeological work is very important for the preservation of cultural heritage and in understanding the past and how it relates to our lives in the present."

"What could we accomplish if we knew we could not fail?"

~ Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

**Kaity** entered her senior year at Metropolitan State University in 2015, approaching the completion of her Bachelor of Science degree in International Studies with a minor in International Business, and specializing in Finance. Because of monetary constraints, Kaity's academic journey took almost seven years to complete. With perseverance, she eventually qualified for financial aid and attends college full-time. After studying abroad in the Czech Republic and Germany, Kaity decided that participation in the global business community was her primary goal. Along with volunteering for the Gathering Place in Denver several hours a week, Kaity regularly participates in the Susan G. Koman Walk for the Cure in honor of her mother, a stage 3 breast cancer survivor. Kaity plans to use her scholarship award to offset her final college year's expenses. She feels that this award validates her "...dreams of pursuing a degree to help women..." allowing her to "...assist women in financially supporting themselves..." through her own educational and personal experience.

**Lisa** discovered her passion for human services while volunteering at Colorado Miners, Inc., a nonprofit center dedicated to supporting underprivileged youth. After forming strong connections with the families, Lisa yearned "...to be a bigger part of solutions to problems..." facing the vulnerable communities served by Colorado Miners. Because a great need exists for mental wellness programs to help mitigate obstacles such as substance abuse, crime rate, depression, and other psychological and social issues, Lisa hopes to provide "...affordable mental health services to residents living in this poverty stricken area." While overcoming homelessness, an eating disorder, and physical and emotional disabilities, Lisa supported two daughters and earned a 4.0 GPA during her first semester in college. As part of a project

through her Human Services program, Lisa leads a weekly peer support group for people with behavioral disabilities. Lisa recently reported to CWEF's Office Manager that "...the attendees are finding it beneficial and uplifting. I see them making strides towards improvements in their wellbeing and they are coming out of isolation to attend and offer encouragement to the other members." Lisa continues to volunteer at Colorado Miners along with assisting residents at the Denver Rescue Mission with computer literacy skills. The scholarship award helps subsidize her expenses, enabling Lisa to attend classes year round. As the Founder and President of Colorado Miners noted in Lisa's recommendation letter, "I know she'll apply all her knowledge to better any community she elects to be part of."

**Megan** discovered a passion for teaching very early in life with her first experience as a volunteer Sunday school teacher at the young age of sixteen. With a flexible high school schedule, she also substitute taught at a preschool, and continued working for preschools throughout her time at Mesa State College. With the birth of her children, Megan decided to take time off from her academic career to be a fulltime mother. Eventually, Megan and her children left the western slope and moved to the foothills. Megan officially transferred to Colorado Christian University (CCU) in the spring of 2013 to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Along with maintaining a cumulative GPA of 4.0, Megan was named to the Dean's list a total of four semesters. Although born in California, Megan grew up in Grand Junction and considers herself a "Colorado girl." Though Megan's parents already had four biological daughters, they adopted two more daughters and two sons when Megan was in high school. Megan credits her experience of having adopted siblings for creating "...a



Megan graduated in December 2014.

heart for children who have been through the system." Megan's student advisor at CCU noted in her recommendation letter that teaching "...is a career that people definitely need to have a calling for and it is apparent by Megan's enthusiasm and excitement to work with children that our community will benefit greatly to have Megan teaching our children."

In a thank-you note to CWEF in May 2015, Megan wrote, "Thank you for investing in my education. I have completed my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and have already begun teaching at a local school. I am extremely grateful for your scholarship and would not have fulfilled this goal without your support. I have been chosen by Colorado Christian University as the outstanding undergraduate for 2014-2015. Your gift opened up doors for me to provide for my children and offer them a better future. Words can't express how important your scholarship was in my life. Thank you very much."

**Sara** epitomizes perseverance along with the ability to see light at the end of a very long, formidable tunnel. Diagnosed in early 2012 with Hodgkin's lymphoma and papillary carcinoma a short six months later, Sara views cancer as "...a gift that came to me in a horrible wrapping." Her time in the hospital provided a new perspective on life, which flowered into a passion for

the medical field. According to Sara, "It turns out that by practicing being present in the moment, rather than focusing on the unexpected, still feels good. I wouldn't change anything." Enrolled in the prenursing program at Aims Community College, Sara's long-term plans include acceptance in a top-ten graduate school to achieve a Master's of Science Physician Assistant's degree, volunteering for a medical provider in a Spanish-speaking country outside of the United States, and "...to never stop learning." Currently, Sara works as a phlebotomist for Banner Health Clinic in Greeley. Her social worker at the Washington Cancer Center proclaimed in his recommendation letter, "I have no doubt that Sara will be one of those angel nurses whose healing ability goes well beyond her technical skill."

**Whitney** attends Colorado State University (CSU), pursing a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. As a mother of three young children, Whitney decided to make a fresh start and raise her children in a stable home. This new beginning also required evaluating her long-term goals and finding the best path in achieving them. According to Whitney, "I know I can do more, and be a good role model for not only my children but my future students." Currently working as a toddler teacher at The Children's Workshop Early Learning Center in Loveland, Whitney's passion leans toward higher education as she hopes to teach at CSU in the future. The scholarship award helps subsidize her education expenses while Whitney works toward her bachelor's degree. A former college instructor describes Whitney as uniquely driven "...to not only succeed, but to perform with the greatest of intentions."

## Statistically speaking...

## The eleven outstanding and high-achieving women receiving scholarships this year are:

- ◆ Selected from 66 applicants,
- Range in age from 26 to 47 with an average age of 36 years old,
- ◆ Have an average grade point average of 3.69,
- Are in quite diverse fields of study and their programs range from obtaining an associate's degree, to eight women working toward bachelor degrees, one women pursuing a graduate degree, and one achieving a Ph.D.,
- May be raising as many as four dependents: six of these women are caring for and supporting 15 dependents,
- ◆ Vary in martial status: four of them are single, six are divorced, and one is widowed,
- Reside in the cities of Aurora, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Fountain, Grand Junction, Greeley, and Loveland.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is May 31 for fall and spring semester/quarter awards.

Applications must be postmarked by the dealine and mailed to CWEF.

Scholarship funds awarded by CWEF are applied to the recipient's account at her school.



## **CWEF's Legacy of Learning Fundraising Event Celebrates International Women's Day**

CWEF hosted its second Legacy of Learning - Wine, Cheese and Chocolate fundraising event on Sunday, March 8, 2015, from 2:00–6:00 pm at the Warwick Denver Hotel to highlight and accentuate the celebration of International Women's Day (IWD). IWD is an annual celebration, observed on March 8th each year, of women's achievements, power, and potential to advance positive world evolution.

Featuring inspiration, motivation, and education the goal of this gala event was to raise much needed scholarship funds by sharing the outstanding and meaningful work of CWEF and several other prominent organizations recognizing and assisting women. The elegant venue was perfect for meeting new contacts and connecting with friends and colleagues in a relaxed setting. Best of all, guests enjoyed flavorful wines and delicious cheese and chocolate samplings presented by outstanding vendors.



This year's event offered a truly unique experience for guests—Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Perfectly Paired: A tasting event. During this guided culinary tasting there was an opportunity to taste, sip, and savor! Culinary host, Elizabeth Woessner, Dining-

Out Magazine's Online Editor guided guests through two sensational tasting experiences of exceptional wines, perfectly matched with artisan cheeses and local chocolate confections prepared by outstanding vendors and women-owned businesses.

CWEF supporter Carol Grever and event sponsor Cynthia Vaida with scholarship recipents Cristen and Jillynne.



Scholorship recipients Cristen, Lisa Marie, Jessica, Jody, and Jillynne.



Keynote speaker Kim Rivera.

Above top: CWEF Board Historian Barbara Ford (center) with donor and former trustee Theresa Szczurek (left) and donor and event sponsor Cynthia Vaida (right).

Above middle: Perfectly Paired Tasting Event led by Elizabeth Woessner.

Above lower: Place setting for tasting event paired five different wines with artisan cheeses and local chocolate confections.



## Thank you to our outstanding and insightful speakers

Kim M. Rivera inspired us by sharing her insights about the importance of education and how it has transformed her life. She joined DaVita in January 2010. Kim is the Chief Legal Officer & Corporate Secretary for DaVita overseeing all of the company legal and risk matters. She has extensive experience in litigation, corporate law, and compliance. Kim is an advocate for diversity. During her career she has promoted diversity in the legal profession through participation in the National Hispanic Bar Association and the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.



Inspirational speakers (left to right) Kim Rivera, Jillynne Jensen, and Jones LeFae.

Kim is passionate about education and scholarship, particularly for disadvantaged and at-risk youth. She has promoted education and scholarship through collaboration with the Hispanic College Fund, which provides talented and underprivileged Hispanic youth with vision, mentors, resources, and scholarships. Kim is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Duke University.

**Jones LeFae** shared how receiving scholarships from CWEF in 2013 and 2014 are enabling her educational and career goals. She is earning her Master of Arts Degree in Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Colorado in Denver. Conducting fieldwork in Jalisco, Mexico, Jones will be analyzing burial goods from 300 BC – AD 400 to inform her thesis comparing the relative status of women to men. She anticipates graduating in May 2016.

**Jillynne Jensen** reflected about how CWEF's investment with a 2013 scholarship assisted her in overcoming economic constraints in her last semester. She graduated in May 2014 from the University of Colorado in Boulder with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English – Creative Writing – Summa Cum Laude and Sociology – with Distinction. In October, Jillynne received UPCEA's Outstanding Continuing Education Student Award for the Central Region. An award of the highest distinction and honor, Jillynne is in the running for the national award.



Board members Colleen Miller (left) and Connie Herschbach (right) with keynote speaker Kim Rivera (center).



Delicious cheeses and jams for sampling provided by Vermont Farmstead (left) and Mercantile Denver (below).



## Thank you to our generous sponsors

CWEF acknowledges the event's generous sponsors: American Solutions for Business, Bashor Connection LLC, Denver Integrated Plastic Surgery, Legacy Family Office, Renaissance Woman LLC, and the Warwick Denver Hotel.









cwvaida@vaida.net



jletzelter@americanbus.com



tvaida@lecagyfamilyofficellc.com



www.denverintegratedplasticsurgery.com

## Thank you to our outstanding vendors

These outstanding vendors donated their time and contributed tasty and distinctive products for everyone to enjoy ensuring the event's enormous success: Button Rock Bakery, Cacao Chemistry, Castleton Crackers, Chocolate Lab, Delicious and Divine, Fruition, Four Fat Fowl, Glaze Baum Cakes, Gluten Escape, Mercantile Dining & Provisions, Modern Gingham Preserves, Mondo Market, National and Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, New World Cheese, See's Candy, Southern Wine & Spirits of Colorado, Vermont Farmstead Cheese Company, Wild Women Winery, and the Women's Bean Project.







www.castletoncrackers.com



www.newworldcheese.com



www.glazebaumcakes.com



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## Contributions from June 1, 2014, through May 31, 2015

A sincere thank you to all of our contributors and supporters for giving the gift of education during this fiscal year.

## **Contributions of \$10,000 & above** Carol Grever

Contributions of \$6,000 & above

## Steven B. Achelis Foundation Contributions of \$1,000 & above

Yolande Burnham

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## **Sponsors of \$22,000 and above** Agrium, Inc.

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<sup>\*</sup> Contributors in memory of Wendy L. Ishii

## **Major Contributions in Prior Years**

Our major supporters in prior years formed the bedrock of this Foundation.

## **Diamond Endowed Scholarship Sponsor** \$120,000 and above

Carol Grever

## **Endowed Scholarship Sponsors** \$25,000 and above

The Anchor Point Fund of the Community Foundation serving Boulder County Asset One/Financial Architects, Erwin Buck and Nancy Rinker Anthem BlueCross BlueShield Foundation Business and Professional Women State Presidents Theresa M. Szczurek, Ph.D., Technology & Management Solutions

## **Named Scholarships** \$10,000 and above

Arthur Andersen Boulder Business and Professional Women Brett Family Foundation Helen Scott Calais Coldwell Banker-The Bernardi Group Eloise Witt Joder Memorial Dain Rauscher Daniel Aaron Romero Memorial Anne F. Steinbeck U.S. West Foundation Wells Fargo Women in International Business Yampa Valley Women's Pioneer

## **Named Scholarships** \$5,000 and above

Steven B. Achelis Foundation Alice DeBoer by Marion McDonald

## **Past Lifetime Sponsors** \$1,000 pledge completed

The 1996-97 Business and Professional Women State Executive Committee American Express/IDS DeWalt H. Ankeny, Jr. Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation Ball Aerospace Boulder Business and Professional Women

Boulder Planet The Carr Family Helen Scott Calais Nancy Cebula

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Carolyn Romero

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Anne F. Steinbeck

Cynthia Vaida

Melissa W. Wilson

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## **Past Pledging Scholars** \$1,000 pledged

Cathi Almquist Anonymous donor Ronda Bolich-Lampo Carolyn Butler Corrin Campbell Pam Dumonceau Barbara Ann Ford Dianne Green Ida Halasz

Aina Holland

Nancy Jarrell, Enterprising Communications

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## Other contributions

Anonymous – In honor of Marion Dorothy Yost Sandra L. Bish - In honor of Eleanor Hubbard Anne F. Steinbeck - In honor of 90 years of Business Professional Women/CO and outgoing President Cheryl Ide Anne F. Steinbeck and Carolyn Romero -In honor of Janet Canaan and 2009-10 **Executive Committee** SagePoint Financial, Inc. - In recognition of Top Sales Leader, Erwin Buck

## Financial Statements 2014-2015

## Colorado Women's Education Foundation for the Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2015

Statement of Activities - Cash Basis

Revenues

Telephone

Website

Pledge Income	1,000.00
Donations - Locals	50.00
Donations - Individuals	21,017.52
Donations - Memorials	1,276.00
Donations - Corporations	
and Foundations	7,385.02
Fundraising Events	5,415.00
Dividends	9,318.19
Interest Income	.28
Realized Gain on Investments	6,911.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	52,373.01
Expenses	
Annual Report	425.00
Computer Expenses	1,267.95
Depreciation	212.00
Dues/Memberships/Meetings	720.00
Financial Management Fees	2,071.95
Fundraising Expenses	3,744.19
Insurance	1,725.00
Licenses and Fees	29.90
Mileage	323.67
Miscellaneous	300.00
Office Payroll	22,149.00
Payroll Taxes	1,694.44
P.O. Box and Postage	240.16
Printing and Scanning	434.36
Professional Services (Accounting)	1,410.00
Storage Rental Fee	45.00
Supplies	251.88

<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	39,336.32
Scholarships	11,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	50,336.32
Net Revenue	2,036.69

Statement of Financial Position - Cash Basis

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Total Net Assets	374,274.32
Retained Earnings Unrestructed Net Assets Net Income	93,771.79 275,339.47 5,136.06
Net Assets	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	831.92
Current Liabilities FICA Medicare FWIT SWIT	426.24 99.68 219.00 96.00
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<u> </u>
Total Assets	375,079.24
Accumulated Depreciation Net Property and Equipment	(4,683.80) 981.54
Fixed Assets Computer and Printer Total Property and Equipment	5,665.34 5,665.34
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	374,097.70
Assets Current Assents Checking – BBVA Compass Endowment Fund-Wells Fargo PayPal	33,434.78 340,621.87 41.05



CWEF's assets include a checking account and investments held and managed by Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC. This investment, an endowment fund, is held in the form of stocks and mutual funds. The CWEF Board of Trustees has protected this endowment, which has been contributed to by many, many supporters over the years, to preserve its legacy ensuring the foundation will continue into the future.

During fiscal year 2014-2015, CWEF revenues include almost \$31,000 in donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations. As

well, the CWEF Board of Trustees conducted a successful Legacy of Learning Wine, Cheese and Chocolate fundraising event raising over \$5,400. Revenue from donations and the fundraising event made it possible to fund scholarships for 11 women totaling \$11,000. The endowment produced about \$16,000 in income in the form of dividends, interest, and gains on the investment. Operating expenses include professional services and a half-time office manager.

398.55

1,242.46

## How You Can Help

very organization, including the Colorado Women's Education Foundation (CWEF), benefits from the energy and skills of those who rally around it . . . from individuals completing the day-to-day tasks to supporters spreading the word on its behalf. CWEF has grown because of the enthusiasm, hard work, and financial commitment its supporters have displayed over the years. Our future growth is dependent upon the continued encouragement and financial support of individuals and organizations that believe, as we do, that education is the key to transforming lives. Below are some ways you can support CWEF. We encourage you to find at least one way to get involved and begin writing a success story of tomorrow.

Become a foundation liaison: Business & Professional Women of Colorado members, become that person "in the know." Get regular updates about Foundation activities. Share CWEF's news and information at your local meetings or by providing articles for your local's newsletter.

Become a Pledging or Lifetime Scholar:

Pledge to give \$100 or more per year for up to 10 years. With an accumulated gift of \$1,000 or more, you will become a Pledging Scholar.

Connect trustees to interested corporations and/or foundations: Does your business or place of employment offer a matching gift for your donation? Do you know of a business or foundation seeking a sponsorship opportunity and/or partnership with another of a similar mission? A single introduction can be the first step toward creating a valuable sponsorship or partnership and strengthening the work of several organizations.

Create a Named Scholarship: These unique scholarships recognize and honor the individual and/or organization for which they are named. These scholarships are a vital form of funding for the Foundation. They can be a one-time contribution or a multiyear contribution providing financial sustainability through ongoing scholarships to worthy Colorado women.

**Encourage women you know to apply for a scholarship:** The Foundation's scholarship program is as strong as its demand. We continue to receive a record number of applications each year. Our goal is to provide more and larger scholarships to non-traditional aged women throughout Colorado. As the demand grows, so will our ability to increase our support.

Give the Gift of Education: We all know how hard it can be to find just the right gift for someone's birthday, anniversary, graduation, and/or wedding. A donation to CWEF is a great way to honor a friend, and it's a gift that will last a lifetime. We also welcome gifts in memoriam of a loved one. Including CWEF in your estate plan is a wonderful legacy to leave those who benefit, as well as your community.

**Volunteer:** Add your name to our volunteer list. We are always in need of individuals and organizations willing to help with tasks large or small. We will call on you to share your valued skills as the needs arise.

